

Senate House Library Special Collection Guides

Archives and Manuscripts



Senate House Library

University of London Research Library Services
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www.shl.lon.ac.uk

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University of London



COLLECTION INFORMATION

Archival and manuscript material in the care of Senate House Library, University of London can be divided into two categories:

the University of London Archive, comprising records created by the central administration of the University of London and selected for permanent preservation archival and manuscript collections, comprising separate collections which have come to the University of London as a deposit, gift or have been purchased, and which will be permanently preserved for research purposes

There are over 1,100 separate collections of archives and manuscripts, ranging from single manuscripts to substantial personal and institutional archives, and including autograph letters. The Library holds and continues to receive material which relates to the history of the University of London and of individuals connected to the University, material which complements the collections of printed books and from individuals eminent in the broader arts, humanities and social sciences.

Many of the individual manuscripts are part of a named special collection of printed material, for example, The Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature, the Sterling Library and the Bromhead Library. The Fuller Collection of 13th–20th century documents is particularly important for the teaching of palaeography and diplomatic. Both the Germanic Studies Library and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies hold significant archival collections, which may also be consulted in the Special Collections Reading Room, Senate House Library.

FINDING OUT ABOUT OUR HOLDINGS

Archives and Manuscript database

The archives and manuscript database contains catalogues for archival and manuscript collections held in Senate House Library. The database was launched in August 2005 so that researchers worldwide can consult these catalogues. Senate House Library's archives are described at collection-level, and often at file level. The online archive catalogue also includes descriptions of archives held by other University of London Research Library Services institutions. Archive researchers should give at least 24 hours notice prior to consulting archives. The best contact for this is shl.specialcollections@london.ac.uk. Researchers need to give references for specific files, if possible. We suggest six files as the maximum per order. Most archive collections are open for research: the archives catalogue gives details of any access restrictions. You may also find it helpful to consult the catalogue records for printed books available from the Senate House Library catalogue.

Printed finding aids

The finding aids to the archival and manuscript collections are located in the Palaeography Room. These include typescripts and manuscript listings for collections including the University of London Archive. Staff in the Palaeography Room will give assistance on how to use these finding aids.

Published catalogues to our holdings

- Rye, R *A Catalogue of the manuscripts and autograph letters in the University Library* (University of London Press, 1921)
- *Catalogue of the Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature* (Athlone Press, 1970–1995), especially Volume 3, 1982)
- *The Sterling Library: a catalogue of the printed books and literary manuscripts* (Privately printed, 1954)
- Percival, Janet, *A guide to archives and manuscripts in the University of London* (LRCC, 1984)

OTHER ELECTRONIC FINDING AIDS

You may find the following online finding aids helpful in your research.

- **AIM25 – Archives in London and the M25 area** – www.AIM25.ac.uk

AIM25 provides electronic access to collection level descriptions of the archival and manuscript collections of over 50 Higher Education and learned societies within the Greater London area, including those collections held at Senate House Library.

- **ARCHON** – www.archon.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/

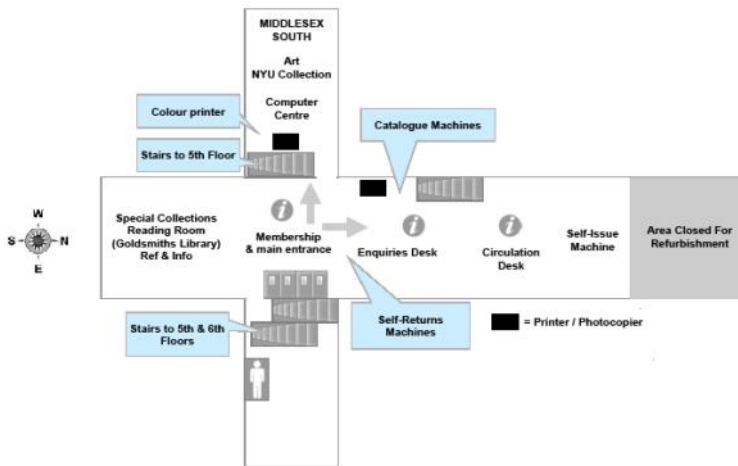
The Archon Directory includes details for archival and record repositories in the United Kingdom and for institutions elsewhere which contain substantial holdings recorded in the indexes to the National Register of Archives. Senate House Library makes an annual return on new accessions.

- **National Register of Archives** – www.nra.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/

The National Register of Archives contains information on the nature and location of manuscripts relating to British History.

Other electronic resources relating to archives and manuscripts can be found via the Gateways tab on the Senate House Library web pages at www.shl.lon.ac.uk/specialcollections/archives/index.shtml

4th Floor: Senate House, South Block



The Goldsmiths' Room, in which archives and manuscripts, including the University of London Archive, are consulted, is located in the 4th Floor, South Block

Contact details

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www.shl.lon.ac.uk/historic/homepage.shtml