SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

We are The Claremont Colleges Library’s principal repository for distinctive and unique resources. Special Collections holds nearly 200,000 volumes from around the world dating from the 11th to the 21st centuries and over 11,000 linear feet of literary and historical manuscript collections - all here for you to research!

FAQs

What are special collections?
This refers to distinctive, unique, or rare resources such as books, literary and historical manuscripts, maps, photographs, college archives, oral histories, and many other primary sources that are often grouped into a collection of research materials that are linked by origin or by a thematic focus.

What are archives?
Archives are records created or received by a person, family, or organization and preserved because of their enduring value. Learn how to explore our archival materials: 7clib.cc/IntroFindingAid.

CURATORIAL STRENGTHS BY SUBJECT AREA

The following is a sampling of the subject areas that can be found within our Special Collections & Archives.

Chicanx, Latinx & Latin America Studies
Cultural History & Social Movements
History of Science & Technology
European History, Economies & Political Science
Asia & Asian American Studies
History of The Claremont Colleges

Explore more topics by visiting 7clib.cc/SCAsubjects.
DISCOVERING SPECIAL & ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Learn how to request materials for your research by visiting our Special Collections Access Guide, which include step-by-step instructions: 7clib.cc/SCGuide.

The Special Collections Reading Room, which is located on the second floor of The Claremont Colleges Library, is open by appointment Monday through Friday. Schedule a visit to get hands on with our unique materials on our website: 7clib.cc/ReadingRoomAppts.

With artifacts, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, scrapbooks, posters, and so many other kinds of materials spanning numerous topic areas - such as water and the environment, music and theater, aviation, and fine printing - we understand that there are a lot of options for your research. Using the suggestions below will help get you started, and our expert staff members are also available should you need additional assistance.

1. Start your search by visiting library.claremont.edu/sca.
2. Once on the Special Collections webpage, as seen in the screenshot above you will have the option to search by:
   - Special Collections which include books, periodicals, maps, dissertations, and more.
   - Archives at TCC or the Online Archive of California which include personal papers, manuscripts, diaries, posters, ephemera, and more.
   - The Claremont Colleges Digital Library which includes digitized artworks, college photo archives, maps, videos of lectures, rare books, and more.
3. To access rare books, manuscripts, and archives, request materials using your Special Collections Account: 7clib.cc/SCaccount.
4. Then, make an appointment to view your requested materials in the Reading Room: 7clib.cc/BookRRAppt.

You are also welcome to contact Special Collections to assist you with your primary source research:

- Submit a question: 7clib.cc/AskSC
- Schedule a research consultation: 7clib.cc/SCappt
- Send us an email: SpecialCollections@claremont.edu