ILLINOIS

Chicago, IL

52. Chicago History Museum

Research Center
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Research center: Chicago History Museum Research Center
Finding aids: Search online catalog ARCHIE, www.chsmedia.org


Overview:

Published materials: 100,000 items, including books, periodicals, pamphlets, scrapbooks, maps, atlases, sheet music, theater programs, newspapers, city and telephone directories, building permits.

Prints and Photographs: 1.5 millions images of Chicago’s people, streets, activities, events, and buildings, including 20,000 photos taken by the architectural photography firm Hedrich-Blessing. Two major digital collections consist of 55,000 images from the 1902–1933 Chicago Daily News and 1,000 Hedrich-Blessing photographs of buildings designed by Mies van der Rohe, Frank Lloyd Wright, Bertrand Goldberg, as well as photographs of the 1933 Century of Progress.

Archives and Manuscripts: Personal papers and institutional records from Chicagoans and Chicago institutions such as Claude A. Barnett, director of the Associated Negro Press; the Board of Lady Managers of the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893; the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car porters; Senator Paul H. Douglas; and
District 31 of the United Steelworkers of America. 22,000 lin. feet; 1,115 collections.

Architectural Drawings and Manuscripts: 250,000 drawings and 200 lin. feet of manuscripts from many of Chicago’s major architecture firms such as Holabird & Roche/Holabird & Root, Harry Weese Associates, Alfred S. Alschuler, and Rapp & Rapp, as well as drawings of Graceland Cemetery.

Noteworthy collections:

Business-related organizations
- American Institute of Architects, Chicago Chapter records
- Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Chicago records
- Building Owners and Managers Association records
- Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry records
- Commercial Club of Chicago records
- Illinois Manufacturers’ Association records

Film industry
- Essanay Film Manufacturing Co. records
- John Rudolph Freuler papers

Fur trade
- American Fur Company records
- George William Lawe papers
- Menard family papers and business records

Labor unions
- Chicago Federation of Labor records
- Chicago Teachers’ Federation records
- Chicago Teachers’ Union records
- Chicago Typographical Union No. 16 records
- United Steelworkers of America, District 31 records and many others

Retailers
- Bes-Ben, Inc. records
- Carson Pirie Scott records
- Marshall Field & Company records (closed until processed)
- Montgomery Ward and Company records
- Wieboldt Stores and Mandel Brothers store records

Collections of note:
- Claude A. Barnett papers and Associated Negro Press records
- Hammond Organ Company records
53. University of Illinois at Chicago

Richard J. Daley Library
(M/C 234)
Special Collections & University Archives
Room 3-330
801 S. Morgan Street
Chicago, IL 60607

Phone: (312) 996-2742
E-mail: http://library.uic.edu/home/services/ask-a-librarian
Website: http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/specialcoll/manuscripts.shtml
Hours: M, Tu, Th, F 10 am–4:30 pm; W 10 am–7 pm; 2nd and 4th Sat 12:30–4:30 pm

Contact person:
Peggy Glowacki, Archival Operations & Reference Specialist: (312) 996-2742

Overview:
The Richard J. Daley Special Collections Department houses collections of rare books, manuscripts, and photographs. The rare book collection includes books of permanent, historic, and research interest focusing primarily on the history of Chicago. The manuscript holdings consist of records of individuals and organizations important to the history of Chicago. Images of these individuals, organizations, and Chicago form the core of the photographs and digital images collection.

Noteworthy collections:

  A Century of Progress International Exposition was held in Chicago during the summers of 1933 and 1934 to commemorate the incorporation of the city in 1833. Sponsors of the fair sought to broaden its appeal by adopting a theme of universal significance—the spectacular advances of science and technology during the period 1833–1933. Chicago, according to fair boosters, was “the only city of major importance whose entire life had been passed within this remarkable century, one in which the application of science to industry had brought profound changes in both the economic and cultural structure.” The exposition was to serve as the “dramatization of the progress of civilization during the hundred years of Chicago’s existence.”