Photographic Archives

I. Purpose and Program Description

A. Library’s Collection Development Objectives

The Photographic Archives seeks to support research and teaching in the subjects embraced in the archival programs in the Department of Archives and Manuscripts by preserving photographic materials transferred from those programs. The Photographic Archives also seeks to support research and teaching concerning photography in Utah and the American West and the history of photography in general. Research and teaching are supported at all academic levels, undergraduate through post-graduate.

B. Curriculum Program Descriptions

All disciplines at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels which make use of the holdings of the department are potential users of the Photographic Archives. Since the primary collecting rationale of the Photographic Archives is format based, the only subject limitations are those contained within each collection development policy statement of the archival programs within the Department of Archives and manuscripts.

II. General Selection Guidelines

A. Treatment of Subject Depth

Unique original materials are collected whenever possible; copies are also collected.

B. Specific Delimitations

1. Type and format

No formats or types of historical photographs are excluded. Emphasis is given to acquiring complete archives of original negatives and original prints of the work of individual photographers.

Generally speaking, only historical photographs are collected. However, when a general iconographic image, such as a lithograph, is available and is characteristic of the work of a photographer, a certain period of photography or a geographic area of subject in which we collect, and the lithograph may also be a reproduction of a photo print no longer readily obtainable in original format, then it also will be collected.
2. Creation dates

3. Geographical areas

   No limitations. However, the bulk of our holdings will always be concerned with Utah and the American West.

4. Subject emphasis

   Photography in Utah and the American West, the history of photography, and all subjects collected in the Department of Archives and Manuscripts. The work of all Utah photographers, 1847 to the present, is especially sought.

C. Subject and Collection Overlap Within the Lee Library

   See “General Introduction” above. Also, some overlap may appear to occur with the picture collections collected by various subject librarians. However, our holdings do not circulate and generally speaking, we collect only original negatives and prints.