FAQ
Doing Research in the 5th Floor Special Collections

1. Which Special Collections are on the 5th Floor of Bizzell?

There are four Special Collections on the 5th floor of Bizzell Memorial Library. These contain rare books & other unique cultural heritage materials (including printed books from the 15th century to the present, archival materials, recent scholarly texts, reference materials & periodicals).

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 composed 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.
2. When are the Collections open?

The 5th floor is typically open from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday during the regular semester. Be sure to check the hours box on OU Libraries web site for updates due to changing campus conditions.

3. How do I request and view materials from the Collections?

Walk-Ins to view materials from the Collections are welcome. However, we do encourage you to schedule an appointment in advance for timely retrieval of items.

Books from the Special Collections do not circulate. They are viewed in the Reading Room on the 5th floor. (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.) For recently published works, you can request copies of pages or chapters (within OU Libraries copyright rules), also through SoonerXpress.

Items held in the 5th floor Special Collections are included in Discover Local, OU Libraries’ online catalog. You can ask for materials upon your arrival, or request them in advance using the SoonerXpress link in the item’s catalog record. After you have made request via SoonerXpress, you will receive an email with details about visiting the 5th floor to view materials. Advanced notice is recommended for rare items.

Reader Registration is required; this can be done in-person or online.

4. How do I search for materials held in the Special Collections?

Use Discover Local to search for materials in the special collections. See "How to Search the Collections" page for basic search tips.

Use the Searching and Research Guide for tips on searching for books, articles and journals.
5. How do I learn more about the Collections and the types of materials held there?

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WEB SITES**

For an overview of all Special Collections within OU Libraries see the Special Collections main page. It includes links to the Western History Collections and the Chinese Literature Translation Archive.

See the History of Science Collections main page for information about the History of Science Collections, as well as general access information for all four Special Collections housed on the 5th floor of Bizzell Memorial Library.

**DIGITAL COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS**

Many items from the four collections have been digitized and are available for viewing in OU Libraries Digital Collections repository; some of these are from previous exhibits like Galileo’s World.

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

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

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 at OU

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Many items held in the Special Collections have not been digitized. You can learn about some of these by searching the twitter account of History of Science Librarian @PalmeriJoAnn. For tips on looking for images and other content, see the Search Social Media page.
RESEARCH GUIDES

Use the History of Science Research Guides to learn about resources available for study and research, in the Collections, as well as in other locations within OU Libraries.

- A Quick Links box on each guide has links to key Databases, Catalogs, Online Sites & Works
- Use the Virtual Book Shelf page to access Ebooks in History of Science (requires OU login)

Primary Sources
Use this guide for help searching for primary sources in the history of science, technology and medicine. This guide includes 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 History of Science Collections provides an overview of original primary sources materials held there, as well as examples to illustrate holdings by time period, language, format and genre.

Secondary Sources by Topic
Use this guide to search for secondary sources by TOPIC. The guide is organized by topic within these categories: Crossing Cultures, Disciplines, Institutions & Sites, People, Themes & Subjects. Here are example pages: Astronomy, Eugenics, Public Health, Race & Ethnicity, Women & Gender

Secondary Sources by Type
Use this guide to search for secondary sources by TYPE. The guide is organized by type within these categories: Methods & Historiography; Reference & Research Aids; Introductory Works; Advanced Works & Classics, Online Resources Beyond OU. Here are example pages: Biographical, Disciplines & Topics, Overviews & Research Companions, Surveys & Textbooks

5. Where can I go for additional help?

See Getting Started with Research in History of Science, Technology and Medicine page for research help and for links to examples of specific resources.

See the OU Libraries Tutorials page for additional help.

Send questions to lib-hos@ou.edu or contact Dr. JoAnn Palmeri palmerij@ou.edu for help with your research needs (also available for Zooming)