Every great city deserves a great university, and at every university’s core is a great library.

The Carey Shuart Women’s Research Collection

Building the Carey Shuart Women’s Research Collection in UH Libraries Special Collections is an important priority for the University of Houston, and UH Libraries. Located on campus, in the M.D. Anderson Library, the collection is a primary focus of UH Libraries’ strategic plan to build original, unique and archival collections that embody the essence of our region, our people, and economy.

Great university libraries are distinguished by the special collections, unique roles, and customized services only a university library can provide to the community it serves. Our role is increasingly important because of the transformative power of information to open doors to new modes of thinking that unleash human potential.

The Carey Shuart Women’s Research Collection represents a significant priority of the University of Houston and UH Libraries, supporting President Renu Khator’s strategic goals of national competitiveness, student success, community advancement, resource competitiveness, and national and local recognition, as well as UH Libraries’ core value of providing resources that promote and value diversity while reflecting the unique essence of our people and our region.

Our Special Collections allow us to identify and respond to the social and cultural challenges affecting our community’s quality of life through education, research, and service. In a diverse urban city, like Houston, every person’s potential can be elevated simply by having significant special collections in a university library.

Mission
The mission of the Carey Shuart Women’s Research Collection is to gather, organize and promote materials that tell the story of the many unique, talented, and leading women, and women’s organizations, which have shaped our city, our state, and our country.

Such a collection will bring national and international scholars to the University of Houston to research and publish within a wide array of subjects, and attract top students, faculty and leaders to Houston. Our mission supports the activities of our community of alumni, students, teachers, authors, thought leaders, entrepreneurs, visiting scholars, activists, and other members of Houston’s vibrant and multicultural community while helping to fulfill UH’s ability to educate creative leaders with a future vision that is grounded in awareness of the past.

Vision
Our vision is to build a nationally recognized collection of manuscripts, archives, photographs, documents, and primary source materials documenting women’s history in Houston, Texas, and the Southern region.
Such a collection will be reflective of women whose work transformed their community both locally and nationally, and will serve as a powerful legacy of women leaders for future generations to come.

**Initiatives**
In support of this mission and vision, University of Houston Libraries is:

- Acquiring unique primary sources that document the activities of leading individuals and organizations in the Houston community.
- Building upon new and long-time relationships with members of the community to centralize and make accessible a wide range of materials that focus on various areas of interest within the Houston realm, such as the arts, politics, literature, and social services.
- Contextualizing historical aspects of the regional and national movement by incorporating living archives, such as oral histories, of individuals and organizations residing in the Houston area.
- Developing presentations, programming, exhibits and digital assets in partnership with the community, area organizations, and campus units, such as the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Women’s Initiative, to enrich the academic and intellectual objectives of students, faculty, scholars, activists, and lifelong learners.
- Seeking to discover underrepresented perspectives that will enhance the collection, such as materials related to minorities within the community.
- Providing unique and compelling resources with which to engage and empower the global community for impact on interdisciplinary research and knowledge creation.
- Digitizing collection materials to make them accessible to students, teachers, scholars, industry, and activists beyond the limits of print and the walls of the library onto the global stage.
- Creating on-line and on-site exhibits of print, archives, artifacts, and other collection materials to engage the public with the Shuart Women’s Research Collection.
- Offering research fellowships for scholars to work in our unique, comprehensive collections.
- Organizing speakers and events that highlight our collections and programs.

The Carey Shuart Women’s Research Collection at UH grew from a single donation of a dress box of materials left to her by Blanche Espy Chenoweth, Carey Shuart’s grandmother. With a generous gift from Carey, the collection has been nurtured, named, and endowed. UH Libraries Carey Shuart Women’s Research Collection embodies women’s unique stories and it serves to provide an outstanding documentary resource for teaching, learning, research, culture, and enterprise.

**UH LIBRARIES VISION**
A community nurtured by curiosity and creativity that drives lifelong learning and scholarship.

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