UMass Amherst Collections 2013

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Overview

During the Campus Master Planning effort the need to better understand and plan for the UMass Amherst collections was identified and an ad-hoc committee was created to help advance a better understanding of the existing collections and how best to plan for the future. The first task was to define each collection and begin to set a framework and common language that enables the classification and quantification of collections space on campus. This document illustrates each collection, its mission and the contact person responsible for the collection.

The term collection has been defined to include all the campus holdings that are used for academic, research and outreach purposes. The following inventory does not include our largest holdings, the Library. The Library has just recently completed a facilities master plan and a strategy for its facility. The committee will use this document as a basis for creating a planning framework for the remaining collections.
Anthropology Collections

The Anthropology Department has large research and study collections in archaeology and biological anthropology, as well as videotape and recording equipment, a small collection of anthropological films, and several laboratories for biological anthropology and archaeology. There is a noted Native American Collection as well as a comparative botanical collection of seeds.

Contact: Thomas Leatherman, Chair, Anthropology Dept., Machmer Hall

Webpage URL:
http://www.umass.edu/anthro/about/whatIsAnthro.html

Anthropology Collections: Archaeological Services

The Anthropology Department’s Archaeology Services Lab maintains objects obtained from excavations conducted by the UMass Archaeological Services throughout New England, NY and NJ, many of which are required to be curated, properly housed, and made available for research. Storage of the teaching and research collection is located in Ag. Engineering and Machmer Hall.

Contact: Steven Pendery, Director, Archaeological Services, Machmer Hall E-9

Webpage URL:
http://www.umass.edu/anthro/about/archServices.html
Anthropology Collections: Anthropological Primate Collection and Morphometrics

The Anthropological Primate Collection and Morphometrics Lab maintain a collection of primate and non-primate skeletal material for research purposes. The primate material consists mostly of captive animals donated from zoos and research institutions. The collection features a variety of extant prosimians, Old and New World monkeys, and a limited number of apes. (This Collection is cross-listed with Natural History.)

Contact: Dr. Laurie Godfrey, Professor, Machmer Hall W-16 and Elizabeth Dumont, Director, Natural History Collection, Morrill 321

Webpage URL: http://www.umass.edu/physanth/index.html

DEFA Film Library

The DEFA Film Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is the only archive and study center outside Europe devoted to the study of a broad spectrum of filmmaking by East German filmmakers or related to East Germany from 1946 to the present. DEFA stands for Deutsche Film Atiengesellshaft - the state-run East German film studios, where films were made from 1946 to 1990. In 1997, a groundbreaking agreement brought the largest collection of 16 and 35mm DEFA prints outside of Germany to the UMass Amherst campus. Since then, the DEFA Film Library has continued to grow; to date it has hosted 2 international conferences, 3 Summer Film Institutes and 4 touring film series, and its holdings now include over 400 prints, over 1,000 research videos and DVDs and over 400 articles, books and periodicals. The collection is located in Herter Hall and Goodell.

Contact: Dr. Skyler Arndt-Briggs, Executive Director DEFA, Herter 504

Webpage URL: http://www.umass.edu/defa/
**Durfee Conservatory**

The Durfee Conservatory was established in 1867 and serves as an arboretum and a sanctuary of calm and serenity within the hustle and bustle of the UMass campus. In sunny weather students sit and read in the Durfee Range greenhouse as well as the related outdoor gardens. In the biting cold of winter, many take a few minutes on their way to class, to warm themselves in the ‘rainforest’ room. From the clean fresh smell of the plants in the Victorian collection, to the warm humid air of a small rainforest in the middle of New England, Durfee is equally a teaching laboratory and a treat for the senses.

**Contact:** Michael Formosi, Technical Assistant, Durfee Range

**Webpage URL:** http://www.durfeeconservatory.org/

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**Geosciences Rock, Mineral and Paleontological Teaching and Research Collections**

The Geosciences Rock, Mineral and Paleontological Teaching and Research Collection is a mixture of actively used teaching and research specimens housed in several classrooms in Morrill Science Center, plus research materials stored in Morrill and in the basement of the Shade Tree Laboratory. These collections include a diverse array of minerals from around the world, examples of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks, features of tectonic deformation and sedimentary depositional structures, glacial and peri-glacial sediments, as well as marine invertebrate fossils and plant fossils from famous Pennsylvanian age coal swamps.

**Contact:** Mark Leckie, Head of Department of Geosciences, Morrill Science Center IV, Rm 252

**Webpage URL:** http://www.geo.umass.edu
Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies

The Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is a locus for research and teaching on the Holocaust, as well as on the memory and representation of this and other genocides. Its three primary organizing and research rubrics are: History, Memory, and Education. The Institute’s principal activities include: teaching and research, public events and lectures, permanent exhibition visits and training. The Institute is the home of a permanent Holocaust teaching exhibition, “A Reason to Remember: Roth, Germany 1933-1942,” which is open to both university students and the general public, as well as to visiting middle and high school student groups by appointment. The Institute also houses a research library and archive, as well as collections of multiple media, including photographs and film, art and artifacts.

Contact: James Young, Director, 758 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA

Webpage URL: http://www.umass.edu/ihgms/

MA Center for Renaissance Studies

The Massachusetts Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies is an internationally leading center for the study of the culture and achievements of the Renaissance period (1400-1700) located at the Dakin House. The Center contributes to the field of Renaissance studies through research, teaching, and outreach to the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, the Amherst community, and beyond.

Contact: Jeffrey Goodhind, Librarian, Dakin House

Webpage URL: http://www.umass.edu/renaissance/
Natural History Collections

UMass is a repository of the Commonwealth of MA State Cabinet natural history collection. These include biological collections such as Prof. Bemis’ Fishes collection, Fossil Mammals, Marine Mammals, Amphibians & Reptiles, Invertebrates, Insects and the Greenhouse Living collection of plants. Whether it is a whale skeleton, 12,000-year old stone tools, Neanderthal skulls, exquisite mineral specimens, or dazzling display of beetles, the current Natural History Collections are a trove of visually arresting materials that make a strong, positive impression on prospective students, their parents and alumni. The collections are currently housed in multiple locations across campus, including Clark, Clark Greenhouse, Fernald, Machmer, Morrill I, II, III and IV, Morrill Greenhouse, Holdsworth, Tillson Farm Poultry Building 3 and the Tillson Farm Saw Mill.

Contact: Elizabeth Dumont, Professor and Director, Natural History Collection, Morrill 321

Webpage URL: http://bcrc.bio.umass.edu/ummnh/

Rausch Mineral Gallery

The Rausch Mineral Gallery in Morrill Science Center proudly displays the spectacular mineral collection of Dr. Marvin Rausch, former Professor of Chemistry at UMass. Marvin Rausch gave some specimens to the Department of Geosciences before he passed away in May 2008. After his death, a longstanding family friend and fellow mineral collector made it possible for about 200 additional specimens to be donated to the Department. Marvin Rausch had a life-long love of minerals, and what makes this collection so special are the large size of the specimens, as well as the diversity of minerals, colors, and localities from around the world.

Contact: Mark Leckie, Head of Department of Geosciences, Morrill Science Center IV, Rm 252

Webpage URL: http://www.geo.umass.edu
UMass Amherst Construction Documents Archive

The UMass Construction Documents Archive contains official construction records (maps, drawings, specifications, models and related documentation) for Umass buildings and infrastructure going back to the early 1900’s and inclusive of current construction. The archive is an official repository of state documents of record of the State Attorney General’s Office.

Contact: Patricia Parenteau, Construction Documents Coordinator, Physical Plant Building Addition, Room 253A

Webpage URL: 

UMass Amherst Libraries’ Special Collections and University Archives

The Department of Special Collections and University Archives of the UMass Amherst Libraries (SCUA) supports research on social change; innovation and entrepreneurship; the histories and cultures of New England; and the past, present, and future of the University of Massachusetts. The interactive catalog, UMassMamot, contains descriptions of all manuscript, archival, and photographic collections held by the department. Credo, SCUA’s online digital repository, contains over 75,000 items drawn from the papers of W.E.B. Du Bois and other collections. UMass Amherst Libraries’ Special Collections are housed on floors 2, 22, 24, 25 and 26 as well as in the basement in Goodell. There are approximately 30,000 LF of archival materials, thousands of maps and University history objects, and the collection is growing. There are direct synergies with teaching and research functions.

Contact: Dr. Robert S. Cox, Head Special Collections and University Archives, DuBois library

Webpage URL: http://www.library.umass.edu/spcoll/
University Museum of Contemporary Art

In 1962 the University began to assemble a collection of art works to be used for teaching purposes and for exhibition to the general public. When the Fine Arts Center was completed in 1975 the Collection was placed under the care and management of the University Museum of Contemporary Art (UMCA). The Collection focuses primarily on works on paper - drawings, prints, and photographs - from the second half of the 20th century to the present and comprises approximately 3,000 objects. Images of works in the collection are all digitized and accessible through a shared database with the Museums of the Five-Colleges and Historic Deerfield: http://museums.fivecolleges.edu/. The Art Collection is located in storage rooms, in Clark Hall, Herter and the Fine Arts Center. In 2010 the UMCA engaged GUND Partnership to explore opportunities to provide a vision for Clark Hall for the 21st century; the plan envisions renovating and expanding Clark Hall into a new Center for Visual Cultural Studies at UMass which would house the entire art collection along with seminar/study rooms, exhibition space, offices, and a lecture hall.

Contact: Loretta Yarlow, Director or Justin Griswold, Registrar, Fine Arts Center 33D

Webpage URL: umass.edu/umca

University Public Art Collection

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is a unique environment, which is enhanced by a number of outdoor and indoor sculptures, monuments, murals and other works of art. The University Public Art Committee is the steward of these objects that are a prominent part of the University’s history and manages the public art collection in a manner that enhances the attractiveness of the campus and major public spaces within buildings.

Contact: Juanita Holler, Assoc. VC., Facilities & Campus Services, Whitmore 337

Webpage URL:
Waugh Arboretum

Officially established before 1944 and expanded after 1965, the Arboretum is coincident with most of the campus and includes significant tree and shrub specimens. Some of the oldest trees were collected in the 1860s by the institution’s first president, William S. Clark. A tree survey is in progress to document all specimens of interest. Currently, the Arboretum lacks adequate documentation and interpretation. The Arboretum has great potential as an educational, research, and recreational resource and should be considered as an integral part of the campus landscape.

Contact: Jack Ahearn, Arboretum Director and Pam Monn, Assist. Dir., Buildings & Grounds, Physical Plant Building 219

Webpage URL: http://www.umass.edu/physicalplant/trees/index.html