



## **Proposal for Preservation, Facilities, Climate Control for LL11; Compact Shelving for LL 11 and LL 28 Special Collections/University Archives**

### **Background**

Climate control, with constant appropriate temperature and relative humidity (RH), is the single most important environmental factor in the preservation of all cultural artifacts. Books, manuscripts, and archives on paper require different relative humidity levels than photographs and film. Photographs in Ekstrom Library already enjoy the protection of a climate controlling Leibert unit, which preserves the artifacts at 60° F and 30% RH, but the rare book and university archives collections are subject to the wide, often damaging, variations of the campus-wide heating and cooling systems. These changes in temperature and humidity cause the fibers within paper and composition of other materials to expand and contract, which eventually causes them to break down. In addition, higher temperatures speed up the chemical reactions leading to paper becoming acidic, inks or pigments fading, or other materials degrading.

Since Ekstrom Library opened in 1981, its treasured collections housed in University Archives, Photographic Archives, and Rare Books, have grown tenfold. The resulting crowding and *ad hoc* storage poses hazards for precious materials, and limits the Libraries' ability to seek and accept important new collections.

### **Project**

Conversion of the current rare books vault area to a dedicated, climate controlled space for the rarest and most important books and archives. Properly seal and outfit the space with a Leibert or other appropriate system to stabilize and preserve the University's most valuable collections.

Install compact shelving in the Photographic Archives stacks area, and additional compact shelving in the ground floor Rare Books stacks area, to provide a more secure environment to expand capacity and allow inclusion of the most significant collections and artifacts from the University Archives holdings.

### **Benefits**

- Preserve the University's, and many of the community's, most important cultural artifacts
- Enhance the University's ability to attract and appropriately house significant gifts of rare archives, books, manuscripts, maps, and other artifacts
- Name one of the Library's significant spaces, the treasure vault, either for the donor or according to the donor's wishes

### **Cost**

The total investment required for this project is \$455,500. This includes:

- Equipment, ductwork, and preparation of the area for a climate system: \$85,000
- Preparation of foundation and installation of compact shelving in the Photographic Archives stacks, doubling the total capacity to 7200 linear feet: \$249,500
- Installation of additional compact shelving, including museum quality flat file storage, for Rare Books and University Archives: \$121,000

### **How to Get Involved**

Outright donors, individuals, groups, companies and others may work together to create collaborative support. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Cheryl Crane with the University of Louisville at 502-852-3523 or [cheryl.crane@louisville.edu](mailto:cheryl.crane@louisville.edu).