



# endowment for Special Collections & Archives

**What do we do?**  
Archivists and special collections librarians build, protect and make discoverable cultural heritage material of all formats, past and present. At VCU Libraries, we:

- Preserve and make accessible rare and unique materials of enduring value.
- Lead the development of VCU's primary research collections.
- Save and share VCU's history with the university community and beyond.
- Educate students and scholars at all levels.
- Share our specialized knowledge and collections through exhibits, public programs, lectures, workshops and conferences.
- Form partnerships with individuals and organizations to sustain historical knowledge.



Your support is key to our ability to acquire, preserve and provide access to these collections of enduring value. Please make an inaugural gift to the Endowment for Special Collections and Archives at VCU Libraries today.

Make a gift online  
[support.vcu.edu/give/vculibrariesendowments](http://support.vcu.edu/give/vculibrariesendowments) and select Special Collections and Archives Endowment from the dropdown menu.

Mail a check payable to the VCU Foundation and note "VCU Libraries Special Collections and Archives Endowment" in the memo field.

To discuss your gift to the Special Collections and Archives Endowment  
Contact Kelly Gotschalk, VCU Libraries director of development and major gifts, for a conversation about the endowment, planned giving, bequests and other ways-to-give opportunities.

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James Branch Cabell Library  
Monroe Park Campus  
901 Park Ave., Box 842033  
Richmond, Va. 23284-2033  
Toll-free: (844) 352-7399  
(804) 828-1111



Tompkins-McCaw Library  
MCV Campus  
509 N. 12th St., Box 980582  
Richmond, Va. 23298-0582  
Toll-free: (844) 352-7399  
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## Our work has a purpose you can believe in

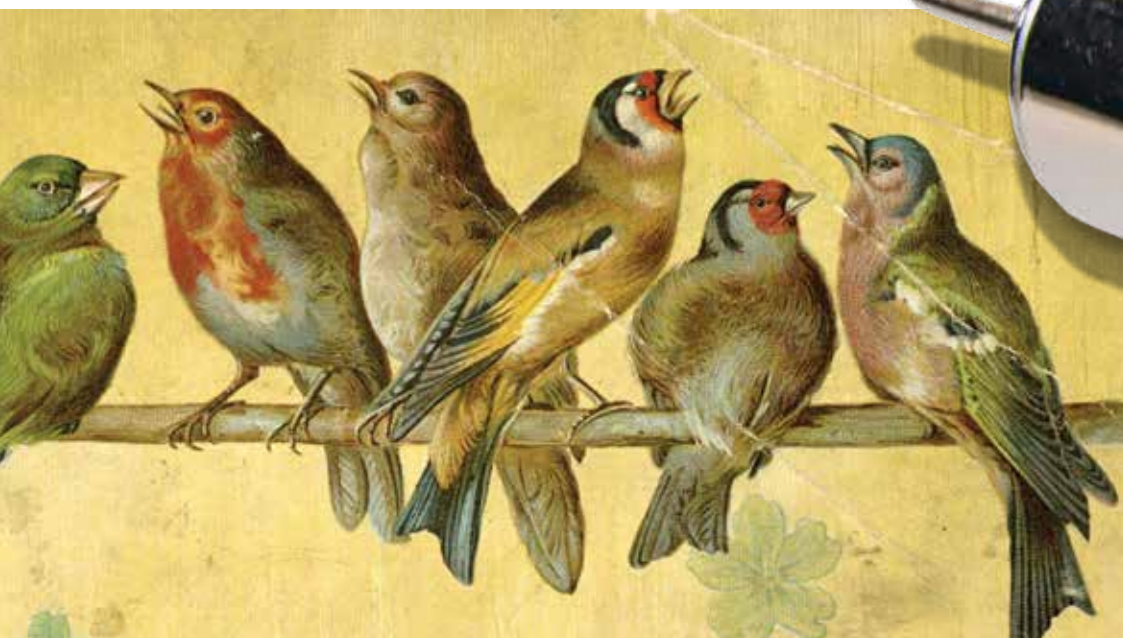
Materials held in Special Collections and Archives at VCU Libraries are rare and valuable resources for researchers. A gift to the Special Collections and Archives endowment is for all time. It helps us acquire materials for our collections, and then preserve those collections for many generations to come. Your donation makes a powerful statement about the importance of our work and your trust in us as stewards of the Commonwealth's diverse cultural heritage.



## We need your help

Support the lasting work of VCU Libraries' Special Collections and Archives at James Branch Cabell Library and Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences with your inaugural gift to the endowment today. This new endowment will provide:

- Funds to acquire rare and unique materials.
- Dedicated funds to support special projects and programming focused on our collections.
- Supplemental resources for contract work to improve access to collections.
- Additional resources to preserve and reformat materials.
- Funding for continued staff development.



## Our collections of distinction

Special Collections and Archives on the MCV Campus and the Monroe Park Campus house distinctive collections of rare publications and primary source materials. These include:

**Manuscripts** Multiple formats spanning the 19th to the 21st centuries offer subjects including Richmond history; African-American, women's and LGBTQ community histories; social movements and activism; architectural history and urban planning; and literary manuscripts and materials that document the health sciences and the health care professions in Virginia.

**Books and periodicals** Dating primarily from the late 19th century to today, subject areas include Richmond authors; Richmond history; fantasy and science fiction; graphic novels and comics reference; book arts and movable books; underground publications; and works concerning the history of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and other related health care fields.

**Book art** International in scope and recognized for its comprehensiveness, the collection includes all aspects of contemporary artists' publications (sculptural bookworks, fine press editions, multiples, zines and photobooks); rare serial publications; concrete and visual poetry; altered and movable books; and correspondence art.

**Comic arts** One of the largest collections of its kind in the country includes comic books, reference titles, journals, graphic novels, underground publications, original art, and papers and collections of comic artists and scholars.

**Medical artifacts** The health sciences library on the MCV Campus manages two centuries of medical, surgical and dental instruments, including uniforms of health practitioners, diagnostic and therapeutic devices, and medical furnishings.

**University archives** Materials with historic significance and continuing fiscal, legal and administrative value date from the 19th century and include records and other documentation from VCU's predecessor institutions, Richmond Professional Institute and the Medical College of Virginia.



## Hidden costs and preservation concerns

Public funding provides basic support for operations and services but goes only so far. We face innumerable challenges that public funding cannot support, including:

- Permanent collections incur ongoing costs associated with proper storage and environment. Archival boxes and folders to house one shelf of personal papers costs about **\$100**.
- Organic materials can decay from age or use and require preservation and conservation. **Costs vary**.
- Audiovisual materials need preservation in stable formats. Conversion of one 16mm film can cost **\$800** or more.
- Digital collections require special software, large volume storage and conversion to standardized preservation file formats. A 16 terabyte hard drive costs about **\$700**.
- Organizing and describing collections of all formats to professional standards is technically complex and labor intensive. The salary for a one-year project archivist is about **\$45,000**.

