

Application for 2011 LAUC PRESENTATION GRANT

John Sherlock
Rare Books and Special Collections Librarian
Shields Library, Special Collection Department
100 North West Quad, University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616-5292.
jasherlock@ucdavis.edu (or) sherlock@lib.ucdavis.edu
work phone: (530) 754-5758 Fax (530) 754-5758

I have been accepted to present a paper at the **Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (ACRL) Conference, "In the Eye of the Hurricane: Challenges of Collecting in the Twenty-First Century", Baton Rouge, June 21-24, 2011.**

***Paper Title:* "Shifting Boundaries: Collecting Madmen and Crazy Ladies, or, Building Collections on Social Issues and Political Movements at UC Davis Special Collections".**

Paper Abstract:

The University of California at Davis Special Collections has been among the forefront of those University-based Special Collections Departments that have been involved in making significant shifts in the direction and focus of their collection development over the last few decades. While the initial goal among the newer, emerging UC campuses, as well as many other newer American campuses as well, had been to try to rapidly build, over a period of decades, traditional rare book collections that would be modeled after the large rare book collections that had been built by the leading universities of Europe and America over a period of centuries. Both - the desirability and feasibility, as well as the continuing relevance, of this goal has come to be questioned by many. Already by 1966, the same year as its first formal establishment as a separate department, the UC Davis Special Collections had began the process of breaking out of its earlier mode, and shifting the boundaries of its collection development to include new collecting areas intended to serve the needs of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries scholars and researchers.

The objective of this paper is to discuss the efforts of one university special collection department to create a 21st century version of a rare book collection development plan that would seek to document, preserve, and make accessible to current and future scholars the record of words and works of individuals and organizations both at the forefront and at the extremes of political and social discourse from the Nineteenth Century on to the "brave new world" of the Twenty-First Century. To allow scholars to access to the frequently ephemera, and sometime highly fugitive, ramblings of those radical thinkers who wished to free enslaved Africans (in a nation that once largely thought them well-enslaved); to grant a female the right to vote, and to be schooled, and aspire to something else beside being the property of her husband (in a nation that who thought they knew the place of a woman and that she should know it too). Equally, so as not to deprive the storytellers of the stories of the other side to we have sought also to gather together examples of relevant right-leaning political discourse as 21st century pamphlets

explaining to the under-informed the need to kill homosexuals in order to fulfill God's will, or books explaining how the Jews were behind the bombing of the World Trade Tower (when they weren't fabricating imaginary stories about a fake holocaust), All these "choice" bits of political propaganda, which other rationally-oriented librarians and libraries have excluded - in block - from their collections, we have collected -- in mass. The present paper will give the specific reasons WHY we choose do so, an explanation of exactly HOW we went about (when was the last time you got your library to buy publications directly from the Klu Klux Klan or the Montana Militia? -- we can tell you a few stories about our experiences), as well as - most important - what has been the RESULT of our effort, and has it been all worth it.

Description(s) of any funds that have been requested from other sources:

I haven't as of yet requested any funds for this conference. I do expect to probably apply for some campus (Library) travel funding. However that funding won't cover all of the expenses for this conference, let alone other conferences to be attended during the year, so a LAUC presentation grant would be very helpful.

Funds requested

Travel:

Airfare (San Francisco to Baton Rouge): **\$637**

Ground transportation: **\$100**

Lodging:

3 nights at \$95/night = **\$285**

Total: **\$1,022**

Funding amount requested: \$500.00

Indicate whether the applicant is a member of the bargaining unit represented by the UC-AFT or a non-represented Librarian.

I am a current UC-AFT represented member of the bargaining unit.