

University of Mississippi Archives & Special Collections Fact Sheet

- Mission: To acquire, conserve, and make accessible rare books, manuscripts, maps, visual and audio materials, and ephemera related to the University of Mississippi, the state of Mississippi, and the Blues.
- Special Collections is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except during school holidays). Online access is available at http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/files/archives/index.html.
- Located on the 3rd floor of the J.D. Williams Library, the Archives & Special Collections possesses extensive exhibit space (including a permanent display of William Faulkner's Nobel Prize) and a reading room for researchers.
- In addition to its general collections on the university and Mississippi, the department also contains several more specialized units: the Blues Archives, the Southern Media Archives, and the Modern Political Archives.
- Special Collections has extensive holdings on the topics of Mississippi during the antebellum period, the Civil War, and the Civil Rights Movement. It also possesses numerous literary collections, including William Faulkner, Willie Morris, Larry Brown, Barry Hannah, Beth Henley, Ellen Douglas, and many others.
- The Modern Political Archive is responsible for political and legal collections dating from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Among its holdings are the records of several Mississippians who have served in the U.S. Congress, including Pat Harrison, Thomas G. Abernethy, William M. Whittington, James O. Eastland, Jamie Whitten, Thad Cochran, Trent Lott, and Roger Wicker.
- With its large collection of books, photographs, posters, interviews, and more than 50,000 sound recordings, the Blues Archive is one of the world's best resources for blues research. Some highlights include B.B. King's personal record collection, the business files from the Trumpet label, Sheldon Harris's research files, and the *Living Blues* Collection of sound recordings and photographs.
- The Southern Media Archive collects photographs, film footage, and audio recordings of southerners for use in creative documentary projects. Noteworthy collections include those of Oxford studio photographer Colonel J.R. Cofield, Lafayette County images by New York photographer Martin J. Dain, and the home movies of Emma Knowlton Lytle who captured the Mississippi Delta during the 1940s.