

Manage and share your special collections and archives

JSTOR Forum is a user-friendly solution that allows you to manage, describe, and share your digital collections. It puts you in control of how your projects are seen and used, whether privately, across your department or institution, or publicly on the wider web.

JSTOR Forum makes it easy to showcase digitized special and archival collections online at library.artstor.org, in DPLA, and on Omeka sites. This type of content is often idiosyncratic and fragile, making it difficult to access except by qualified on-site researchers. Digitization reduces the need to handle the physical material and a collection's impact can be amplified by making it publicly available to researchers everywhere. Here is just a sampling of the many notable projects of this type made possible by JSTOR Forum.



Aerial View Delaware Memorial Bridge near Wilmington, Delaware 1930-1945.
Image courtesy of the University of Delaware Postcard Collection.



Tuskegee University President Luther H. Foster singing with students. ca. 1968.
Image courtesy of the Tuskegee University Chapel Audio Collection.

University of Delaware Library: Postcard Collection

Postcards are a common content type in special collections and archives, but each postcard collection is distinct and includes unique material. Commingling institutional postcard collections by making them available online helps build a corpus that can drive new research and use. The University of Delaware includes custom fields in the project that allows them to capture important descriptive information—for instance that a message from the sender is included—as well as the specifications of the digital surrogate, so researchers can assess the fidelity of the image. By making this collection available online, the University of Delaware enables researchers everywhere to compare it to others, identifying like or unique material and interacting with content they are unlikely to ever handle in person.

Tuskegee University Archives Audio Collection

The speeches captured in these recordings open up new avenues for researchers trying to understand the full story of the American Civil Rights Movement. One of these is provided by recordings of interactions between lesser-known leaders of the movement and their constituents, giving scholars the opportunity to fill in historical gaps by looking at how the movement functioned at the grassroots, outside the conventions required by appearances in the 'white' media.

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Navy V-12 students on parade on Liberty Street field, July 1943.
Image courtesy of the Muhlenberg College Navy V-12 and V-5 World War II Photograph Collection.

Muhlenberg College: Navy V-12 and V-5 World War II Photograph Collection

This collection captures the period from 1943 to 1946 when Muhlenberg College was one of 131 colleges and universities that hosted naval training units. Undergraduate degrees were accelerated as students were trained to meet the manpower needs of the global war at sea.

The collection shares digitized versions of the original black and white photos, meaning that these no longer have to be handled in order to be seen, and can be made discoverable alongside content from similar collections documenting the local effects of this urgent period in world history.



Punch drunk, Tim Gaedke.
Image courtesy of the Ontario College of Art and Design University Zine Collection.

The Ontario College of Art and Design University Zine Collection

Housed in the OCAD University Library's Learning Zone, this collection functions as a catalog of a wide range of self-published handmade zines that can be browsed on site. The collection's metadata draws on a customized local subject authority for describing the zines, and each record includes an image of the cover as well as a description of its contents. Making this catalog available online has expanded the reach of the physical collection, increasing its use by the OCAD U community, outside researchers, and the general public—opening up the world of zines for readers and creators everywhere.

To explore more special collections and archives and get inspiration for projects of your own, visit artstor.libguides.com/Public_Collections.