What is the purpose of the Archive of William Paterson University History?

The University Archive has been established to serve as the repository for selected non-current records of the University. Under the auspices of the David and Lorraine Cheng Library, the Archive collects, organizes, preserves and provides access in a central location to materials that document the University’s history, culture, traditions and service to the community. These materials document how the University fulfills its mission and reflect the accomplishments that have given William Paterson University its unique identity. The Archive actively encourages the use of its materials by faculty, students, alumni and others to stimulate and nourish creative teaching and learning. The Archive in the Cheng Library was established in October, 2004 to honor and celebrate the University’s 150-year tradition as a distinguished institution of higher education in New Jersey.

What materials are contained in the University's History Archive?

The University History Archive contains documents and artifacts created by past and current students and faculty and materials produced by the University (and its historical antecedents) that describe programs directly sponsored by the University or events that took place on campus. These include:

Pioneer Yearbooks: Issues of the student yearbook, 1931 to present.

Artifacts: Clothing and commemorative memorabilia related to campus activities, clubs and organizations.

Hobart Manor Files: Newspaper articles and papers pertaining to the family of Garrett A. Hobart (1844–1899) vice-president of the United States, serving under President McKinley. Collection also includes maps, floor plans and the historic structure report related to the restoration of Hobart Manor, a National Register Landmark building.

University Publications: Newspaper and magazine articles, pamphlets and other literature created by William Paterson University offices that describe academic programs or social activities on campus. Includes press clippings books for the past twenty years.

Beacon and Pioneer Times Campus Newspapers: Bound paper and CDs of the campus newspapers from its beginning in 1936 to present.

Distinguished Lecturer Series: Photographic albums that document the speakers from 1979 to present.

Oral Interviews: Taped interviews of University faculty and staff about their years of service at the University. This is an on-going public history project in which students and faculty create a collection of historical materials.

Where is the University Archive Located?

The Archive is located on the lower level of the David and Lorraine Cheng Library and shares space with the Cheng Library’s Special Collections. Together, these collections constitute a growing body of materials that can be used to document the growth and development of the University and to research various aspects of its academic programs:

Music Collections

Thad Jones Music Archive: Original scores and charts composed or arranged by Thad Jones, William Paterson University's first Director of Jazz Studies. The music was composed for the Thad-Jones-Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra and is part of the standard repertoire for contemporary jazz bands.

James Williams Music Archive: Compositions, arrangements and nearly 300 rehearsal and live performance tapes recorded by Williams, the third Director of the University’s Jazz Studies Program and leading jazz musicians. The tapes reflect William’s aesthetics and influence as one of the finest pianists in jazz over the past twenty years. These private recordings have not been previously released.

Jazz Studies: Literature and photographs documenting the development of the program, its students and faculty. These materials were donated by Dr. Martin Krivin.

Research Collections

William Paterson Collection: William Paterson’s legal and business documents; six volumes of New Jersey court docket books from 1781–1807; miscellaneous papers pertaining to the Paterson family, land surveys and medical books. Recent donations include Paterson’s The Laws of New Jersey, the first book of codified New Jersey State law, published in 1800.

First Editions: More than 400 limited and rare editions of British and American 19th and 20th century literature. Included are novels and short story collections of prominent authors.

Faulkner Family Papers: Correspondence, photographs, and documents relating to the family of the novelist William Faulkner. The family of Dr. Don Duclos, former member of the University’s English Department, donated these materials.

Chinese Literature: Collection of literary works in Chinese donated by an associate of the Library’s benefactor and Board of Trustees member, David Cheng.

City of Paterson: Municipal maps and photographs related to the history of Paterson, NJ and the University’s various locations in the city.
What kinds of materials are needed for the University History Archive?

The University is always receptive to receiving materials that are appropriate additions to the Archive. These materials include, but are not limited to:

Images: Photos of University events, personnel, buildings, grounds and campus life. Videos of important events and cultural performances, including drama and music.

Yearbooks: Issues of the Pioneer, especially those earlier than 1940.

Memorabilia: Clothing, banners, pennants, mugs, jewelry, etc. that display the University logo or design motif.

Artwork and Graphic Design: Drawings, paintings, design, literature and illustrations associated with University programs or events.

Student Life and Athletics: Artifacts and literature about the University’s history, clubs, organizations, team sports, Greek societies.

Publications: Print materials produced by the University or one of its Offices as well as newspaper and magazine articles about the University.

How can materials be donated or loaned to the Archive?

(1) Donations and loans should be discussed in advance with Bob Wolk, Cheng Library, (973) 720-2289 or wolkr@wpunj.edu.

(2) Materials sent by U.S. postal service should be packed in padded mailing bags. Please address to: Bob Wolk, Cheng Library, William Paterson University, 300 Pompton Rd, Wayne, NJ 07470.

(3) Materials may be delivered to Bob Wolk personally at the Cheng Library.

(4) Loaned materials will be returned securely and in a timely fashion.

How can materials in the Archive be accessed?

Most Archive collections are described in the Cheng Library’s online catalog that may be searched in the Cheng Library or at www.wpunj.edu/library. Materials are available only through appointment. Please contact: Bob Wolk (973) 720-2289 or e-mail: wolkr@wpunj.edu to make arrangements.