

Bruce Peel Special Collections Library – Collection Policy

February 2014

This policy adheres to the guiding principles of the University of Alberta Libraries' Collection Development Policy, and should be read in conjunction with that general policy. This policy provides additional details specific to the Peel Library.

About the Peel Library

Bruce Braden Peel (1916–1998), chief librarian from 1955 to 1982, was a passionate lover of books, the author of numerous articles and books, and an award-winning authority on the history of the Prairie Provinces. His *Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces to 1953*, first published in 1956, has been revised, expanded, and reissued as *Peel's Bibliography of the Canadian Provinces to 1953* (2003), and on the internet at <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca>. The Peel Library contains more than 150,000 volumes and manuscripts, with particular strengths in Canadiana, Anglo-American literature, Amer-Indian history and culture, European history, print culture, private presses, and *livres d'artists*. The Peel Library also houses the Sir Sam Steele Collection, which was acquired in 2008 as the University of Alberta Libraries' Centennial acquisition. In conjunction with its ambitious exhibition and teaching program, the library publishes award-winning catalogues and web exhibits, which are curated by experts in their fields.

Collection Policy

The Peel Library acquires materials by purchase or donation to support research and teaching at the University of Alberta, which includes a wide variety of formats: printed books, manuscripts, photographs, prints and drawings, maps, and printed ephemera (e.g., posters, playbills, postcards, advertisements, etc.). Donations of gifts-in-kind are also an integral part of the Peel Library's collection development policy. To wit, the Special Collections Librarian works with donors to acquire books and collections that offer substantial research potential.

At the discretion of the Special Collections Librarian, materials are acquired for the Peel Library based on one or more of the following criteria: 1) books or ephemera printed before 1800 anywhere; 2) books or ephemera printed before 1867 in Canada; 3) books or ephemera printed before 1900 in the Prairie Provinces; and 4) books or printed ephemera with significant research potential. Preference is also given to materials that complement and build upon existing collection strengths.