

**CHALLENGE FOR EXCELLENCE
THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES RESPONSE
EKSTROM LIBRARY: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS 2005-2008**

MISSION

As an essential partner in the University of Louisville's mission to become a premier, nationally-recognized metropolitan university, the University Libraries department of Special Collections collects, organizes, preserves and makes available for research unique, primary source materials, particularly those documenting the cultural heritage of the region.

VISION

The Department of Special Collections exists to support the academic programs of the University of Louisville and to serve as an internationally recognized repository of primary source materials. To accomplish this, we seek to:

- participate as active and integral partners in meaningful learning, outstanding teaching and effective research by instructing users on the availability and use of information and by tailoring services and resources according to varying needs;
- identify, evaluate, select and preserve materials in a variety of formats to develop collections that meet the needs of users and preserve our cultural heritage;
- Apply technology, research and instructional innovations to enhance services and access to our traditional and electronic collections;
- Create a physical environment that encourages creativity and exploration – a place where people choose to work, interact with scholars of the past and present, rediscover old ideas and form new ones;
- Build an atmosphere of trust, support and encouragement among all members of the university community, supporting intellectual freedom and each individual's right to privacy.