

Christine Marin

The Chicano Research Collection

The Chicano Research Collection has been an integral part of the University Libraries at Arizona State University since 1970.

The Collection began as a small circulating book collection; and it was called the Chicano Studies Collection in its early growth period. Mexican American, or Chicano, faculty and students who were active in the so-called Chicano Movement were very much involved in the development of a Chicano Studies Collection during its infancy.

It was the Chicano Movement, a civil rights movement in the Southwest, that brought attention to the educational, political, and socio-economic issues of importance to Mexican Americans in the Southwest. The Chicano Movement also gave expression and voice to those writers, scholars, researchers, and educators who wanted recognition of Mexican American history, culture, language, tradition, heritage, and ethnicity. The Chicano Studies Collection reflected that voice.

Within 10 years, the Chicano Studies Collection became a unique, distinct, and growing collection of books, newspapers, periodicals, microforms, and ephemera, with strengths in Chicano literature, 20th-century Chicano history, bilingual education, immigration, and Chicana-feminist expression. The University Library at ASU has since distinguished itself from its sister university libraries in Arizona in establishing and maintaining a unique collection development program with a goal and a mission to build an archival repository of Mexican American/Chicano materials.

In 1985, the focus of the collection shifted to primary and archival materials in all formats, and it became part of the newly-created Department of Archives and Manuscripts. Since 1985, the collection has been known as the Chicano Research Collection so that it would more accurately reflect its records: manuscripts, photographs, negatives, ephemera, correspondence, historical documents, video recordings, broadsides, personal papers, oral histories, microforms, and book collection.

As a research repository containing primary and secondary source materials covering Mexican Americans in the southwest, and in particular, Arizona, the Chicano Research Collection has sources relevant to studies of Mexican Americans from 1848 to the present.

Christine Marin is the curator/archivist at the Chicano Research Collection at Arizona State University in Tempe.

Manuscript Collections

The backbone of the Chicano Research Collection lies in its manuscript collections.

Ocampo Family Papers, 1863 to the present, describe the contributions of the Ocampo-Quesada families to the history and development of Wickenburg, Arizona. Combined with the Ocampo-Quesada Photograph Collection, the materials provide a detailed and rich account of the lives of a pioneering ranch family.

Rose Marie and Joe Eddie López Papers document the socio-political activism of a husband-and-wife team involved in the Chicano community in Phoenix throughout the turbulent Chicano movement era of the 1960s and early 1970s. The collection serves as an important record of the López' civic and political efforts in providing greater recognition for Chicano culture, language, and tradition as demonstrated by the couple's political efforts.

Ed Pastor Papers contain information on Arizona's first Mexican American Congressman. These papers contain a record of Pastor's efforts to provide a voice for the Mexican American community in Arizona.

Documenting his years as a member of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, the Pastor papers are examples of his efforts to represent his constituency.

Cecilia Teyechea Denogean de Esquer Papers reveal the work of a lawyer and educator, appointed to the Legal Services Committee in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter. Esquer has worked extensively in civil service throughout Arizona and the collection reflects her contributions to various statewide committees. Aside from her work in politics and the law, Esquer has worked extensively as an educator at Arizona State University and Phoenix College.

Photographic Collections

The Chicano Research Collection possesses one of the finest collections of Mexican American images in the Southwest and Arizona.

Graciela Gil Olivarez Collection, a photographic record of Mrs. Olivarez's accomplishments as a Phoenix radio announcer in the early 1950s; the first female graduate of Notre Dame law school in 1970; and as head of the Community Services Administration as appointed by President Jimmy Carter.

Los Mineros Collection details the working conditions and labor struggles of Mexican and Mexican American laborers in the copper mines of Arizona and New Mexico. Included in the collection are images which were used in the 1991 documentary, "Los Mineros," produced by Hector Galan for the American Experience series on PBS.

Ocampo Family Collection chronicles the life of the Ocampo-Quesada families of Wickenburg, Arizona. The collection provides a visual and compelling history of a pioneering ranch family in Arizona.

The Luhrs Reading Room provides indexes, guides, catalogs, computer databases, information retrieval services and personal reference assistance to our researchers. Consult with the Reference Archivist concerning the use of these materials.