

UC MERCED

ESTABLISHING THE SIERRA NEVADA CENTRAL VALLEY ARCHIVES



Preserving the Past & Informing Our Future

UC Merced resides between the San Joaquin Valley and the Sierra Nevada foothills in a region with rich and diverse natural, cultural, and social histories.

As the agricultural heartland of California with a highly biodiverse landscape and a seedbed of vital social movements, the region's rich documentary evidence must be preserved. With access to the area's unique and historical records, researchers and scholars can investigate

the past to advance our understanding of today's complex challenges related to fire, water, land use, labor, and more.

Giving Opportunities

Funding the archives will support activities that ensure valuable primary sources are preserved, digitized, and made accessible to a range of users, including the public, students, and researchers.



In collaboration with UC Merced's Archives & Special Collections, historian and instructor Chris Caskey introduced students to archival materials students in the seminar course "The Central Valley Environment." Students examined physical historical reports from the UC Cooperative Extension Archive, Merced County. The archival materials gave students "a window into a certain moment in time" and encouraged them to consider the connections among culture, economics, social relations, and environmental changes.

Your generosity will allow us to:



Acquire collections that illuminate regional history: Empower our work to seek and secure valuable collections that should remain in this region.



Offer student fellowships: Mentorship from archivists ensures that undergraduate and graduate students develop their abilities to engage with archival materials and expand their professional knowledge for future work in museums, libraries, and archives.



Acquire optimal technology to advance digitization efforts: Specialized software and high-functioning equipment is required to meet preservation standards and support efficient operations.



Grow professional staff: Expanding staff expertise increases our capacity to engage in archival activities and education.



Enrich public conversations through exhibits and programming: Special events provide opportunities to showcase our region's diversity, inspire important dialogue, and reflect on our shared future.

Specific Gift Opportunities

- **Reading Room, Instruction & Programming Space**
<https://ucm.edu/library-expansion-fund>
- **University Library Catalyst Fund (unrestricted)**
<https://ucm.edu/library-catalyst-fund>
- **Sierra Nevada-Central Valley Archives Endowment**
University Librarian
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At risk from wildfire, the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Archives were evacuated to UC Merced. These valuable collections record the history of the nation's second-oldest national park, the protection of the magnificent giant sequoia, and its role in inspiring and shaping modern environmental conservation.



Exhibits based on archival materials share our region's history. The exhibit, "Building a New Future: Art and Activism in the Central Valley," features selected photographs from the George Ballis Photography Collection and depictions of the Farmworker Movement's labor and living conditions in the Central Valley in the 1960s and 70s.

To help support The Sierra Nevada-Central Valley Archives, visit engage.ucmerced.edu, call (209) 228-4401, or email giving@ucmerced.edu.