

A Collaborative Reimagining of Collection Management Using ArchivesSpace

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The Department

The Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) is made up of several collection areas, including University Archives, Manuscripts, Rare Books, Community Collections, and the Women Veterans Historical Project (WVHP). SCUA transitioned its entire collection—specifically rare book acquisitions—to ArchivesSpace in February 2020.

Rare Books

SCUA has a total of ~50,000 rare books in several distinct collections, including Girls' Books in Series and Woman's Collection.



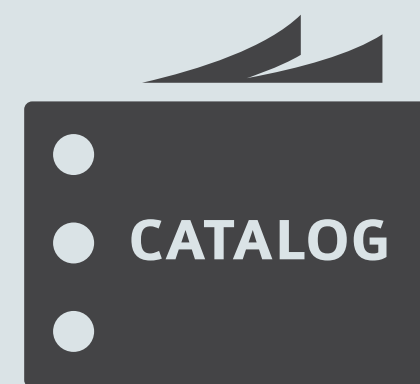
New Rare Book Management

SCUA shifted rare book accession management to ArchivesSpace, February 2020. Staff imported MARC records for individual accessions.



Existing Rare Book Management

The department historically used a paper-based card catalog system to track accessions of rare books.



Result: Improved Communication and Access

One result of the transition was greater communication with catalogers and easier searchability and browseability of records.



Transitioning to ArchivesSpace

The department has used ArchivesSpace since July 2018 for all collections except rare books. SCUA wanted to unify collection management under one platform.



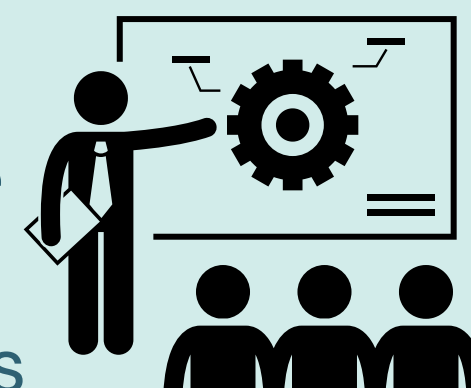
Result: Reduced Backlog

Another result was the faster processing of collection backlogs, moving materials seamlessly through Cataloging and back to SCUA.



Staff Buy-In

Ensuring staff was comfortable with transitioning to a software management platform for rare books was sometimes challenging but essential.



Result: Remote Processing

This new process was very adaptable to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing Cataloging and SCUA staff to continue processing materials from home.

