

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

The Houston & Texas History Research Collection

Building the Texas & Houston History Special Collection is an important priority for University of Houston, and UH Libraries. Located on campus, in the M.D. Anderson Library, the Houston & Texas History Research Collection is a primary focus of UH Libraries' strategic plan to build unique and special library 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 unleash human potential.

The Houston & Texas 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.

In a diverse urban city, like Houston, every person's potential can be elevated, simply by having significant special collections inside the library to serve as a cornerstone for interdisciplinary scholarship and research.

Mission

The mission of the Houston & Texas History Research Collection is to highlight the elements that have made Texas and Houston important to our nation and the world, while documenting its role in shaping our future. We do this by fostering high-impact scholarship, and offering abundant and compelling resources that engage and empower the community at large. Our mission supports everyone in the Greater Houston Region and our community of alumni, students, teachers, authors, thought leaders, entrepreneurs, visiting scholars, historians, cultural buffs, 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 the past.

Vision

Our vision is to be one of the leading repositories of knowledge on Houston & Texas History in the world. In addition, the collection will serve to attract top students and faculty to Houston, and to bring national and international scholars to the University of Houston to research and publish within a wide array of disciplines.

Initiatives

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

- Acquiring unique primary sources that reflect the rich diversity of Houston and Texas.
- 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, audio, and film collection materials to engage the public with history and innovation in Houston and Texas.
- Contextualizing historical frames of reference by incorporating contemporary perspectives.
- Providing a broader view of the region through stewardship of underrepresented voices and communities.
- Collaborating with faculty across disciplines to instruct students on the tools and methodologies used to discover, acquire, and build knowledge in Texas history and related fields.
- Engaging UH and community students from different disciplines to support our archival, exhibition, digital scholarship, and research programs, giving those students unique opportunities to gain experience and understanding of Texas history.
- Offering research fellowships for scholars to work in our unique, comprehensive collections.
- Organizing speakers and events that highlight our collections and programs.

The University of Houston Libraries is building collections and programming that highlights the rich history of Texas and Houston to fully document Texana from the Spanish Colonial Era through the present, as well as chronicle the development and transformation of Houston and the surrounding areas into a hub of commerce in energy, medicine, and shipping. Photographs, documents, and ephemera embody the entrepreneurial spirit of this dynamic and diverse city, with subjects including family and business dynasties, influential Texas music, philanthropy, urban planning and architecture, local government, and natural disasters. We collect in every form and format: local, national, and international; analog and digital; print, archives, audio and video; historical and leading edge. Our programming empowers students, teachers, researchers, and the public with the knowledge and tools to discover, access, and use historical documentary resources at our university and well beyond.

From early Republic of Texas documents to materials representing leaders of social movements, politics and industry to aerial photographs of the iconic Houston skyline, the collection captures the birth of Houston, the State of Texas, and its development over time.

UH Libraries Houston & Texas History Research Collection embodies our unique local heritage. It serves to provide an outstanding documentary resource for teaching, learning, research, and enterprise.



UH LIBRARIES VISION

A community nurtured by curiosity and creativity that drives lifelong learning and scholarship.

For more information contact Diane McMaster, Director of Advancement, 713 743 9109, dmcmaster@uh.edu