Department of Physics records, 1966-1970

Overview of the Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creator</th>
<th>University of Oregon. Physics Dept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Department of Physics records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1966-1970 (inclusive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1966 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>0.5 linear feet, (1 container)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>UA 171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>The Department of Physics at the University of Oregon grew out of the Natural Philosophy curriculum that was offered at the university beginning the year it was founded, 1876. The collection contains grant reports and U.S. Atomic Energy Commission records.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UO Libraries--SCUA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1299 University of Oregon</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eugene OR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>97403-1299</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Telephone: 541-346-3068</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:spcarref@uoregon.edu">spcarref@uoregon.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Restrictions</td>
<td>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Permanent University Archive public records are available for research, and are subject to state, and in some cases federal freedom of information laws. In compliance with applicable state and federal laws, including, but not limited to, FERPA and HIPAA, specific records that are legally protected, sensitive, private, or confidential are exempt (not subject to disclosure) and closed to protect individual privacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Funding for production of this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Historical Note

Natural philosophy (a term comprising both Physics and Chemistry that was commonly used in the 19th century) was part of the curriculum at the University of Oregon from the year it was founded in 1876. In 1879, approximately $2,000 were spent to purchase equipment for a physics laboratory, an unusually large sum at the time. Initially, physics was taught by Mark Bailey, Professor of Mathematics, but in 1879 the University appointed George H. Collier to the Chair of Physics, Chemistry, and Metallurgy.

Collier hired E.H. McAllister and S.E. McClure, the latter of whom became Professor of Chemistry when the subjects of Physics and Chemistry were divided, while Collier remained Professor of Physics until 1895. Under his successor, Charles Fridel, the department started to expand. In 1904, William P. Boynton, Assistant Professor of Physics, published a book on kinetic theory, which then was a very advanced topic.
By 1920 the Department had three faculty members. After a tumultuous time during the Great Depression, when for a while the very existence of the University of Oregon was threatened, the department has continued to expand. After World War II, research at the forefront of the scientific development was increasingly implemented at the University of Oregon. Gradually, the department grew to its present size of about 30 faculty members who are engaged in research in most of the active subfields of Physics.

[Source: http://physics.uoregon.edu/history/]

Content Description

The collection contains records that document the functions and activities of this department. Collection is organized by accession and includes (but is not limited to) the following material:

As of 2012 there is only one accession:


Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Department of Physics records, UA 171, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

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If a researcher finds sensitive personal information in a collection, please bring it to the attention of the reading room staff.

Administrative Information

Future Additions
Continued transfers of records from the Department of Physics are expected indefinitely.

**Acquisition Information**

The records have been acquired through occasional transfers from the Department of Physics.

**Processing Note**

Collection processed by Jenn Newby, 2012.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

This collection received a basic level of processing including minimal organization and rehousing. Multiple accession(s) for the collection have not been merged or organized as a whole. Each accession is described separately.

Description information is drawn in part from information supplied with the collection and initial surveys of the contents.

**Related Materials**

Other collections relating to Department of Physics at Special Collections and University Archives include: University Archives alphabetical subject single files, UA Ref 6; University Archives photographs, UA Ref 3.

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**Names and Subjects**

**Subject Terms :**
Education, Higher--Oregon--Eugene
Physics--Study and teaching (Higher)--Oregon--Eugene
Universities and colleges--Oregon--Eugene

**Corporate Names :**
University of Oregon. Physics Dept.--Records and correspondence

**Form or Genre Terms :**
Administrative records
Reports

Jenn Newby and Kira B. Homo
2012

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