

RBMS Collection Development Discussion Group Report
Saturday, January 8, 2011 10:30-12:00 pm
Westin Gaslamp, Meeting Room California A

A dozen colleagues met with Co-chairs Mark Greenberg and Lois Fischer Black on Saturday morning to share news of recent acquisitions and to discuss Special Collections collection development methodologies. Recent acquisitions of note included a Renaissance astronomy collection at the University of South Carolina, a collection of children's books at the University of South Florida, and both a Holocaust Collection and the papers of a prominent Los Angeles architect to the University of Southern California.

We discussed at length the opportunities and pitfalls of working with university faculty. Curators are often urged to accept materials that are out-of-scope or in unusual formats, such as scientific equipment or furniture.

Discussion next shifted at the benefits of collaborative collection development, As Mark Greenberg shared his experience at the University of South Florida working with writers, scholars, and collectors in Cuba, Latin America, and South America. In addition to the benefits of having knowledgeable remote scouts on site, there is a cost savings to the university, as staff need not travel extensively to build this collection.

In closing, we discussed potential topics for the annual conference. Possible discussion topics include: deaccessioning practices and working effectively with development officers.