

University of Maryland Archives
Collection Development Policy for Athletic Memorabilia

Subject Specialists responsible: Kendall Aughenbaugh, 301-314-0399, kaughenb@umd.edu and Anne Turkos, 301-405-9060, aturkos@umd.edu

I. Purpose

The University Archives serves as the collective memory of the University of Maryland, from the granting of the charter for the Maryland Agricultural College on March 6, 1856, to the present day.

Established by the University of Maryland Libraries in 1972, the Archives is the official repository for all of the university's permanent records and actively gathers administrative files, university publications, photographs, audiovisual materials, faculty papers, theses & dissertations, and memorabilia that document all aspects of campus life. The University Archives' mission includes the acquisition, arrangement, description, and preservation of all forms of documentation of the history and administration of the University of Maryland.

The University Archives collects three-dimensional objects that represent some aspect of the history of the University of Maryland. A significant portion of the memorabilia objects in the University Archives relates to university athletics. These items include ceremonial footballs, plaques and trophies, athletic uniforms and apparel, framed photographs and paintings, vintage sports equipment (baseball bats, lacrosse sticks, etc.), glassware, and pin-back buttons, among other materials. These pieces are largely unique and rarely overlap with other UMD Special Collections, other archival repositories, or consortia. Athletic memorabilia is used for a variety of purposes including exhibitions, digital and analog publications, and library instruction. The primary users of the collection are UMD Archives and Department of Intercollegiate Athletics staff; members of the print, broadcast, and digital media; and UMD students.

Coordination and Cooperative Information: The collection policy governing athletic memorabilia will be developed and implemented in coordination with appropriate staff from the UMD Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Diversity: The staff of the University Archives builds collections that mirror and support the diversity of the University of Maryland campus, including the diversity of the university's athletic enterprise.

II. Summary of Collection Scope at Current Collecting Levels

The University Archives greatly appreciates donations of materials that expand the breadth and scope of the collections relating to the university experience. However, due to the unusual sizes of memorabilia objects and the unique storage conditions required to house and preserve

many of these objects, it is not always possible for the Archives to accept every item of athletics memorabilia offered for donation or transfer. Our general criteria are as follows:

- Material will be evaluated for its historical and research value, as well as its adherence to the Archives' mission statement and collecting policy.
- Materials that duplicate items already in the collections will not be accepted.
- Materials in poor condition or those that carry use restrictions will not be accepted.

Specific criteria have been developed for athletic trophies and plaques. The Archives is interested in collecting and preserving the following items:

- NCAA championship and finalist trophies
- Conference championship trophies and bowl game trophies
- Player of the Year and Coach of the Year awards (National, Conference, All-American)
- Plaques or trophies that document a significant milestone for a university team or individual, as determined by University Archives staff
- Notable awards named for university athletes or alumni

We are no longer able to accept the following memorabilia:

- Participation/recognition awards
- In-season tournament trophies
- Internal team awards
- Individual player or coaches awards other than those specified above

III. Additional Collection Information

1. Duplication: The University Archives does not accept duplicate memorabilia items.

2. Gifts: Gift memorabilia items added to the University Archives are done so in conjunction with the *University of Maryland Libraries Gifts-in-Kind Policy*, particularly so that they “supplement existing collections in support of the University’s teaching and research programs as well as to provide the University Libraries with special materials in which there is a scholarly interest” (<http://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/gifts/for-donors>) or otherwise document the history of the University of Maryland. The Athletics Archivist, in consultation with the University Archivist, is ultimately responsible for deciding whether or not an athletic memorabilia item is added to the collection.

3. Deselection/Withdrawal: The relevance of materials in the University Archives can and will change over time. Periodic weeding of the collection will be done to identify items which no longer fit the criteria for inclusion in the collection, in consultation with staff from the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

4. Preservation: The Athletics Archivist and University Archives staff will work with the Preservation unit in the University of Maryland Libraries when individual memorabilia items are brought to their attention that need conservation/preservation.

IV. Implementation and Revision Schedule

This policy has been reviewed by the Collection Development Council (lib-cdc@umd.edu) and is considered effective on the date indicated below. It will be re-examined regularly by the University Archivist and the Athletics Archivist and will be revised as needed to reflect new collection needs and identify new areas of study, as well as those areas that may be excluded.

Subject specialist originally responsible: Amanda Hawk, 301-314-3287, ahawk@umd.edu
Date created: October 2014

Policy reviewed and expanded by: Anne Turkos, 301-405-9060, aturkos@umd.edu
Date reviewed/expanded: 6/9/2016

Policy reviewed by: Kendall Aughenbaugh, 301-314-0399, kaughenb@umd.edu and Anne Turkos, 301-405-9060, aturkos@umd.edu
Date reviewed: August 2018

CDC 9/25/18