



**UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON**

**SENATE HOUSE  
LIBRARY**

# Collection Overview and Key Research Strengths

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## Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Collection overview	4
2.1 Overview	4
2.1 Modern research collections	4
2.2 Special collections and archives	5
2.3 Artworks	6
3. Key Research Strengths	7
3.1 Social, economic and cultural history	7
3.2 Political activism, protest and counter-culture	8
3.3 Commonwealth studies	8
3.4 Literary studies	9
3.5 Art and cultural memory	10
3.6 Knowledge and the mind	11
3.7 The paranormal, the occult and the magical	11
3.8 Manuscript and book studies	12
3.9 Latin American studies	12

## Section One: Introduction

Senate House Library (SHL) is the central library for the University of London (UoL) and the School of Advanced Study (SAS). It is also part of the Knowledge Quarter, and holds collections of national and international significance. Our core vision is that 'SHL will be recognized as a national research resource for arts, humanities and social sciences'.

To deliver this vision, SHL has set five strategic goals:

1. To develop our collections as a nationally recognized resource for arts, humanities and social sciences scholars
2. To provide world class research facilities and a premier researcher experience
3. To support and enable digital scholarship
4. To facilitate greater engagement with our collections and resources
5. To create a customer-focused internal culture of excellence, and support staff development

This document provides an overview of SHL's collections, including special collections, archives and artworks; and sets out 8 areas of key research strength.

## Section Two: Collection Summary

### 2.1 Overview

SHL collections primarily divide into two main areas: modern research collections and special collections (rare books and archives), irrespective of collection format.

SHL provides library management services for the integrated collections of several SAS Institutes, as well as other external client institutions such as the British Psychological Society, the New College of the Humanities and New York University.

SHL holds deposited theses and relevant examination papers of awarding institutions within the central UoL, as opposed to federal member institutions.

Amongst SHL's collections are those deposited on long-term loan, such as Granville-Barker. The terms of deposit are currently under review, with the stated aim of turning long term deposits into permanent donations.

SHL also curates UoL artworks collection and the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) artworks on behalf of UoL.

In all subject areas, including those outlined below, SHL develops its collections with an awareness of the strengths and specialisms of other libraries within the School of Advanced Study, and the wider federal University of London. Our shared aim is to informally build complementary areas of academic excellence, and some of the more significant external collections in allied areas are noted below. The Library remains committed to working more formally with other services to develop and manage collections collaboratively.

### 2.2 Modern research collections

The combined Modern Collections are strategically developed to complement and extend research potential within the subject strengths of Special Collections. Outside of this, they aim to offer as comprehensive as possible a presentation of current scholarship across the Arts and Humanities, but have certain long-established and maintained interdisciplinary emphases:

- Middlebrow, popular and mass-market materials, beyond the academic and canonical
- A documentary portrait of Victorian and Edwardian culture and society
- The evidence of diverse marginal and unorthodox beliefs, opinions and practices
- A rich heritage of ephemeral and amateur publication

Collections comprise monographs, periodicals and other standing orders in both print and e-format. Each collection area is assigned to an Academic Librarian to manage. It is SHL policy for the Academic Librarian to review each collection profile on an annual basis. Modern collections are currently acquired to support research in thirteen broad areas:

- Art History
- Commonwealth Studies
- English Studies
- Film and Media

- History
- Latin American Studies
- Manuscript and Book Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
- United States Studies
- Western European Languages

### 2.3 Special collections

SHL Special Collections is comprised of archives and manuscripts in a variety of formats and media including born digital, all pre-1801 printed items, later printed items rendered rare for reasons of scarcity or copy-specific features, named special collections of printed books, historic printed and manuscript maps, and artefacts.

A distinct feature of these collections is their broad geographical coverage which includes not only the United Kingdom and Europe but Asia, Africa and the Americas. Their significance is underpinned by a combination of primary heritage values:

- Historic/artistic/social value
- Research potential
- Provenance
- Rarity/representativeness
- Condition/completeness

Key deposits of archives and manuscripts include:

- University of London archives and administrative records
- Material relating to prominent figures associated with the University
- Papers of historians, literary figures and publishing firms
- Palaeographic scholarship
- Material which complements named Special Collections of printed books, especially papers relating to the donors
- Psychical research to support the Harry Price Library of Magical Literature
- Francis Bacon scholarship to support material in the Durning-Lawrence Library and Francis Bacon Society Library
- Temperance movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Trotskyist archives and publications
- Theatre and performing arts history
- Archive of the Cusichaca Trust

Major collections of printed books include:

- Carlton Shorthand Collection
- Colin Smythe Terry Pratchett Archive
- De Morgan Library
- Durning-Lawrence Library

- Elzevier Collection
- Family Welfare Association Library
- Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature
- Harry Price Library of Magical Literature
- John Burns Collection
- M.S. Anderson Collection of Writings on Russia Printed between 1525 and 1917
- Porteus Library
- Quick Memorial Library
- Ronald Heisler Collection
- Sterling Library

Historic printed maps include:

- Wyatt Collection of early county maps, especially Buckinghamshire and Berkshire
- Bromhead Collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century facsimiles and 20<sup>th</sup> century maps
- Goldsmiths' Collection, including 19<sup>th</sup> century canal and railway maps
- Eliot-Philips Collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century facsimiles, maps and views of Spain and Madrid
- E G R Taylor Collection of Historic Printed Maps from 1700 – 1900

## **2.4 Artworks**

SHL curates the artworks of the University of London, maintaining a locations database and undertaking valuation and conservation exercises.

With the transfer of responsibility for the CNAA artworks collection to UoL from the CNAA Artwork Collection Trust, SHL has taken over curatorial responsibility on behalf of UoL. This includes the development of a locations database and promotional activity, including a microsite to display images from the collection.

## Section Three: Key Research Strengths

In line with SHL's first and second strategic ambitions to 're-establish SHL as a nationally recognized library for arts and humanities scholarship' and 'facilitate greater engagement with our collections', 9 key research strengths have been identified amongst the combined modern and special collections.

These resources are envisaged as having the potential to extend and enrich existing research, but also to inspire entirely new projects. In line with the Arts Council's definition of its designation scheme, we believe that in aggregate these are 'collections of outstanding richness and resonance – collections that help deepen our understanding of the world, and what it means to be human.'

Detailed collecting policies for each area are appended to the **Collection Development Strategy**.

### 3.1 Social, Economic and Cultural History

This is a very broad subject area which encompasses a range of sub-themes/topics including welfare and social reform; the temperance movement; the history of education (with a particular focus on the role that the UoL played in advancing higher education for women, the provision of adult education and distance learning, and the University's own role in the establishment of higher education institutions in other countries); the evolution and development of the city of London; enslavement; and the origins and development of industrial societies.

After decades of careful development, the History holdings within Modern Collections offer extraordinary depth and breadth of coverage and provide support at every stage of the research process. The collections have been developed with particular awareness of the areas of excellence within the library of the Institute of Historical Research. In addition, some examples of key collections which could be promoted include:

- Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature (special collection)
- Family Welfare Association Library (special collection) gifted to the University in 2017, a unique collection outlining pioneering reform and charity work in Victorian and early 20th century Britain around poverty, slums housing, nutrition, disability, prison conditions and mental health.
- Porteus Collection (special collection)
- Charles Booth Papers (archives)
- Manton Marble Collection (archives and special collection)
- Prothero Collection (special collection – uncatalogued and currently difficult to discover as there is no finding aid)
- Order of the Rechabites (archives)
- Bromhead collection (archives and special collection, re: London)
- Quick Memorial Library (special collection)
- Samuel Wilderspin papers (archives)
- Frank Sidney Milligan papers (archives)
- UoL Archives – Dept of Extra-mural Studies (archives)
- Papers of individuals associated to the UoL (vice-chancellors, historians, academics)
- Castle Wemyss Estate papers (archives)

- Akers business papers (archives)
- Newton family papers (archives)
- Taylor family papers (archives)
- William Hewitt Papers (archives)
- Former library of the United States Information Service

### **3.2 Political activism, protest and counter-culture**

Many archive and special collections at Senate House Library chart the history of left-wing, alternative and radical political movements. Of particular interest are the personal papers of Trotskyist activists (e.g. Alan Clinton, Will Fancy, Juan Posadas).

Furthermore, many and diverse aspects of the history and development of the working class movement can be explored through the Heisler, Higgins/Richardson, Burns and Pelling collections, which in some cases include both archive and printed special collection material. Pacifism as a form of social and political activism in the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is another subject also represented in the archive and special collections holdings at the library.

Senate House Library also holds a wealth of material relating to queer culture and activism, from the literary to the campaigning for LGBT+ rights and equality. Of particular significance to SHL is the 'Haud Nominandum' collection, which consists of the personal library of Jonathan Cutbill, a prominent LGBT campaigner and Britain's foremost collector of books of LGBT relevance.

It is important to note that there is a significant degree of overlap between collections within this area and those within 'Social and Economic History'.

Some examples of key collections which could be promoted include:

- Ron Heisler collection (archives and special collection)
- Higgins/Richardson collection (archives and special collection)
- Burns collection (special collection)
- De Morgan family papers (archives)
- Pelling collection (special collection)
- Alan Clinton papers (archives)
- Juan Posadas circulars (archives)
- Will Fancy papers (archives)
- Caroline Playne collection (archives and special collection)
- No-Conscription Fellowship/Union of Democratic Control
- Peace Pledge Union
- Modern Collections pamphlet collection

### **3.3 Commonwealth Studies**

The collections relating to the Commonwealth are particularly rich and outstanding. They cover many important events and developments in the history of the organisation and comprise the papers of individuals and the records of organisations. These collections present distinctive strengths in several areas, including the anti-apartheid movement, human rights and civil liberties/political activism (including women's activists), journalism and media, education, workers' rights and trade



unions, pressure and campaigning groups, independence movements and the relationship between Britain and these countries after political emancipation.

The modern collections inherited from the Institute for Commonwealth Studies include an abundance of scarce material, particularly pamphlets and ephemera relating to political activity, struggles for independence and the business of government across the Commonwealth. In aggregate, these collections offer a unique opportunity to study the development and continuing history of this group of nations.

Some examples of key collections which could be promoted include:

- C.L.R. James papers (archives)
- Baruch Hirson papers (archives)
- Ruth First papers (archives)
- Mary Benson papers (archives)
- Sir Ivor Jennings papers (archives)
- Sir John Moreton papers (archives)
- Billy Strachan papers (archives)
- Jack Halpern papers (archives)
- Commonwealth Trade Union Council (archives)
- Commonwealth Press Union (archives)
- Commonwealth Journalists Association (archives)
- Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council (archives)
- Council for Education in the Commonwealth (archives)
- Commonwealth Consortium for Education (archives)
- Institute of Commonwealth Studies Political Archives - political parties, trade unions, pressure groups pamphlets (special collection)
- Caribbean Council (archives)
- Caribbean Council of Europe (archives)
- Catholic Institute for International Relations (archives)
- The Library of the Institute for Commonwealth Studies (modern and special collections)

### **3.4 Literatures in English and other European languages**

Senate House Library holds outstanding special collections of manuscript, archive and printed material relating to English literature, as well as in European languages. Of particular significance are collections relating to the development of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> literature, with an emphasis on Shakespearean studies. The 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are also well represented in the collections (Austin Dobson, J.B. Priestley, H.G. Wells, Walter de la Mare, Sturge Moore, Terry Pratchett) which cover most literary genres such as narrative, poetry, theatre and drama, popular literature, children's literature and short stories.

The combined literary holdings within United States and English Studies in Modern Collections offer one of the largest and most diverse such collections in a non-copyright library. In addition to very significant open access collections, reserve holdings in store offer access to a considerable body of less easily obtained material in all formats, with specific strengths in periodicals and pamphlets.

While literary studies is a feature of the libraries of almost every federal member, SHL has always adapted its collecting in deference to established strengths elsewhere, for example not collecting in

Scots or Irish Gaelic which is excellently represented at UCL, or in the literature of those geographic areas which are a specialism of the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Some examples of key collections that could be promoted include:

- Durning-Lawrence Library
- Sir Louis Sterling library
- Eggar collection
- Francis Bacon Society collection
- Granville-Baker collection
- Thomas Sturge More collection
- Terry Pratchett
- Walter de la Mare
- Malcolm Morley collection
- Herbert Edward Palmer
- Opal Whiteley
- Longley collection and Katharine Longley papers
- Ellen Ternan papers
- Grieve Theatre designs and family correspondence

### **3.5 Art and cultural memory**

Senate House Library holds a wealth of material across disciplines and formats which demonstrates the interplay of culture and a sense of identity, whether that is based on nationality, race, religion or other factors. Amongst such material are very strong holdings on the experience of migration, with a particular focus on forced migration, displaced persons and exiles as a result of war or political persecution; in many of these cases, artistic and literary outputs have been preserved and perpetuated to define and preserve a broader cultural memory. Exiles and refugees are generally under-represented in archive and library collections and their contribution to the society is often difficult to chart as a result. The rarity and scarcity of this material renders it particularly useful for research, not only to explore the experience of forced migration, but more widely to understand issues of identity and belonging, the concept of mobility in the context of forced migration, the cultural impact of forced migration and exile, personal interactions and their legacy.

The development of the collections here embraces art, music and cultural endeavour most broadly defined, but is focused on the interplay of such cultural expression and a sense of the perpetuation, preservation or declaration of cultural identity and memory. It should be noted that the history of fine art is not comprehensively collected by SHL, largely to avoid large-scale duplication with the extraordinary holdings of the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Warburg Institute among other libraries.

Some example of key collections which could be promoted include:

- Miller papers
- Robert Lucas papers
- Berger Hamerschlag papers
- Mynatt/Kapp papers
- Rudolf Majut papers
- Herbert Lowitt

- Anglo-Austrian Society Archive
- Germanic Studies Library (modern collection)
- Joan Gili collection (both special and modern material)
- ICS archives
- Central America Photographic Collection
- Latin American Photographic Collection
- UoL Archive – Hungarian Refugee Students
- Eliot-Phelips Library
- William Rose papers

### **3.6 Knowledge and the Mind**

Senate House Library has comprehensive holdings in intellectual history across disciplines and formats, encompassing wide-ranging themes including medieval & modern philosophy; feminist philosophy; history of political thought; sociological theories and paradigm shifts; history of science and medicine; history of psychology; the interplay between psychoanalysis and culture; political, social and cultural psychology; sexuality and gender; the body; and the history of emotions.

Coverage is particularly rich in British, European and North American 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century thought and ideas. There are important synergies with other strong holdings in the history of economic thought and cultural history listed under 'Social, Economic and Cultural History'. SHL has not collected practical clinical psychological content, an area of research strongly supported by UCL.

Some examples of key collections which could be promoted include:

- Library of the British Psychological Society (modern collection)
- Early Texts (psychology - modern collection)
- Psychological tests (modern collection)
- Lady Welby Library (modern collection)
- Herbert Spencer papers
- De Morgan Library and papers
- Charles Booth papers (sociology)
- Harry Price Library and archive (parapsychology, history of psychology)
- Eric Dingwall papers (parapsychology)
- Craig collection and papers (psychology of sexual behaviour)
- Playne collection (shell shock/war trauma)
- Robert Saudek papers (psychology of handwriting)
- William Rose papers (psychoanalysis and literature)
- Harold Foster Hallett papers (Spinoza)
- Robert Fellowes papers (18<sup>th</sup> c moral philosophy)
- J.P. Stern papers (20<sup>th</sup> c German literature and philosophy)
- Dugald Stewart papers (moral philosophy)
- Grote, Graveley, Porteus (classical philosophy & devotional texts)

### **3.7 The Paranormal, the occult and the magical**

The special collections at Senate House Library are particularly rich and comprehensive in parapsychology and the paranormal. These collections show how human fascination with the occult and the magical can be found in most cultures from Antiquity to modern times, and how the division between rational science and an acceptance of the paranormal is a recent phenomenon.

These holdings will enable researchers to investigate and study deeper spiritual realities and experiences that extend beyond the pure reason and science depicted in our nationally significant collections on the history and development of the field of psychology within modern collections.

Together, these collections help to trace the history of a search for the meaning of humanity and reach out to many other areas of knowledge such as literature, anthropology and ethnography, philosophy, religion, and the history of beliefs and ideas.

These collections can also be explored from the perspective of the individuals (creators and collectors) who assembled them and their motivations for doing so.

Some examples of key collections that could be promoted include:

- Harry Price library of magical literature and archive
- Eric Dingwall papers
- Caroline Rhys-Davids papers
- Matthew Manning papers
- Collections on personal relationships with spiritualism
- Paul Tabori
- John Lord
- Ida Holden papers

### **3.8 Manuscript and Book Studies**

History of the book and manuscript studies is a well-established subject strength at the library. These collections, founded on the Book Studies and Palaeography holdings within Modern Collections, illustrate varied and diverse aspects of both disciplines including the development of handwriting/scripts, manuscript/codicology and book production, the transmission, circulation and dissemination of texts, sigillography, history of ideas and communication, bibliography, annotations, illuminations illustration, and the formation of collections and libraries and the individuals behind them.

In addition to these topics some collections also illustrate the history of the publishing, printing and bookselling industries.

Some examples of key collections include:

- Sir Louis Sterling papers - English books from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century and private press editions, literary manuscripts
- Sir Durning-Lawrence papers
- Examples of pre-1500 printing
- Herbert Foxwell Papers
- Duckworth and Co. Ltd.
- Lady Welby library and De Morgan for provenance/readership studies
- Dolphin Bookshop collection
- De Ricci Collection of slips

- Mediaeval Manuscripts
- Fuller collection
- Papers of notable palaeographers
- Carlton Shorthand collection
- Facsimile collection
- Charles Lahr papers

### **3.9 Latin American Studies**

The Library is home to an extraordinary collection of printed sources on Latin America and the Caribbean, envisaged from its inception as a national resource for study of the area. With exceptions of certain technical and scientific subjects, it aims to record as fully as possible the history of the region, with specific strengths in: colonial history, politics, anthropology, sociology, gender studies and literature. The collection is linked to one of the leading academic centres for the study of Latin America (Institute of Latin American Studies, School of Advanced Study), whose current research strategies and strengths influence collection development.

Features of note:

- Heavy emphasis on materials published within Latin America, avoiding a purely western perspective
- Periodicals produced across the continent, including many unique to UK libraries
- Latin American Political pamphlets
- Film – a pioneering collection of around 3,000 documentary and feature films of the region
- Robert Arthur Humphreys papers
- Central America Photographic Collection
- Latin American Archives of the Catholic Institute for International Relations
- The archive of the Cusichaca Trust (acquired December 2017) c.300 boxes of original records maps, plans and photos on applied archaeology in Peru, encompassing archaeology, ethnography, ethno-botany, anthropology, rural development and post-colonial history of the Peruvian High Andes.
- The Cartonera book collection, comprising over 200 titles published by cardboard publishers mostly from Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru and Paraguay, and reflecting creative and community engaged responses to social, political and environmental events.