## **OU Libraries Special Collections** (5th Floor Bizzell)

The four rare book libraries on the 5th floor of Bizzell Memorial Library hold over 100,000 printed books and other materials from the 15th century to the present, including: incunabula (earliest printed books, from mid-1400s to1500), archival materials & current materials (periodicals & research resources).



Bass Business History Collection's purpose is stated broadly to include not only histories of business leaders and firms but also the economic, social, and political forces that influenced the role of business in society. While books in the English language make up the majority of the collection, other languages and business and economic developments on a global scale are included as well. The holdings assume a variety of media: archives, rare as well as out-of-print and current books, microforms, and video and audio tapes and cassettes. Currently the collection houses over 23,000 books



Bizzell Bible Collection William Bennett Bizzell, president of OU from 1925 to 1941, purchased his first old Bible for \$1 while a college student in Boston. That Geneva Bible is just one of the 665 Bibles included in the Bizzell Bible Collection. In addition to more common European languages such as Greek, Latin, German, French and Spanish, President Bizzell collected many Bibles in numerous other languages such as Cherokee, Hindi, Swahili, Mongolian and Turkish. Additional related works include commentaries, textual studies, illustrations, geographies and histories, works on the life of Christ, prayer books and hymnals.



History of Science Collections comprise nearly 100,000 volumes from every field and subject area of science, technology, and medicine, from the mid-1400s to the present. Includes major works by scientists, teaching texts, biographical works, popular expositions, encyclopedias and dictionaries, scientific journals and professional society proceedings. The Collections include rare books but also a substantial collection of recent scholarly works and support materials relating to the History of Science, Technology and Medicine



John and Mary Nichols Rare Books and Special Collections are comprised of materials in English, European, and American literatures. This includes first or early editions of Austen, Dickens, Doyle, Milton, Shakespeare as well as early modern classical texts, British history and travel accounts; drama & theatre history and American history). The collection holds about 13,000 volumes.

## **Overview of OU's Special Collections**

# When are the Collections open?

During the pandemic, the 5th floor is closed except for appointments to view materials in the Reading Room. Appointment times are Tues 5-7pm, Wed 10-12pm, Thurs 2-4pm. Be sure to review the "Access during Fall 2020 Semester" section on this <u>page</u>, for information on how to make an appointment. Please contact <u>palmerij@ou.edu</u> if you need help using the Collections.

## How do I request materials from the 5th Floor Collections?

Items held in the 5th floor Special Collections can be found in OU Libraries online catalog Discover Local. These materials do not circulate. Special collections typically contain rare, fragile and one-of-a-kind items This is why these collections are non-circulating, even though there are some contemporary materials included in the collections.

You can request to view items from the Special Collections by requesting materials via the SoonerXpress link in the item's catalog record. After you have made a request, you will receive an email about the details of scheduling an appointment. Alternatively, for recently published works, you can request copies of pages or chapters (within OU Libraries copyright rules).

See sections below for tips for searching Discover Local for books in the Collections.

# How do I learn more about the scope of the Collections and the types of materials held there?

#### **DIGITAL COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS**

Many items from the four collections have been digitized and are available for viewing in OU Libraries <u>Digital Collections respository</u>; some of these are from previous exhibits like Galileo's World.



Browse the <u>Galileo's World Exhibit site</u> for more information about the books and authors in this exhibit. Browse by <u>Exhibit Gallery</u> as well as <u>Subject</u>. You can also do keyword searching on the main page. Many, but not all of these book are available digitally.

Browse exhibit books lists on the <u>Exhibits Guide</u> for information about books on a variety of topics (both rare and recent books). Examples: <u>Apollo 11/Space History Black History Month Civil War Crossing Cultures</u> <u>Shakespeare 450</u> <u>Sherlock</u>

See the Exhibits Catalogs and Brochures for more information, including lists and brochures available digitally. Examples: Darwin Galileo Richard III Technology & Early Printed Book

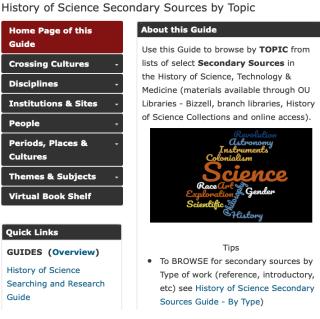
Browse the Portrait Collection

For more information see Digitized Items

#### **RESEARCH GUIDES**

Browse the History of Science Research Guides to learn about resources available for study and research (both secondary sources and primary sources). Some tips:

- Guides include items from all OU Libraries as well some materials from beyond OU (and not restricted to items in History of Science Collections)
- Article-level content and chapter-level content within these guides is limited (guides link mainly to books and online sites)
- A Quick Links box on each guide has links to key Databases, Catalogs, Online Sites & Works
- A Virtual Book Shelf includes select Ebooks available through OU Libraries



Secondary Sources by Topic Research Guide

This guide contains information about secondary sources useful for research and study in history of science. It is organized by topic within the following categories: Crossing Cultures, Disciplines, Institutions & Sites. People. Themes & Subjects.

So for example, if you are working on a project about astronomy in the Scientific Revolution, you might browse the following pages: Astronomy and Cosmology, and Early Modern Era & Sci Rev

History of Science Secondary Sources by Type





#### Secondary Sources by Type Research Guide

This guide contains information about secondary sources useful for research and study in history of science, but is organized by type of work or genre. The categories are: Methods & Historiography; Reference & Research Aids; Introductory Works; Advanced Works & Classics; and Online Resources Beyond OU.

So for example, if you are looking on a project about astronomy in the Scientific Revolution, you might look in the Reference pages for examples of period encyclopedias or topical encyclopedias Or, you could browse the discipline page in the Introductory Works section.

Online Resources pages are included to illustrate the range of institutional and professional sites beyond OU with resources to support research in history of science



#### History of Science Primary Sources Research Guide

This guide contains information about primary sources in the history of science, technology and medicine.

Included within this guide are examples of modern editions and facsimiles of primary sources, guides to primary sources (by author, topic or location), and microform editions of primary sources.

A section on the <u>History of Science Collections</u> provides an overview of original primary sources materials held there, as well as examples to illustrate holdings by time period, language, format and genre. Book lists used in for class visits and other group events are also included; these can be used to learn more about the Collections' holdings in particular topic areas.

The guide also provides information about Collections' holdings which have been <u>digitized</u> as well as information about select <u>local collections</u>.

# How do I search for materials held in the 5th Floor Special Collections?

Use **Discover Local** (OU Libraries online catalog) to search for materials in the special collections. Look here for basic search tips.

Also, there are pages on the Searching and Research Guide to help with searching for books, articles and journals (see below).

Search twitter @PalmeriJoAnn for images & info about the collections (See Search Social Media for tips)

History of Science Searching & Research Guide



### Searching and Research Guide

This guide includes information about how to search for books, articles, and journals in the history of science, primarily through the OU Libraries website.

The <u>Searching Tips</u> section includes pages on these topics:

- Find Scientists Writings
- Limit Discover Local Searches to History of Science Collections

The Research and Writing Tips pages includes boxes on these topics: Citations, Presentations & Digital Tools, Undergraduate Research Support, Writing Help.

# Where can I go for additional help with my research and project work?

See <u>Getting Started with Research in History of Science</u>, <u>Technology and Medicine page</u> for tips. At the bottom of this page you will find links to additional HELP pages from the OU Libraries website.

Contact Dr. JoAnn Palmeri <u>palmerij@ou.edu</u> if you need help with your research (available for Zooming)
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