

Science Fiction Special Collections, Georgia Tech Archives and Special Collections

Collection Development Policy

The Science Fiction Collections in Archives and Special Collections at the Georgia Tech Library support the mission of the Georgia Institute of Technology and more specifically, that of the Library:

The Georgia Tech Library defines excellence in the creation, preservation, curation, and connection of scholarship. Through this work we create new paths of learning, knowledge, information, and resources to develop leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

Collection description

The Georgia Tech Science Fiction Special Collections contains more than 13,500 science fiction and fantasy novels and anthologies and approximately 6,500 magazines and fanzines. It also houses manuscripts including authors' papers, convention materials, posters, and other records documenting the fandom of science fiction, fantasy, comics, and affiliated genres.

Collection vision

- To be the repository of record for the science fiction writing and fan communities in Atlanta
- To extend collections documenting science fiction writing and fandom to encompass the state of Georgia and the Southeastern United States
- To expand holdings of archival collections and other unique materials to serve as a nationally renowned hub for researchers in science fiction studies
- To increase awareness of and engagement with the collection across the Georgia Tech community and greater Atlanta area

The goals of collecting are:

- To support teaching and learning and encourage student success by incorporating collections into activities that increase learners' critical thinking and primary source literacy skills
- To support research by Georgia Tech faculty, staff, and students, as well as scholars and members of the public locally, nationally, and internationally
- To advance Archives and Special Collections' commitment to relevant resources and services through the acquisition of materials related to all communities

- To preserve rare materials that are found in very few or no other publicly accessible library collections
- To continue to enrich traditional areas of strength while also responding to new trends and opportunities in research and scholarship
- To support Archives and Special Collections' program of outreach and engagement through exhibitions, public programming, community outreach, digitization, and other activities
- To serve as responsible stewards of our collections and resources by following Georgia Tech's code of ethics, including transparency and accountability in collecting practices

The collecting methods and principles are:

- Materials are collected through in-kind donation and purchase. Purchases are made possible by an annual Library-issued collections budget, endowed funds, and gifts. Occasionally, rare or fragile materials are acquired through transfer from the Library's general collections
- Materials are collected with the intention of providing an enduring commitment that is resource intensive. Factors such as anticipated processing time, conservation needs, and storage costs are assessed when making acquisitions decisions.
- Materials collected include a variety of formats and may be physical or digital

Traditional areas of strength are:

- Science fiction, fantasy, and speculative fiction books and anthologies
 - Majority published in English in the 20th and 21st centuries
- Science fiction and fantasy magazines
 - Primary holdings from 1930-2014
- Science fiction fanzines
 - Geographic representation across the U.S. with strengths in the Southeastern U.S.
- Science fiction convention programs
 - Geographic representation across the U.S. with strengths in Atlanta

Archives and Special Collections continues to acquire materials in these areas with a focus on unique or rare examples and those that support teaching and learning.

The current collecting priorities are:

- Materials that support teaching and learning

- Collections that support teaching across a wide range of disciplines, specific materials requested by faculty or students, and materials identified as useful for the curriculum by archivists who teach
- Geographic and chronological coverage is broad
- Materials that support outreach and programming
 - Materials that align with exhibitions, public programming, and would be useful for engagement in open houses, tours, Library newsletters, and social media
 - Geographic and chronological coverage is broad
- Science fiction and fantasy authors' collections
 - Archival collections from science fiction and fantasy writers, including but not limited to correspondence, drafts of published and unpublished writing, records from publishers, research and pre-writing documents, awards, illustrations, and photographs
 - Focus is on authors from Atlanta, the state of Georgia, and the Southeastern United States, however authors from any geographic location may be considered
- Materials created by all communities whose voices and experiences enrich our collective understanding
 - Including but not limited to books, magazines, manuscripts, visual materials, convention materials, fan collections, ephemera
 - Focus is on materials that complement or fill gaps in existing print and manuscript collections
 - Geographic coverage is primarily the United States
- Materials created by science fiction and fantasy fan communities
 - Printed and manuscript collections in any format
 - Fanzines that fill in gaps in existing collections or represent international communities
 - Convention programs and ephemera
 - Focus is on popular fan communities that complement existing collections, such as Star Trek, Star Wars, and Marvel and D.C. comics. Literary-based fan community materials are also a priority.
 - Geographic and chronological coverage is broad
- Unpublished short story, novel, or poetry manuscripts and film scripts
 - Focus is on materials that complement existing collections
 - Geographic coverage is primarily the United States
- Science fiction visual materials
 - Photographs, cover art, posters, promotional materials

- Focus is on materials that complement print and manuscript collections
- Geographic coverage is primarily the United States
- First editions of early published science fiction works
 - First editions of well-known science fiction authors
 - Serialized versions of works later published as novels
 - Works considered canonical in the science fiction and fantasy genres
 - Focus is on works that exemplify the origins of science fiction and fantasy genres
 - Geographic coverage is broad
- Materials created by Georgia Tech faculty or students who teach or research in Science Fiction Studies
 - Research, teaching materials, publications, personal papers
 - Focus on faculty and students affiliated with the Science Fiction Studies program at Georgia Tech
- Materials created by science fiction publishers and critics
 - Records of publishing companies specializing in science fiction and fantasy. This includes both fiction and nonfiction, such as critical theory and research
 - Geographic coverage is primarily the United States, with priority for materials in the Southeast
- Materials from affiliated genres such as horror, superheroes, and comics
 - Focus on materials that support teaching and learning or complement existing collections
 - Geographic coverage is primarily the United States

Materials that are not typically collected include:

- Materials that are out of scope for Archives and Special Collections' collecting priorities
 - Dime novels
 - Pulp magazines with a topical focus on detective fiction, westerns, adventure, romance, sports, or war
 - Military fiction
 - Alternate history
 - Crime/thrillers
 - Manga
 - Graphic novels
- Materials that are not unique to existing holdings
- Materials that are not significantly rare
- Materials that are damaged or in poor condition