

Boston Public Library
Special Collections Committee Revised Charge

Purpose: The purpose of the Special Collections Committee is to assist the Library in decision making regarding rare and special material preservation, acquisition, deaccession, and access. The Committee is intended to bring broader input and expertise to the process of building and maintaining the Boston Public Library's rich, remarkable and unique collections of research and cultural materials. The Committee is also encouraged to explore ways the collections can further the library system's commitment to outreach and education in Boston's diverse and vibrant neighborhood communities.

Composition: Individuals from the community at large, the President of the BPL and Trustees or designee will serve on the Special Collections Committee consistent with our goal of increasing governance transparency and the breadth of citizen input.

Areas of Focus:

1. **Conservation/Preservation:** Ensure that over time items in the BPL special collections are stored properly and conserved as appropriate.
2. **Collection Development:** Continue to augment the core strengths of the special collections through selective purchases, gifts, and deaccessioning as appropriate.
3. **Access:** Promote compelling and creative approaches to sharing the BPL collections across the Boston community, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond. Seek opportunities to leverage existing and emerging technologies to further this goal.
4. **Coordination:** Explore ways to support and leverage system-wide initiatives whenever appropriate, e.g. the cultivation of gifts, grants and other funding sources.

Process Requirements:

The Committee shall report at least once annually to the Board of Trustees on its activities.

The Committee is intended to guide Special Collections related activities only and not to affect the regular ongoing acquisition and purchase of online databases, periodicals and serial collections, and other materials required for the ongoing operations of the Library and its branch system.

2/15/2012
Revised 2/22/2012

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