

Treasure or Trash?

How to Assess the Historical Value of What You've Stored Away (and what to do about it)

Erik Moore

University Archivist &

Co-Director of the University Digital Conservancy

March 16, 2021











Avindalen



ARTISTS & MODEL
**Ripert Prints Explore
Dark, Dramatic Realm**
By [unreadable]

ARTISTS & MODEL
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By [unreadable]

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
RESEARCH REPORT NO. 1000

The study was conducted in the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, under the supervision of Professor [Name]. The work was supported by the National Science Foundation, Grant No. [Number].

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

The samples were prepared by the method of [Name] and [Name]. The reaction was carried out in a [Type] reactor at a temperature of [Temperature] and a pressure of [Pressure]. The products were separated by [Method] and analyzed by [Method].

UNIVERSITY
OF
MINNESOTA
ARCHIVES

BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY:

Libraries and Archives

Subd. 1. Scope.

This policy governs the libraries and archives of the University of Minnesota (University).

Subd. 2. Collection of Libraries and Archives.

The resources comprising the collections of the University's libraries and archives shall include all books, serials, maps, manuscripts, newspapers, documents, audiovisual materials, archives, statistical and data compilations, objects, and any other information sources in any format that are acquired, licensed, or managed for instructional and research purposes of the University, except for those items that are included in the collections of the University's museums and galleries.

Subd. 3. Guiding Principles.

The following principles shall guide the development and operation of the University's libraries and archives:

- (a) The libraries and archives shall serve the University's mission of creating and sharing knowledge through broad access to information resources in published or unpublished form.
- (b) The libraries and archives shall support the products and processes of scholarship through the collection, mediation, and preservation of information resources in all formats and media.
- (c) The archives shall collect and preserve the historically valuable documentation of University units and individuals, including faculty, staff, and administrators.
- (d) The libraries and archives shall be developed and made accessible to all members of the University community and to a broader state and global community through library resource sharing programs.

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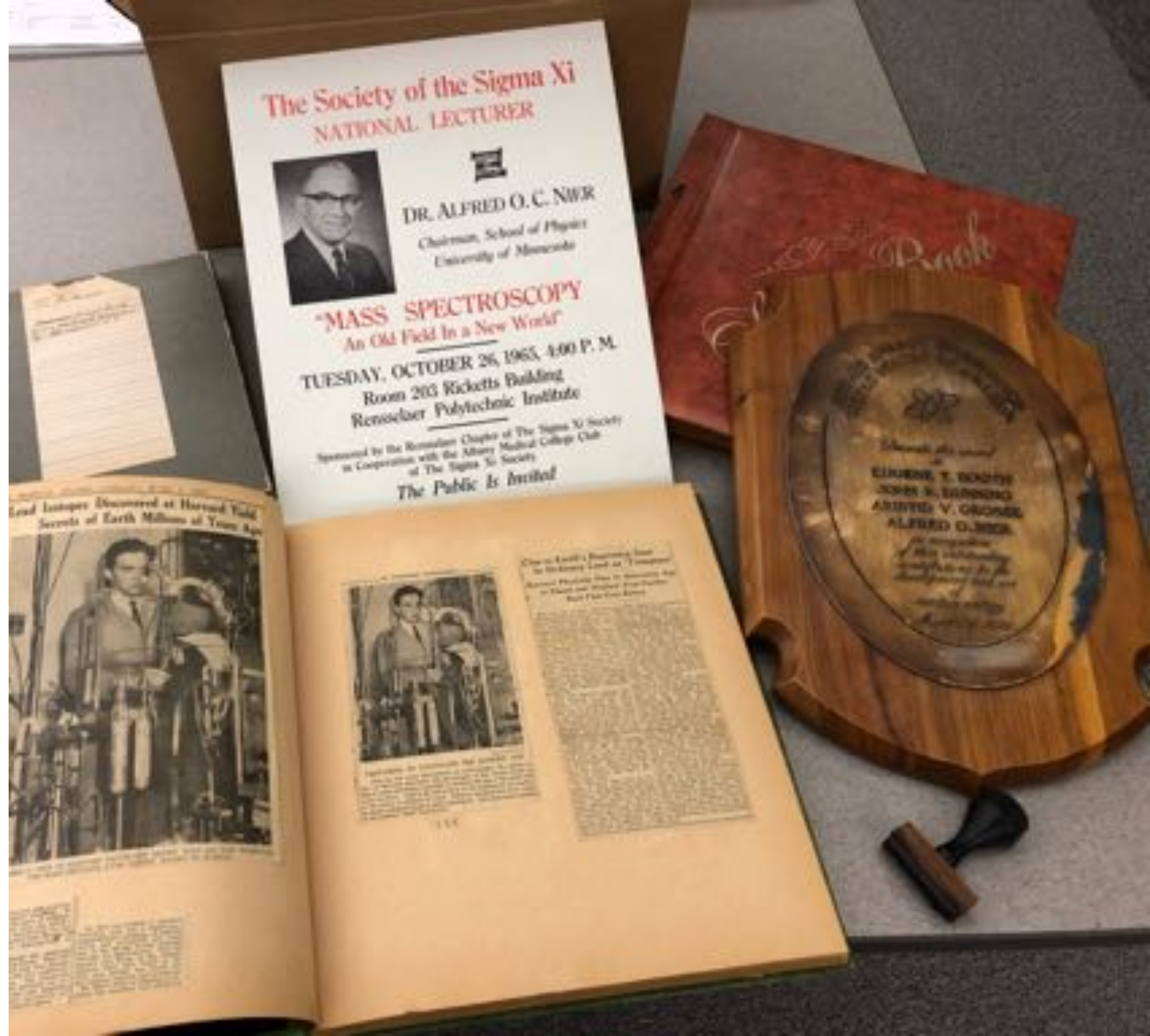
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What people give us

Small donations of single items related to University history

Personal collections documenting a person's research or professional career



Small donations

Given to us by staff, alumni, families & the general public

Includes yearbooks, programs, photographs, scrapbooks, homecoming buttons & more

Accept most as a gesture of goodwill; also fills a need



Student experience

Documenting the student experience adds depth to institutional history & raises our understanding of how they shape the University



Personal papers

The materials created by you in the course of your professional life and activities

Common to also include small sets of materials collected by you



What we collect

Biographical material (CVs, photographs, interviews/clippings)

Correspondence

Talks and lectures

Teaching materials including lecture notes, course syllabi

Committee records

Diaries and journals, personal and professional

Research files, notebooks, grant records

Photographs related to University or research

Professional contributions



Why we collect

Archives are not created to collect old things, but rather, serve as a stepping off point to create new information.

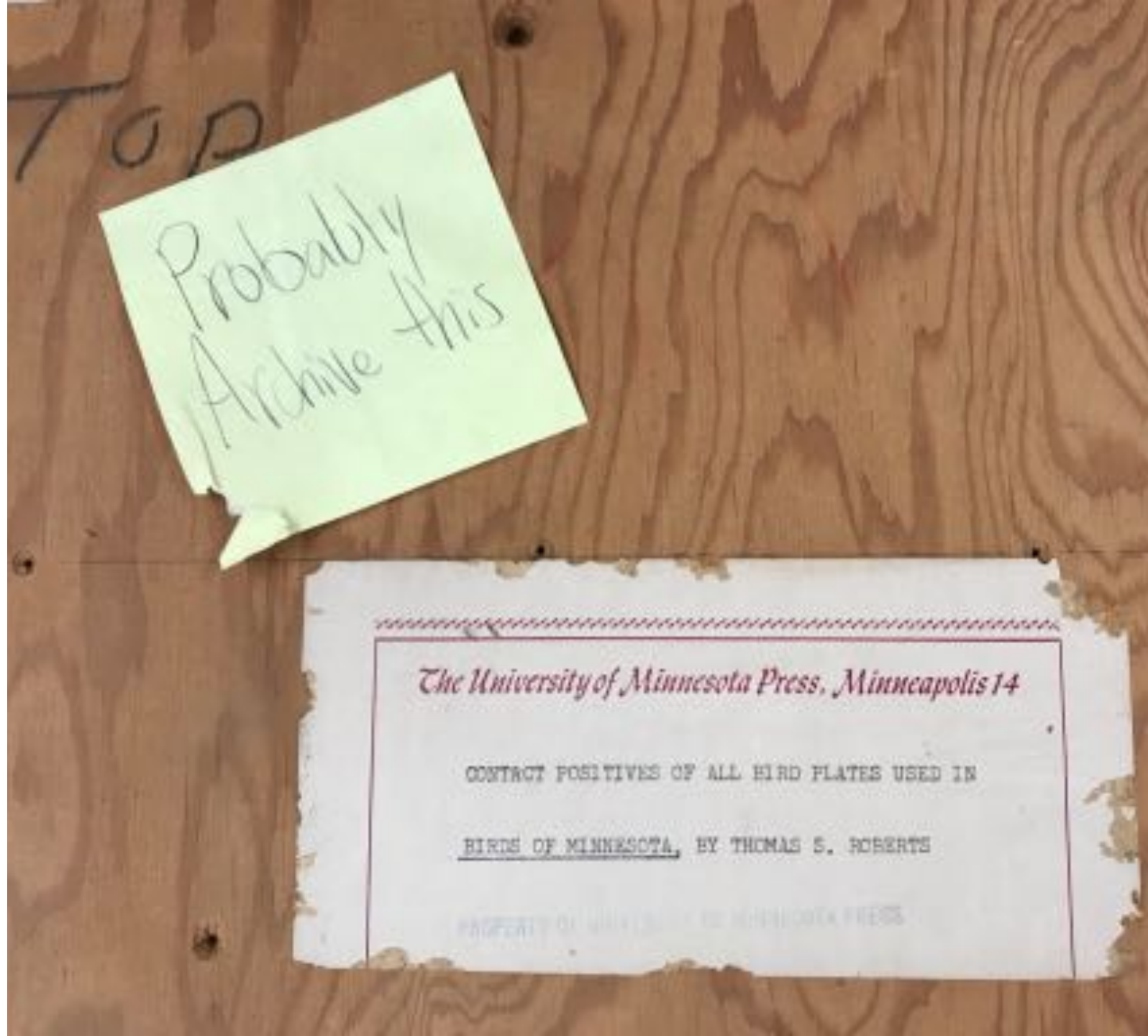
Archives are future facing.



Making decisions

Scope determines what the focus of an archives is e.g., institutional, subject, regional, community, etc.

Value allows us to express the importance of the archival materials.



Primary value

The usefulness or significance of records based on the purposes for which they were originally created.

Monday, August 5, 1985
Page 2

SCHED TIME	BEGIN TIME	END TIME	PROGRAM AND CONTENT	TYPE	SOURCE	ORIGINATION KUOM	
12:00	✓ 12:00	12:59	SCOPE DLOrem/UFM Associate Prof Medicine Dr Philip McGowan, on the case of Leslie Alexander, who was the first patient to get a bone-marrow transplant from a non-relative at the UFM.	N	L	Theme cart, L #4	D. O
	12:52	12:54					
	12:01	12:27	Pres Reagan: press conf/live/NPR				
12:59	✓	1:00	WEATHER, PROMOS.	O	L	L #3	Annou
1:00	✓		STATION ID.	O	L	L #3	Annou
1:00	✓	1:29	PUBLIC AFFAIRS: <u>MINNESOTA ISSUES</u> "Water and Rural: Are We Becoming Two Minnesota?" with Richard Dethmers and John Horchak. "Adolescents" with Ira Schwartz	PA	L	Slot 44	A. Ma
1:30	1:29 ✓	1:30	WX, from OS, ID.				
	1:58		PUBLIC AFFAIRS: <u>EQUAL VOICE</u> "Women Powermakers" with Nikki LaSorella.	PA	L	Slot 45	C. M
2:00	1:58 ✓	2:00	WX, Promos STATION ID.	O	L	#3	Annou
2:00	✓		<u>MUSIC FROM CHURCH</u>	A	EPS	Slot 47	C. OI
	2:31		ID				

Secondary value

The usefulness or significance of records based on purposes other than that for which they were originally created.

4-H SECRETARY'S RECORD BOOK

1990-91
Year

County Chicago
Name of Club Panola hockets

Evidential value

The usefulness of records that provides information about the origins, functions, and activities of their creators

APRIL 7, 1992

THINGS TO DO:

1. SCHEDULE MEETING with Steve Manthe, MIKE MCCAULEY, GENE ALLEN, BOB BRUCKMAN, TERRY BARK. ✓

2. SURVEY OF KIASCA - see members

3. MEMORIAL STATUM ABOUT PURPOSE - RAY JACKSON

4. SEND Planning Document to PRESIDENT

5. SEND set of Principles to FRANK

6. Statement to PHYSICIAN on FUNCTION OF MATTER Planning

7. Achievement Goals to BRUCKMAN

8. CALL BERNARD Jacobs - Conwriting ✓

Informational value

The usefulness or significance of materials based on their content, independent of any intrinsic or evidential value.

The University of Minnesota OFFICIAL DAILY BULLETIN

VOL. I

OCTOBER 24, 1918

NO. 2

In order that there may be no possible misunderstanding about the opening of the University for civilian students, it should be officially stated that the decision was based upon the recommendation of the Director of the University Health Service, Dr. John Sundwall, and met with the full approval of the State Health Officer, Dr. H. M. Bowden. There has been no friction whatsoever between the health authorities. The City Health Officer upon his own initiative stated that the University, being a state institution, did not fall under his jurisdiction and that the decision of Dr. Bracker should be final. The University wishes to have it clearly understood that at all times it stands ready to cooperate fully with the regularly constituted authorities of the state, and that its present action is no exception to the rule.

M. L. Burton, President

The following revised hour schedule has been adopted for all colleges:

I Hour	8:35 to 9:20	(Civilians)
II Hour	9:30 to 10:15	(All students)
III Hour	10:25 to 11:10	(All students)
IV Hour	11:20 to 12:05	(All students)
Noon Hour	12:05 to 1:55	(All students)
V Hour	1:55 to 2:40	(All students)
VI Hour	2:50 to 3:35	(All students)
VII Hour	3:45 to 4:30	(All students)
VIII Hour	4:40 to 5:25	(Civilians)

The INTER-CAMPUS Car schedule is now in operation as follows:

Leaving Minneapolis Campus—

A.M.—7:45, 8:05, 8:20, 8:35, 8:50, 9:05, 9:20, 9:40, 10:00, 10:15, 10:35, 10:55, 11:00, 11:20, 11:30.

P.M.—12:05, 12:20, 12:35, 12:50, 1:05, 1:20, 1:35, 1:50, 2:05, 2:20, 2:35, 2:50, 3:05, 3:20, 3:35, 3:50, 4:05, 4:20, 4:35, 4:50, 5:05, 5:20.

Leaving University Farm Campus—

A.M.—8:05, 8:20, 8:35, 8:50, 9:05, 9:20, 9:40, 10:00, 10:15, 10:35, 10:55, 11:00, 11:20, 11:30.

P.M.—12:05, 12:20, 12:35, 12:50, 1:05, 1:20, 1:35, 1:50, 2:05, 2:20, 2:35, 2:50, 3:05, 3:20, 3:35, 3:50, 4:05, 4:20, 4:35, 4:50, 5:05, 5:20.

Half hour schedule Saturday afternoons, starting at 12:50 from the Main Campus and at 1:05 from the University Farm Campus.

Through the courtesy of President Burton the OFFICIAL DAILY BULLETIN will publish certain Orders and Instructions from the Commanding Officer.

INSTRUCTION BULLETIN NO. 1

All soldiers will read these Orders and Instructions, and failure to obey or comply with them on the ground that a man does not know what the Orders and Instructions are, will not be accepted as an excuse. Failure to obey or comply will be met with disciplinary action.

MILITARY COURTESY: "Courtesy among military men is indispensable to discipline; respect to superiors will not be confined to obedience on duty, but will be extended on all occasions." (Par. 4, Army Regulations.) One method of extending this courtesy is by saluting. When in ranks the question of what a soldier should do is simple—he obeys any command that is given. It is when out of ranks that a soldier must know how and when to salute.

SALUTING: "In the old days the free men of Europe were all allowed to carry weapons, and when they met, each would hold up his right hand in order to show that he had no weapon in it and that they met as friends. Slaves or serfs, however, were not allowed to carry weapons, and slunk past the free men without making any sign. In this way the salute came to be the symbol or sign by which soldiers (free men) might recognize each other. * * * To this day armies have preserved their salute, and when correctly done it is at once recognized

Intrinsic value

The usefulness or significance of a record or item derived from its physical or associational qualities, generally independent of its content.



Enduring value

The usefulness or significance of items based on the evidential, informational, or intrinsic value they contain that justifies their permanent or ongoing preservation.



Where to donate

Start local

Be creative

Consider the outcome

List of organizations and associations

<https://www2.archivists.org/assoc-orgs>

Nov. 5, 2020
Hives Dept. at U. of MN
1-19th Ave. S., #0438
St. Paul, MN, 55455

Please place this 1960 Gopher
annual into your archives, if
you already have this book,
please find a new home for it,
giving it away, tossing it, or
leaving it on your annual book
shelf, or whatever you decide.

My brother was a student
at the U. of MN during the school
year of 1959-60. He is not listed
in this book, so therefore the
book is no longer wanted, as I
am cleaning house.
Please do NOT return the
book to me,

Sincerely,
Lincorah

Gophers

1960

Donation process

Transfer of ownership

Drop-off or delivery

Asking for a copy

Items are primarily donated rather than purchased regardless of their monetary value.



Nostalgia vs historical

Some items are made to make us think about the past

Historical items are contemporaneous



Unique vs rare

One-of-a-kind items can be important to preserve but that doesn't necessarily make them rare.

Rare would indicate other other copies exist and that there is a monetary market for them.



Repurposing

In 1952, Herb Wright photographed this Bedouin settlement in Syria.

Today, these records can show environmental loss and refuge displacement due to war.



Longitudinal information

Beginning in 1916, William Cooper began plotting vegetation growth in post-glacial environments in Glacier Bay, Alaska.

This image marks a quadrant from 1929.



Longitudinal information

Later, Don Lawrence would inherit the project from Cooper until the quadrants were lost. This image was taken in 1982.

In 2016, a researcher using Cooper & Lawrence's maps and photographs relocated the quadrants to create a new dataset marking 100 years of vegetation growth.



The long game

Reappraisal may change the way we view these items in a generation.

Associated values today do not dictate how the items will be used.

Those who use the archives do that.





Contact

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moore144@umn.edu