

Archives Exploration and Research Award

General Program Description

University Archives and Special Collections in the Ames Library were created to serve as a resource and laboratory that stimulates and nourishes research, teaching, and learning. The goal of the Archives Exploration and Research Award (AERA) is to increase faculty awareness of these collections as a means for encouraging integration of archival and special collections material into their coursework and research.

The Archives house aspects of University history and a number of special collections in a variety of formats (manuscript, media, book, and artifact), languages (French, German, Latin, Greek and other languages), and eras (from the twelfth century to the present). Some parts of these holdings are completely described and identified and some have yet to be thoroughly organized or examined. All are available to benefit the interests of on- and off-campus researchers.

Some content in these collections is available electronically today, but historic formats have the ability to inspire and engage students in a way that is wholly different from what they experience at a computer. The olfactory and tactile experience of interacting with these collections opens a window to another time. A different experience of learning occurs in the presence of a text from another era compared to when it is clicked on in the safety and comfort of one's home.

Illinois Wesleyan's mission calls on us to help students "discover the interconnectedness of knowledge," to offer "unique opportunities," and a "distinctive curricula." We believe that the level of access undergraduates have to archival and special collections materials held here contributes to the mission of this institution and we welcome faculty and student researchers' explorations of the University's holdings.

For further information about the Tate Archives and Special Collections:

http://www2.iwu.edu/library/contact/tate_archives.shtml

For a brief look at select highlights from the collection:

<http://blogs.iwu.edu/asc/>

Program Parameters and Criteria for Evaluation

The Archives Exploration and Research Award would make available a grant of \$300 to one faculty applicant per year to use the archives. The Faculty Development Committee does not envision the application procedure to be too laborious, and so invites tenured and tenure-track faculty members to submit the following information in up to one single-spaced page:

- Description of the archive materials the applicant is interested in investigating
- Courses, if applicable, in which archive materials might be used and how teaching and learning might be improved by them
- Scholarly research project, if applicable, and how archive materials will be used
- Proposed date and length of time for the applicant to explore archives and special collections

Application for the AERA does not preclude a faculty member from simultaneously applying for any of the existing grant opportunities.

Application Procedures

- Proposals will be submitted to the Faculty Development Committee and reviewed by the members of FDC and the University Archivist.
- Please submit **seven copies** to the Associate Dean's Office by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date for any of the three review periods for ASD and CD grants.
- Note: please inquire from the Chair of FDC or the Associate Dean if the AERA is still available before submitting your proposal.