Materials Use Policies

Department of Special Collections

Reading Room Rules

- Patrons who fail to adhere to established rules and policies may be denied access to Special Collections materials.
- Food and beverages are not allowed in the reading room.
- Briefcases, bags, coats, purses, backpacks, any other bulky items must be placed in the space provided for patron belongings.
- Please silence all mobile devices. If you need to make or receive a call please leave the Reading Room.
- Collection materials are non-circulating and may not leave the Reading Room. Patrons may be limited in the amount of collection material received at one time.
- Patrons may take notes with paper and pencil, a laptop computer, or other electronic device. Pens, highlighters, markers or similar implements are not allowed around the collection materials. Post-it Notes, paperclips, rubber bands, etc. may not be used on the collection materials.
- Marks may not be added or erased from collection material. Tracing over collection material or otherwise writing on top of material is not permitted.
- Patrons should use one box of collection material at a time, and should have only one folder or item out at a time. All collection materials must remain on the table while being researched. The staff will inform patrons if the use of gloves or book cradles is required, and these will be provided.
- All items must be kept in the order in which they are found. Should a patron discover errors in arrangement or description, he/she should call this to the attention of the Special Collections staff person on duty. Patrons may not rearrange or in any way alter the order, contents or descriptions of collection materials.
- When patrons are finished with their research, leave collection materials on the table and inform the staff whether or not you intend to return.

Research Procedures

- Patrons must complete and sign a Patron Information Form and read and agree to abide by the rules and procedures set forth in the Materials Use Policies.
- Patrons request access to collection materials using the Paging Request Form. Patrons request photocopies or digital reproductions using the Reproduction Request Form.
- Patrons who wish to reproduce content in a publication, performance, or broadcast should complete a Notification of Intent to Quote From or Publish Materials Form.
- Special Collections can grant permission to publish or otherwise use material where Washington University is the copyright holder. Patrons must complete a Request to Quote From or Publish Materials Form and in some cases pay a use fee and/or complete a license agreement.
- Special Collections may charge duplication fees to create scans or other copies of materials. Payment for reproductions is due 30 days from date on invoice. Orders over $100 require prepayment and will be provided to patron within 30 days of payment.
- In some cases, use of cameras, portable scanners, mobile devices, and the Reading Room scanner is allowed. Please ask before scanning or photographing material.
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