

In 1988, with the construction of the new Beale Memorial Library in Bakersfield, the local history collection received its own room, named for major benefactor Jack Maguire (1913-1985).

Mission

The Kern County Library relies on the generosity of donors to build its Jack Maguire Local History Room (Local History Room) collection in addition to standard collection development practices. The mission of the Local History Room is to collect, organize, preserve, and provide access to a non-circulating collection of primary and secondary sources that document the history of the Kern County, Central Valley, and related California subjects.

Purpose

The purpose of the Local History Room is to preserve the historical items of county, regional, and state-level significance, then provide access of historical materials to our visitors.

The Library seeks to provide materials that increase knowledge about family histories, civic, social, religious, economic, and cultural life in Kern County. The Library holds these materials in trust for future generations, and therefore, for preservation reasons, materials can only be used in the Local History Room.

Responsibility Statement

The Director delegates selection responsibilities to professional staff with the authority to interpret and apply selection policy. The ultimate responsibility for selecting and weeding/deselecting library materials rests with the Director of Libraries.

Collection Philosophy

The Local History Room preserves a permanent record of important events, groups, and personalities of Kern County. The value of this collection lies in its depth, breadth, and scope as a comprehensive survey of Kern County with Bakersfield at its hub. The Local History Room seeks to collect and maintain published works, personal papers, photographs, documents, and historical records of municipal agencies, local businesses, churches, clubs, and organizations, and residents of Kern County.

Scope of the Collection

Materials housed in the Local History Room are primarily related to Kern County history, but also include some information on a wider geographic area including California and the Western states to provide a broader historical perspective. The Local History Room is also the repository of the Library's institutional archives.

It includes:

- Books (directories, phone books, local yearbooks, etc.)

- Kern County newspapers (both physical and on microfilm)
- Periodicals
- Pamphlets
- Maps
- Manuscripts (diaries, writings, etc.)
- Photographs
- Audiovisual materials

Selection Criteria

Items of historical importance to Kern County and the Library's ability to preserve and protect them are the most powerful factors in deciding to add materials to the collection. Emphasis is given to the acquisition of those materials which will contribute to knowledge of the social, civic, religious, economic, and cultural life, both past and present of Kern County.

Library staff use their training, knowledge, and expertise along with the following criteria to select materials for the Local History collection:

- Items that record the history, development, and the current state of affairs in the communities of Kern County
- Images and materials that contribute to a better understanding of Kern County places, buildings, and individuals
- Materials that record the cultural heritage of past and present ethnic and religious groups in the area
- Works written by or attributed to local authors, stories set in Kern County, and biographical works of the area's major authors
- Authority, authenticity, and reliability of nonfiction works about Kern County

Formats

The Library acquires materials in multiple formats including, but not limited to:

- Books
- Diaries
- Yearbooks
- Pamphlets
- Newsletters
- Bulletins
- Periodicals
- Reports
- Letters
- Speeches
- Manuscripts
- Documents
- Maps
- Atlases
- Clippings
- Postcards
- Photographs
- Slides
- Films
- Videotapes
- Sound Recordings
- Posters
- Stereo views
- Minutes
- Memorabilia
- Ephemera

Gifts and Donations

In accepting donations in accordance with the Library's general Gift and Donations policy, the Library shall be cognizant of the suitability of the materials as well as space limitations inherent in the room. The Local History Room is unable to accept gifts that are inappropriate for the collection.

Donated materials will become the property of the Kern County Library.

Weeding/Deselection and Withdrawal of Local History Room Materials:

This is a collection where weeding rarely occurs except for condition and the addition of superior replacement copies.

If not reassigned, the remaining weeded materials are transferred to the Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc. for inclusion in their book sales at the Beale Memorial Library per the Kern County Board of Supervisors agreement (Approved on 1/18/2000). All proceeds from the book sales are donated to the Library in support of its mission, programs (ex. Summer Reading efforts), and to enhance the Library's collection. The Friends reserve the right to dispose of unneeded materials in any manner they deem appropriate.