Temporary Closure Notice

Starting September 1, 2017, the Special Collections department will be temporarily closed for the renovation of the library. This closure will impact access to the collections and services provided by the department. Limited historical reference services will be available via email through ghsi-specialcollections@northwestern.edu. Please allow additional time for responses to requests.

If you have questions about this temporary closure and its impact, please email Katie Lattal, Special Collections Librarian, at katherine.lattal@northwestern.edu.

About

The Special Collections Department is the steward of Galter Health Sciences Library and Learning Center's rare, unique, and historical materials. The library's rare book collections consist of medical and dental works from European and American sources, spanning the 15th through the 20th centuries, with strengths in anatomy, pathology, obstetrics and gynecology, and urology, among others. The department also houses collections of medical and dental artifacts, manuscripts, institutional and personal archives, and more. The great majority of our titles are cataloged, and their records may be located in Galter Search.

Services

The Special Collections department provides historical reference support to the Northwestern University community as well as the general public. Some services, such as scanning, printing, and photography, may be fee-based. Please contact us for details.

For a list of select resources, see the History of Medicine GalterList compiled by librarians.

Access

Galter Health Sciences Library and Learning Center is open only to the faculty, staff and students of Northwestern University and its affiliated hospitals. See our policy here. The Special Collections reading room, however, is open to the general public by appointment only. Please contact us by phone or email to register as a user.
Instructors wishing to use our materials during class sessions may schedule the use of our reading room. The instructor must be present during these sessions and various security protocols respected. Reservations must be made in advance.

Contact us

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Special Collections  
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Collections

Archibald Church Historical Medical Collection

- Highlights of titles published before 1800:
  - Four incunabula by Thomas Aquinas and Albertus Magnus  
  - Sixteenth century authors include Ambrose Pare and Andreas Vesalius  
  - Seventeenth century authors include William Harvey, John Mayow and Clopton Havers  
  - Eighteenth century authors include Giovanni Battista Morgagni, Percival Pott, and Antonio Valsalva
- Post-1800 titles cover general medicine, pathology, surgery, military medicine, biography, and more  
- Early journals  
- Manuscripts include:  
  - Physicians such as J.B. Murphy, William Osler, and Benjamin Rush

Kretschmer Collection of Urology

Holdings include rare books, artifacts, papers, and student notebooks donated by Herman L. Kretschmer.

A. D. Black Historical Dental Collection

Holdings include rare books, engravings and prints, the G.V. Black collection, and more.

Institutional archives
Holdings include photographs, publications, papers, and administrative records from:

- The Feinberg School of Medicine and its antecedents
- The Dental School
- The School of Pharmacy
- The Woman’s Medical School

NB: These collections are in the midst of processing. Please contact us for holdings information.

**Personal Archives**

Holdings include:

- Materials of former deans, faculty, alumni/ae, and others, including N.S. Davis, Irving S. Cutter, Archibald Church, Arthur Stillians, Michael Mason, and more
- Approximately 4,000 medical and dental portraits, caricatures, and engravings
- Medical and dental ephemera

NB: These collections are in the midst of processing. Please contact us for holdings information.

**Artifacts**

Holdings include medical and dental instruments and equipment, as well as objects related to the Feinberg School of Medicine, its affiliates, the history of medicine in Chicago, and more.

NB: These collections are in the midst of processing. Please contact us for holdings information.

**Digital Collections**

- **G.V. Black Collection**
  - The G.V. Black digitized collection contains 43 manuscripts, 100 letters, and several photographs covering the period between 1867 and 1915. Some of the more important items in the collection are: correspondence between Dr. Black and Dr. Frederick S. McKay that focuses on mottled enamel of teeth and early hypotheses on water and fluoridation; correspondence, program announcements, and other memorabilia from the World Dental Congress held in conjunction with the World’s Columbian Exposition in 1893; a manuscript on zoo chemistry.
  - [Searchable finding aid](#)

- **Northwestern University Medical School: 1859-1979, a pioneer in educational reform**
  - A history of the Feinberg School of Medicine, written by Leslie B. Arey, PhD, a faculty member in the Department of Anatomy from 1919 to 1987.

- **Biographies** of notable individuals affiliated with the Feinberg School of Medicine
  - The Special Collections Department is part of an ongoing project with the Faculty Affairs Office to research and compose biographies of the individuals and families with endowed professorships named in their honor.

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**Video: Leslie B. Arey on the history of the NU Medical School Library**

Conversations with Leslie B. Arey: An Oral History of the N.U. Medical School
(60 Minutes; 1985)
Excerpted from: Conversations with Leslie B. Arey: An Oral History of the N.U. Medical School

Special Collections and Historical Highlights

2016

McGaw Pavilion Lobby Displays Showcase Digital Hub, Student Life, and Chicago Buildings

2015

A Celebration of Dr. Herman Louis Kretschmer’s Legacy and Accomplishments

From the Library’s Vault: “There is death in the pot”

Let Food be thy Medicine: New Display at Galter

Quarterly Bulletin of the Northwestern University Medical School Available Online

The School of Pharmacy of Northwestern University (1886-1917)

Vesalius’ Digitally Restored Renaissance-Era Prints Bring Dissection to Life

2014

Herman L. Kretschmer: Alumnus, Distinguished Physician, Medical Researcher, Author, and Philanthropist

Northwestern’s African American Medical and Dental Pioneers

A Quota of Four: The First Women Graduates of the Medical School

2013

Celebrating the ‘New Fabrica’ of Vesalius

Northwestern’s African American Interns at Provident Hospital

Remembering Graduates of the Northwestern University Woman’s Medical School

2011

Preserving the Medical School’s History for Future Generations

Please also view items deposited in DigitalHub:

Special Collections: photos from the vault

History of medicine: projects, presentations, and exhibits