



Collection Development Policy: Washingtoniana

September 2007 (revised April 2016)
Collection Development Librarian: Jennifer King

Purpose of the Collection

The purposes of the Washingtoniana collections are:

- To document the interactions Metro Area residents have with their environments, both the environments they control and those imposed upon them
- To build holdings that contain thematic foci including interaction with authority, both local government and citizen led initiatives; interaction with the built environment of architectural structures and transportation; creative interaction through the performing and literary arts; and finally interpersonal interaction through communities and neighborhoods
- To support the GW Libraries vision to build robust and unique content to attract local, national and international scholars
- To support University curricula and research
- To make available primary source materials
- To make acquisition decisions that are considered through the lens of how the collection will enhance existing holdings and provide added research depth for users

Subject Coverage

Primary Collecting Interests

The primary subjects to be documented in the Washingtoniana collections are:

Political landscape

These records support the study of the interactions of residents with official governmental entities and grassroots attempts to acquire power in order to influence public policy and governmental activity.

Built environment and transportation

These records support the study of efforts to preserve District structures; urban planning; railroads; architecture; and transportation. These interactions are observed through commerce, entertainment, protest, shelter and transportation and include mass transit, highways, bridges, railroads, and the C&O Canal.

Performing and literary arts

These records support the study of the literature (poetry is a strength), dance, theaters, and music. Within the phenomena of interaction these records include artists interacting both with the public and with each other and the organizations they form to connect with, support, and promote each other's craft.

Communities and neighborhoods

These records support the study of residents interacting with each other and address the formation of support mechanisms residents use to both work within the existing power structure and take power for their own initiatives.

Exclusions

There are many institutions within Washington DC also documenting the history of the District. The SCRC maintains strong partnerships with many of these institutions and understands that to fully document a geographic region requires many institutions working in concert on different aspects of that history. Consequently, donations suggested for inclusion within the SCRC are considered against our identified primary collecting interests and the audiences we will reach with the acquisition of that content. If the records are outside our scope we will encourage the donor to contact another archival institution and provide support in identifying appropriate repositories.

Collecting Scope

General Guidelines:

Language: English is the primary language for collecting. Materials in foreign languages are acquired selectively.

Period of coverage: Primary source materials documenting the history of the District of Columbia and the Metropolitan Washington Area focus on the period from 1890 to the present. Materials before 1890 are acquired selectively as the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. specializes in the collection of manuscripts which pre-date 1890.

Geographical: This collection covers Washington, D.C. and the surrounding Metropolitan area.