

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

A visit to the University archives with archivist Dan Meyer, AM'75, PhD'94.

Most of what's here are faculty papers and official University records.

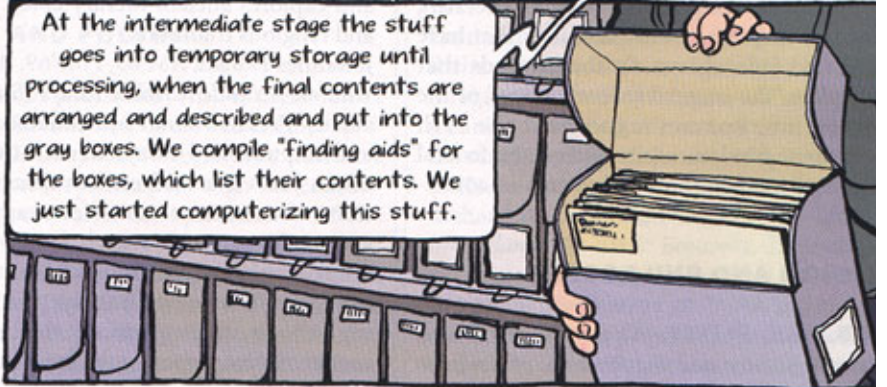


This is a community with a shared sense of values. We want to document how that community is formed and how it's sustained. Faculty papers are very useful in showing how that happens.

We just got the papers of John A. Simpson, from astrophysics. He designed instruments-like for the Pioneer spacecraft. These are his papers since 1980. He had already donated his papers up to 1980; we organized them with help from the Smithsonian.



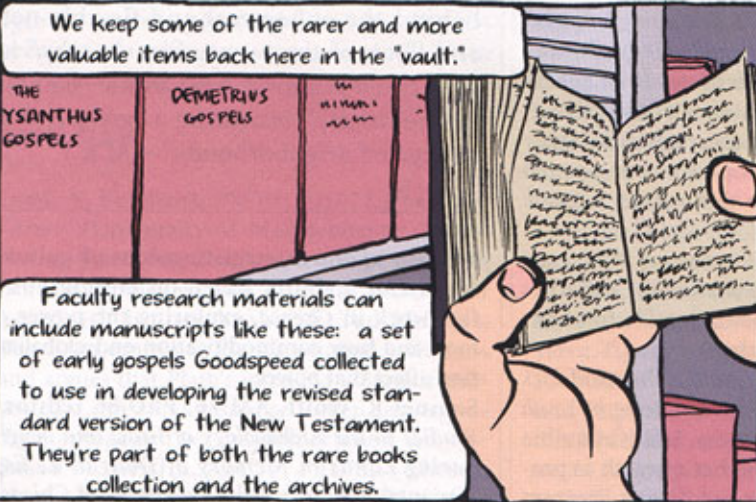
At the intermediate stage the stuff goes into temporary storage until processing, when the final contents are arranged and described and put into the gray boxes. We compile "finding aids" for the boxes, which list their contents. We just started computerizing this stuff.



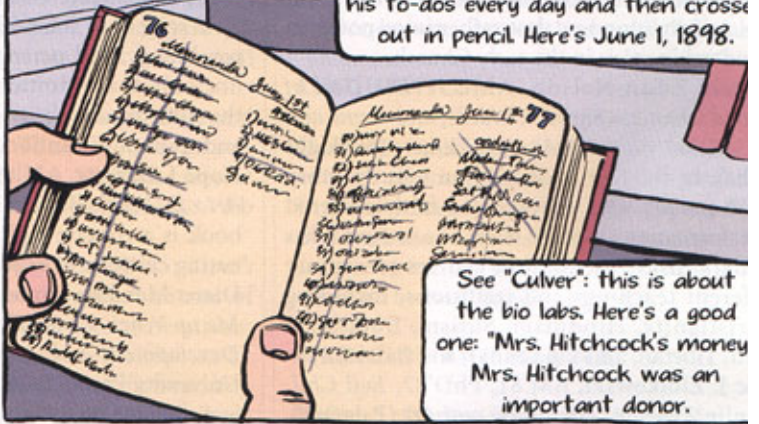
We keep some of the rarer and more valuable items back here in the "vault."

THE YSANTHUS GOSPELS DEMETRIUS GOSPELS

Faculty research materials can include manuscripts like these: a set of early gospels Goodspeed collected to use in developing the revised standard version of the New Testament. They're part of both the rare books collection and the archives.



These are Harper's "red books," where he recorded everything he did. They're basically Day-Timers. He wrote out his to-dos every day and then crossed out in pencil. Here's June 1, 1898.



See "Culver": this is about the bio labs. Here's a good one: "Mrs. Hitchcock's money." Mrs. Hitchcock was an important donor.

And look, here's the official certificate of incorporation of the University: September 10, 1890.



You know, there was an earlier university called the University of Chicago. It was founded by Senator Stephen A. Douglas, the one who debated Lincoln. It went bankrupt in 1886. Douglas's family donated his papers that deal with that U of C. And we have a piece of his cravat!

