Welcome to the Wilson Special Collections Library

The Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library opened in 1929 and serves as the home for many of the University’s rare and unique research collections, as well as other collections and services. All special collections are available for consultation by members of the campus community, the larger scholarly research community, and the general public. Wilson Library also hosts a changing schedule of exhibits and programs that draw on the Library’s collections.

Additional Collections and Services

North Carolina Digital Heritage Center
(1st floor)
(919) 962-4836, digitalnc.org
The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center is a statewide digital library program based in Wilson Library. The Digital Heritage Center works with cultural heritage institutions across North Carolina to digitize and publish historic materials online. View the digital collections and learn more at DigitalNC.org.

Music Library
(1st floor)
(919) 966-1113, library.unc.edu/music
The Music Library is home to one of the largest music research collections in the country. Holdings include books and scores, audio and video recordings, microfilm, rare books, manuscripts, and numerous electronic resources including reference tools, bibliographic databases, and streaming audio collections. The library provides circulation, reference, and instructional services as well as listening/viewing facilities and individual and group study spaces.

Science Library Annex
(South entrance only, ground level)
(919) 962-2264, library.unc.edu/science
The Science Library Annex houses the majority of the collections of the Kenan Science Library, with material covering astronomy, biology, computer science, chemistry, environmental studies, geology, marine sciences, mathematics, operations research, physics, and statistics.

Center for Faculty Excellence
(1st floor)
(919) 966-1289, cfe.unc.edu
The Center for Faculty Excellence is UNC-Chapel Hill’s pan-university faculty development center. The Center enables faculty members in all disciplines to reach their goals in teaching, research, and leadership across their whole careers.

Special Collections

Research and Instructional Services
Phone: (919) 962-3765
Email: wilsonlibrary@unc.edu

North Carolina Collection
(2nd floor)
(919) 962-1172, library.unc.edu/wilson/ncc/
• North Carolina Collection Gallery
• Photographic Archives
The North Carolina Collection (NCC) is the largest and most comprehensive collection of traditional library materials related to a single state. With 350,000 books, pamphlets, government publications, maps, microforms, artifacts, and printed ephemera, plus 4 million photographs, its holdings document the history, literature, and culture of North Carolina. The NCC Gallery offers exhibits and historic period rooms that illuminate the state’s rich history. The NCC hosts the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center (digitalnc.org), a program offering digitization and digital publishing services to cultural heritage institutions across North Carolina.

Rare Book Collection
(2nd floor)
(919) 962-0056, library.unc.edu/wilson/rbc/
The Rare Book Collection (RBC) is Wilson Library's window on the world. It includes more than 200,000 printed volumes as well as substantial holdings of broadsides, original graphics, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, and literary and historical papers. The RBC has cultivated particular strengths in the history and development of the book, early imprints, English literature, French history and literature, and Spanish and Catalan drama. Other emphases include Latin American history and literature, Irish literature, 20th-century avant-garde and counterculture publications, and the Russian Diaspora.

Southern Folklife Collection
(4th floor)
(919) 962-7105, library.unc.edu/wilson/sfc/
The Southern Folklife Collection (SFC), one of the nation’s foremost archival resources for the study of American folk music and popular culture, has more than 250,000 sound recordings, 3,000 videos, and 8 million feet of motion-picture film, as well as photographs, song folios, posters, manuscripts, ephemeral items, and research files. The collection documents all forms of Southern musical and oral traditions.

Southern Historical Collection
(4th floor)
(919) 962-1345, library.unc.edu/wilson/shc/
The Southern Historical Collection (SHC), long at the center of inquiry into the history and culture of the American South, contains some 20 million primary source documents—from letters, diaries, scrapbooks, ledgers, maps, and literary manuscripts to photographs, oral histories, films, and email—that document all periods of Southern history since the late 18th century.

University Archives
(4th floor)
(919) 962-6402, library.unc.edu/wilson/uarms
UNC history lives in the University Archives. With records spanning more than two centuries, University Archives contains the official records of the University, along with collections from faculty, student organizations, and alumni. The department also provides records management services to the campus community, working with departments across UNC to ensure that records of historic value are preserved and made accessible for future generations.
**Highlights for Visitors**

Exhibits in Wilson Library are free and open to the public.

The North Carolina Collection Gallery offers exhibits and period rooms that illuminate the rich history of the state.

Exhibits in the Melba Remig Saltarelli Exhibit Room and 4th floor exhibit area highlight rare and unique research materials.