Collection Development Policy

Special Collections
Concordia University Libraries
September 2013

Special Collections at Concordia University Libraries houses and provides access to an array of rare books, archival materials, maps, photographs, and other materials that require special handling and preservation because of their rarity, fragility, unusual format, or uniqueness. Special Collections support the research of the Concordia University community and scholars from outside the University. Our goal to acquire and preserve materials is coupled with a commitment to outreach and access.

Special Collections is located at the Vanier Library on Concordia’s Loyola campus.

Collecting Rationale

Special Collections acquires materials that support teaching and research at Concordia University and builds on existing strengths. In addition, we seek and acquire new materials or collections to anticipate or respond to changing academic needs and interests at the university.

Current Collecting Priorities

Current collecting priorities in Special Collections are intended to support current academic needs, enhance existing collections and *fonds*, and respond to gift opportunities. Current priorities include:

- Twentieth-century Anglophone Quebec poetry
- Gay and Lesbian Literature
- Genocide
- The Holocaust
- Cinema
- *Livres d’artistes* and the art of the book
- Visual Arts
- Jazz in Montreal
- The Irish in Montreal
- Communication Studies

Future Collecting Priorities

Future collecting priorities will respond to demonstrated demand by Concordia faculty or students. They may also be shaped by significant gifts and donations.
Other Collections in Montreal

Due to its location within Montreal, Concordia’s special collections are complemented by several other important collections of rare materials and primary sources including those at McGill University, the McCord Museum of Canadian History, Université de Montréal, and Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. Generally, we will not duplicate holdings of local institutions or enter into competition with them for collections or resources.

Gifts to Special Collections

The Libraries welcome gifts of books and other materials that contribute to the growth and development of the collections and that are aligned with current collecting priorities. For more information, consult the Libraries’ policy on gifts/gifts-in-kind [http://library.concordia.ca/about/policies/Gift-in-Kind-T1.pdf]. Income tax receipts are available for gifts-in-kind.

Purchasing Materials for Special Collections

Special Collections purchases very selectively within its current collecting priorities.