



Welcome to the

LOUISIANA RESEARCH COLLECTION

larc.tulane.edu

With roots extending back to 1889 and almost four linear miles of holdings, the Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC) is one of the older, larger, and more comprehensive library and archival research centers for New Orleans. LaRC offers a full range of library and archival resources, from books and manuscripts to maps and images. While LaRC supports almost every aspect of Louisiana research, special strengths include Carnival, the Civil War, environmental studies, Jewish studies, LGBTQ, Louisiana politics, medicine, religion, social welfare, Southern literature, urban studies, and women's studies.

Books

LaRC preserves distinguished book holdings that include one of the finest nineteenth-century Louisiana libraries extant. As a comprehensive research library, we seek to acquire a copy of every significant book, magazine, or journal published about our state or written by a prominent Louisiana author.

Archives

LaRC's archival program encompasses more than three linear miles of documents spanning the founding of Louisiana to the present. Included are the papers of Louisiana governors, members of Congress, New Orleans mayors, Civil War generals, southern writers, the records of women's organizations, synagogue and church records, original Carnival float and costume designs, orphanage records, and much, much more.

Images

LaRC preserves more than 100 linear feet of photographs and prints documenting our people and state from 1850 to 1990. The collection includes six linear feet of Louisiana postcards and the Joseph Merrick Jones Steamboat collection, which records riverboats that plied the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Among the many noted Louisiana photographers represented are Ahrens, Bellocq, Blum, Frank, Fritch, Jusa, Mars, Swinney, Teunisson, and Trice.

Ephemera

Ephemera are small printed items intended for a short, or ephemeral, lifespan, such as pamphlets, flyers, campaign cards, church bulletins, and menus. Our extensive ephemera collection documents almost every aspect of Louisiana, but special strengths include art show invitations going back to about 1880, political campaign literature going back to about 1850, and theatre programs going back to about 1830.

Maps

Researchers have told us that we have one of the finer Louisiana map collections they have used. Our map holdings extend from 1513 to the present and encompass a full range of cartographic materials, from hand-drawn maps of plantation boundaries to modern state highway maps. We preserve about 400 maps dating from before 1799 and 30 from before 1699.

Digital Initiatives

Online access is a LaRC priority that we pursue in a wide range of areas, including digitizing complete archival collections, creating web-searchable databases, participating in cooperative digital projects with other research institutions, offering online exhibits, and participating in social media to interact with and engage everyone interested in Louisiana. Because our digitization efforts multiply rapidly, please visit our website (larc.tulane.edu) to discover our latest digital initiatives.

LaRC supports most areas of Louisiana studies, including the **sciences, social sciences, and arts.**

Special strengths include:

- **ART.** LaRC specializes in preserving our state's artistic heritage, including preserving the records of art associations (such as the Southern States Arts League) and the papers of noted artists and cartoonists. We also preserve art gallery invitations and flyers from the 19th century to the present.
- **BUSINESS.** LaRC preserves all aspects of Louisiana business, including corporate reports, business records, and the papers of prominent business persons. Special strengths include agribusiness, marketing, banking, and waterways.
- **CARNIVAL.** LaRC's holdings represent more than two hundred Carnival organizations, including float designs for Proteus from 1882 onward, Comus from 1901 onward, Momus from 1902 onward, and invitations, call out cards, and dance cards. Our costume designs include the famous Comus "Missing Links" 1873 parade costume designs; and, we preserve extensive holdings for LGBTQ krewes.
- **FOOD.** Our food holdings include cookbooks and dining guides; publications of Louisiana food, dining, and trade groups; restaurant brochures; and papers of chefs and food writers. Our extensive menu collection is available online.
- **JEWISH STUDIES.** LaRC specializes in documenting the Jewish heritage of Louisiana. We are honored to be the official archives for most New Orleans synagogues as well as area Jewish social and social welfare organizations. We also preserve the papers of prominent Jewish leaders.
- **LGBTQ.** LaRC has a special mission to document Louisiana's LGBTQ community. Among its extensive archival holdings are the records of the LGBT Community Center of New Orleans and the papers of activists Skip Ward and Stewart Butler. LaRC also preserves Louisiana LGBTQ publications, brochures, flyers, and information on Gay Carnival krewes.
- **LITERATURE.** In addition to preserving a major Louisiana library, LaRC preserves the papers of many noted Louisiana authors including Roark Bradford, Catharine Brosman, Ben Lucien Burman, George Washington Cable, Charles L. "Pie" Dufour, Herman Deutsch, Lafcadio Hearn, Frances Parkinson Keyes, Ruth McEnergy Stuart, and John Kennedy Toole.
- **MEDICINE.** Tulane University began as a medical school and LaRC has a special mission to preserve our medical heritage. Among our holdings are the papers of physicians (including Rudolph Matas, Joseph Jones, and Benjamin Weinstein) and the records of hospitals and medical societies, including the Marine Hospital and the Orleans Parish Medical Society.
- **MILITARY HISTORY.** Our holdings represent most major American conflicts. Our strongest area is the Civil War, including the papers of Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson, Albert Sidney Johnston, the Gettysburg letters of Robert E. Lee, and papers of Union soldiers serving in Louisiana.
- **POLITICS:** Preserving Louisiana's unique political culture is a special mission of LaRC's. We preserve the papers of scores of elected officials (including Lindy Boggs, Hale Boggs, Vic

Schiro, "Chep" Morrison, Sam Jones), the records of political organizations (including the League of Women Voters, and the Jefferson Democratic Association), and campaign flyers, cards, and brochures from 1860 to the present.

- **SOCIAL WELFARE.** Tulane University has a long tradition of social welfare studies and a strong commitment to the community. LaRC's wide holdings include records of orphanages, settlement houses, and relief organizations, including Kingsley House, Protestant Children's Home, Waldo Burton Home, Traveler's Aid Society, Community Chest of New Orleans, and the Council of Social Agencies.
- **WOMEN'S STUDIES:** From the personal papers of notable women (including Lindy Boggs, Hilda Phelps Hammond, Ethel Hutson, Angela Gregory, and many others) to the records of women's organizations (including the Poydras Home, the Quarante Club, the YWCA, the Independent Women's Organization, the Christian Women's Exchange, the Louisiana Women's Committee, and the National Council of Jewish Women) to letters and diaries documenting women's daily life, LaRC is a leader in preserving the contributions of women to New Orleans.



Location:

Jones Hall Room 202
6801 Freret Street
Tulane University
New Orleans LA 70118



For more information, please visit LaRC on the web, larc.tulane.edu.



To receive the **LaRC E-Newsletter**, please send your email address to lmiller@tulane.edu.



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504-865-5685
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