The major goal of Special Collections is to locate and preserve materials documenting the social, cultural, economic, and political history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Materials are acquired regardless of format and include both primary and secondary sources. Kentuckiana is collected comprehensively. One major objective is to support the programs of the University by preserving its past and by providing source materials which will further scholarship and research.

- Materials do not circulate but are available for use in the Breckinridge Research Room.
- Special permission must be obtained in order to bring in outside books, papers, or imaging equipment.
- Book bags, brief cases, purses, etc. are not permitted in the Research Room. Lockers for the secure storage of such items are provided free of charge.
- No smoking, eating or drinking is permitted in the Research Room.
- All researchers and visitors must sign in.
- Only pencils are permitted in the Research Room.
- Patrons must complete request forms and/or call slips when requesting material from the restricted, archival storage areas.
- Access may be limited for fragile or rare materials.
- Photocopying of rare books is prohibited.

**GLOSSARY**

**Archivist**: An individual responsible for handling, preserving, and providing access to documents and materials long-term importance.

**Collection**: A group of materials with some unifying characteristic.

**Curator**: An individual responsible for oversight of a collection or exhibition; typically works in a Special Collections Library.

**Diary**: A document, usually bound, containing a personal record of the author’s experiences, attitudes, and observations.

**Digital Library**: A collection of information resources in electronic format.

**Document**: Any written or printed work.

**Ephemera**: Materials, usually printed documents, created for a specific, limited purpose, and generally designed to be discarded after use (Examples: tickets, brochures, receipts).

**Exhibition**: An organized display of materials.

**Finding Aid**: A tool that facilitates discovery of information within a collection of records.

**Genealogy**: The study of ancestry (a person’s family tree).

**Manuscript**: A handwritten document.

**Oral History**: An interview that records an individual’s personal memories of the past and historical events.

**Primary Source**: Material that contains firsthand accounts of events and that was created at the time of those events or later recalled by an eyewitness.

**Repository**: A place where documents (primary and secondary) can be stored and maintained, such as an archive or special collection.

**Secondary Source**: A work that is not based on direct observation of or evidence directly associated with the subject, but instead relies on sources of information.
The **Public Policy Archives** preserves the history of Kentucky politics and government. The UK Libraries has built one of the finest and most thorough bipartisan collections for public policy research in the United States. These collections total over 7,000 cubic feet of unique letters, photographs, speeches, sound recordings, film and memorabilia.

The **University Archives** documents the history of the institution through photographs, films, personal and professional papers of University faculty or alumni, and the records of student professional and social organizations affiliated with the campus. Over 11,000 cubic feet of holdings represent academic and administrative units, University presidents, professors, alumni, athletics, and the Board of Trustees documenting virtually every aspect of the University's history. The University Records Program serves the state mandate to ensure institutional compliance.

**Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History** is internationally recognized for its outstanding collection of over 7,500 oral history interviews. The Program concentrates on twentieth century Kentucky history with an emphasis on political history, Appalachia, Kentucky writers, and agriculture. Other topics include black history, University of Kentucky history, the history of broadcasting, the history of sports, Kentucky medical history, World War II and Vietnam.

**Rare Books** is a collection of over 150,000 volumes with a strong emphasis on Kentucky and Ohio Valley history. It is also distinguished in its literary resources, particularly for the early English Romantics. Holdings include over 100 incunabula (books printed between 1450 and 1501) as well as works in the fields of printing history and the book arts, musicology, Mexicana, genealogy, biography, early chapbooks, and British and American fiction.