



**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
STRATEGIC PLAN
2020**

STILLWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS STRATEGIC PLAN

BACKGROUND OF THE STILLWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Stillwater Public Library was founded in 1922 by the Stillwater Woman's Club and was housed in a cottage. In 1937, voters approved the construction of a new library built with PWA funds. The building also housed the Library's first "Special Collection," which included Oklahoma-centric materials.

In 1990, Stillwater voters approved the construction of the present library, including the renovation of an old high school and the addition of a 27,500 square foot building. During this time, Special Collection materials were housed throughout the library in various closets and cabinets.

In 2011, the Woman's Club ended its organization, donated its historic material to the library, and provide a small donation for care of the material. The donation spurred the adult services staff to begin preservation efforts on Special Collections material.

In subsequent years, the library was awarded four Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board grants and two National Endowment for the Humanities grants for a professional preservation assessment; creation of a Special Collections room with mobile shelving; rehousing of a majority of the collection; and digitization of two core collections.

In addition, the library added a retired archivist and a retired digitization specialist to its volunteer roster. In the fall of 2019, the library transformed an underused technical services position into one focusing on Special Collections. The 2021 budget was the first to include a line-item for Special Collections from general funding.

The library focuses on Stillwater and Payne County material on a research-level. The Special Collection contains approximately 3000 items, half of which are books and hardbound serial publications, including Stillwater city directories and telephone books, Stillwater High School annuals, Oklahoma State University annuals and campus directories, and books on local history or by local authors.

The other half of the collection includes the library's growing archives containing photographs, regional maps, the archives of local organizations, the genealogical records of prominent families, and municipal government documents. Of special interest are a 140-volume set of 1898-1906 Payne County Agricultural Census records, the United Spanish War Veterans and Auxiliary collection, and an abundance of small women's history collections.

PLANNING BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

In 2020, the Stillwater Public Library received the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant for strategic planning. Nancy Lowe-Clark of ITIN Museum Services was contacted to facilitate the planning process. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic all planning sessions were conducted by on-line meetings and email correspondence. The Planning Team consisted of:

- Stacy DeLano, Library Director
- Andrea Kane, Technical Services Supervisor
- Emily States, Adult Services Supervisor
- Kitty Pittman, Special Collections Librarian

- Terry Berry, Special Collections Volunteer and former archivist for other organizations

Sessions included a SWAT assessment, vision and mission creation, goals and objectives discussions and compilation, strategic identification for each identified goal, and a priority ranking of the goals based on importance to the organization. Additionally, an on-line stakeholder survey was created and executed by Library staff.

As a result of the diligent efforts of the Planning Team, the following pages outline the goals, objectives and strategies for the Special Collections over the next 3 years. The Planning Team will meet at least twice yearly to review progress on the Plan, and determine course corrections as needed, to accomplish the Plan Goals. Director DeLano, will coordinate and facilitate these meetings.

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

MISSION

The mission of the library's Special Collections is to collect, preserve, and share local historical information, particularly that which represents Stillwater and Payne County organizations and government agencies.

VISION

Enhancing our community's future by preserving and sharing knowledge of its past.

STAKEHOLDERS SURVEY SUMMARY

THE PROCESS

Due to budgetary concerns, initially a survey was not included in the facilitator's proposal. Additionally, it was felt that the Library staff had a good grasp for the interests and needs of their patrons. However, as planning progressed, questions came to the forefront. At the same time, the Covid 19 pandemic eliminated travel, as planning meetings were done on-line, thus leaving the travel expense available. With staff capable of doing the 'leg work' to put the survey on-line, the facilitator assisted with determining survey parameters and the final analysis of the survey results which could be covered by the travel expense.

Conducting a survey after the initial planning and before the final draft allowed a more focused set of questions designed to help staff determine the parameters of implementing the plan. The planning committee, with the minor input from the facilitator, compiled survey questions relating to the Special Collections (referred to in the survey as the "local history collection"). Staff placed the survey on-line through Google, and 45 individuals responded by the deadline. However, staff decided to change platforms and continue the survey for additional time. Due to deadlines for the completion of the planning process, the results of the extension are not included herein.

The facilitator tallied the survey results, which are included in the "*Additional Information & Resources Section*" at the back of the plan and then compiled the summary of the survey results shown below.

OVERVIEW OF SURVEY RESULTS

The following section presents an overview of the responses to the survey questions.

AWARENESS, USE AND INTEREST IN THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION:

- 80 percent of respondents visited the Library, either weekly or monthly, while only half of the respondents have used the local history collection with the majority of them accessing "Images of Oklahoma" on-line.
- Half of respondents found what they needed in the local history collection
- The Library website and social media were the most common resources for spreading word about the availability of the local history collection; however, slightly less than 1/3 of the respondents did not know about the collection.
- Not knowing about the collection was the number one reason respondents had never used the collection.
- When respondents were seeking answers to a local history question, their two most used resources were, first, the Stillwater Public Library and second, the OSU Special collections, making up slightly less than 50%. The Sheerar was a somewhat distant third and the Stillwater News Press in the fourth position.

TYPES OF MATERIALS RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE OFFERED IN THE LIBRARY'S LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

- Concerning the types of materials respondents would like to see in the collection, the following responses are shown from most popular (Historic Photos) to least popular.
 1. Historical photos (only 1 'No' response)

2. Maps
 3. Family histories
 4. More items accessible online
 5. Personal letters and papers from citizens
 6. Government documents
 7. Papers from Organizations and Clubs
 8. Telephone directories
 9. More items available for check out
 10. Business documents
- When asked, *“What other types of material would you like to see in the library’s local history collection,”* the participants made the following suggestions, while some may not appear to respond directly to the questions, all suggestions have been listed in alphabetical order.
 - A directory of what is in the collection
 - Library events w/speakers about the history of surrounding towns
 - Crime stories
 - Extant data such as locally published books
 - Historical dates plaque with major events of Stillwater’s past
 - History of Stillwater
 - Info on what businesses use to be in current buildings
 - Information directing individuals to Native American tribal resources
 - Information regarding the suppression of speech in the 60s.
 - Land or property records
 - A display
 - Oral history
 - Info on where to find more
 - Payne County schools’ history, records & photos
 - Where you can walk on foot

TYPES OF PROGRAMS RELATED TO THE LIBRARY’S LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION THAT RESPONDERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE OFFERED

- Concerning the types of programs respondents would like to see in the collection, the following responses are shown from most popular (Using the local history) to least popular:
 1. Using the local history collection
 2. Payne County history
 3. Caring for & digitizing family photographs
 4. Stillwater's historic businesses
 5. Infamous incidents
 6. Famous citizens
 7. Stillwater’s Women's history
 8. Downtown walking tour
 9. Stillwater's founders and Stillwater’s Black history tied for 9th
 10. Digitizing family documents
 11. Stillwater schools’ history
 12. Stillwater's historic politics

- When asked, *“What other programs related to local history would you like to see offered,”* the participants made the following suggestions, while some may not appear to respond directly to the question, all suggestions have been listed in alphabetical order.
 - Art programs that are related to Stillwater's history
 - More Native awareness.
 - Use of local businesses and local citizens for actions regarding the city and its history
 - Featured guest speakers
 - Haunted stories
 - How to use the library to obtain historical information from other libraries
 - Living history reenactments to make history come alive
 - More recent history too - like the last 50 years
 - How to write your family history
 - How to do research
 - Native American history in the local area
 - Native American/tribal history; natural history
 - Organizations’ history
 - Local artists plus works
 - Local writers plus works
 - OSU history
 - Payne County schools
 - Preserve WPA images of things like post office mural and sidewalks imprinted with WPA 19__ in local area
 - Photos of local business buildings on continued basis
 - Something inclusive of other cultures and backgrounds
 - Stillwater history added to children’s summer program
 - Talks surrounding local history
 - When I think of Stilly, I think of a place with no history, so maybe something that just emphasizes what has happened here?

- In response to the question, *“How important to you are programs like those listed above,”* an overwhelming majority felt that programs were important at some level. Of the 45 participants who responded, only 3 felt that programs were “not important.” The remainder of responses ranked closely in the following order: somewhat important, important and very important.

BENEFITS OF THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION TO THE COMMUNITY

- In response to the question, *“How do you think the local history collection benefits the community,”* 28 replies were given. They are listed below in alphabetical order, as shown on the spread sheets provided to the facilitator.
 - Become more knowledgeable of the past
 - Develops pride of community
 - Stimulating more content that can be preserved in a safe place
 - "Edmund Burke (1729-1797) ""Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it.”
 - NEED to know American history and local history to gain pride and understanding from it rather than the desire to erase it or pretend it never happened
 - Fosters a sense of community & brings people together

- Helps explain why things are as they are, which can help a group break unhelpful habits & change unhelpful rules/customs
- History is interesting and fun!
- Important for there to be free and accessible resources to learn about our local history
- New people can enrich themselves in the history of the community
- If someone doesn't preserve the local history...who will, and then it will all be lost to future generations!
- Help the community by showing trends in types of business located here, immigrant patterns, etc.
- Information for use to researchers and writers
- It allows people to have a better understanding of where this community came from which helps in making decisions about it today
- It gives the community a common history around which to rally. It also allows the community to see and learn from past mistakes
- It gives us info from right here locally
- It helps us to educate ourselves about local history, which enables us to share that knowledge in new and creative ways (like a murder mystery game)
- It only benefits the community if it's offered in an accessible way. Digitally, and physically
- It provides an excellent picture of how Stillwater has evolved, grown, and potential growth areas.
- It's so important for the future residents of Stillwater to know the town history, especially since so many of us are transplants
- Learning from the past and preserving history
- Overthrow something old and meaningless
- Positively
- Those that need it or have interest have access
- We can learn about our past
- It's hard to appreciate the changes without a "before" to compare to the "after"

DONATION OF MATERIALS FOR PRESERVATION AND/OR DIGITIZING

- In response to the question, ***"If you have historic documents or photos related to Stillwater and Payne County, would you be interested in donating them to the library's local history collection,"*** nine out of 43 survey participants said yes, while another 6 responded 'maybe.'
- In response to the question, ***"If you are not interested in donating them to the library, would you be interested in loaning them to the library to digitize and post online,"*** of the 34 participants who responded, eight said 'Yes' and five said 'Maybe.'

Eight participants indicated an interest in being contracted by the Library about donating material by providing their phone number and/or email. 34 participants in the survey also wanted to be entered in a drawing for a gift card.

GOALS RANKED IN PRIORITY ORDER

GOAL 1

ESTABLISH CONSISTENT STAFFING AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS TASKS

GOAL 2 (ranked evenly with goal #1 in priority)

ESTABLISH THE LIBRARY'S ROLE IN THE LOCAL ARCHIVES COMMUNITY

GOAL 3

INCREASE THE PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

GOAL 4

MAKE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS MATERIAL ACCESSIBLE ONLINE

GOAL 5

INCREASE THE USE OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

GOALS WITH OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Goal 1

Establish consistent staffing and responsibility for Special Collections tasks

Objective 1

Ensure the continuation of a part-time Technical Services Clerk, with at least 15 hours a week dedicated to Special Collections and who has primary directorship of the collection

Strategies

- Create justification and submit to Human Resources following strategy planning process
- Determine the amount of OHS grants that can be used for wages
- Determine the amount of OHRAB grant that can be used for wages
- Recheck job description for completeness
- Create eye-catching recruitment blurbs

Objective 2

Recruit and retain skilled volunteers

Strategies

- Determine the long-term plans of the long-term volunteers
- Create volunteer position descriptions
- Meet with OSU to identify archive and digitization retirees
- Write up blurbs/take photos of current volunteers
- Create training plans and documents

Objective 3

Create student volunteer internships through OSU history department

Strategies

- Work with professor to establish criteria and expectations of intern for classwork
- Set up a student contract of expectations and calendar to be signed by staff, student, and professor
- Use guidelines for volunteers for student interns

Objective 4

Define and document the roles of Technical Services staff in Special Collections

Strategies

- Document the Special Collection responsibilities of each Technical Services staff member
- Document and train cataloger and Technical Services clerk on re-cataloging/cataloging special collections books
- Train Technical Services supervisor and cataloger on Past Perfect

- Provide Technical Services supervisor with enough information to train Special Collections part-time staff member
- Create procedure for Technical Services staff to determine which items to place in Oklahoma Collection to circulate

Objective 5

Define and document Adult Services staff's role in Special Collections

Strategies

- Document the Special Collection responsibilities of each Adult Services staff member
- Train Reference staff on material in the collection and location
- Train Reference staff on accessing PastPerfect to find material in collection
- Discuss and strategize for how Reference staff will manage an increase in requests if Special Collection usage increases
- Assign exercises or projects to help staff explore the collection
- Provide instruction on filling out gift documents to circulation and reference staff

Objective 6

Define and document the Director's role in Special Collections

Strategies

- Document the Special Collections responsibilities of the director, which include securing funding and partnerships
- Reassign any task-oriented work director was performing to other staff members
- Create a message to all staff indicating that the director is no longer a primary contact for Special Collections
- Work with City of Stillwater directors to determine items to be preserved and scanned

Objective 7

Ensure the continuation of essential duties during times of limited staffing

Strategies

- Create a list of base responsibilities that must be done regardless of staffing
- Assign back-up staff to base responsibilities
- Create procedure manual for all steps of Special Collections

Goal 2

Establish the Library's role in the local archives community

Objective 1

Demonstrate the necessity of Special Collections at SPL

Strategies

- Create messages defining why Special Collections matters and how it serves the community
- Investigate the library's potential role in cataloging, digitizing, and storing City of Stillwater documents

Objective 2

Coordinate efforts with local archival organizations

Strategies

- Meet regularly with Stillwater History Museum director to strengthen partnership and define roles
- Investigate feasibility of quarterly meetings with local archival organizations
- Meet with director of OSU Special Collections to determine procedures for transferring materials
- Determine feasibility of limiting library's collecting to government agencies and organizations and people related to the library and activities like reading and writing

Objective 3

Solicit item donations based on the library's determined role

Strategies

- Create more detailed gift document with more contact information
- Resolve issue of when a donation vs. gift form will be used when accepting dropped-off material that has not yet been designated for Special Collections
- Create a plan to solicit material donations
- Investigate methods for determining material available in the area
- Determine a yearly budget for purchasing items
- Seek out diverse organizations to include
- Create detailed plan for progressing on Stillwater's Black History Project and whether another organization should lead its efforts

Goal 3

Increase the physical accessibility of Special Collections

Objective 1

Ensure Special Collections meets professional standards

Strategies

- Engage a professional for an updated Preservation Assessment
- Update planning documents with assessment recommendations

Objective 2

Determine and document standards for processing Special Collection material

Strategies

- Determine and document which archival items will be accessioned and to which level
- Determine and document which archival collections will be inventoried and to which level
- Determine and document how archival collections will be structured if not received in a specific order
- Determine and document for which archival collections a finding aid will be created
- Determine whether Government Documents will be transitioned to an alternate system
- Determine and document how archival material will be labeled and stamped
- Determine and document the procedure for processing books

Objective 3

Use PastPerfect as the primary means for tracking archival material

Strategies

- Determine which fields will be used in all added collections
- Add all collections to PastPerfect
- Create a plan for adding items to the folder or document level based on the decisions made in Objective 2

Objective 4

Use Sirsi as the primary means for the public to discover Special Collections material

Strategies

- Check uncatalogued donated books in Special Collections for duplicates and determine placement location for items
- Create Sirsi records for all books and collections
- Check city publications against library catalog and make sure all are cataloged and discoverable
- Determine whether PastPerfect files can be linked to Sirsi collection records
- Perform Sirsi inventory of all items in Special Collections

Objective 5

Define the areas of the Special Collections room

Strategies

- Create plan for removal of all items not related to Special Collections and document any exceptions allowed
- Remove all non-local history files and surplus additional vertical file cabinets
- Designate specific area for material to be returned to Special Collections
- Assign area for new material and donations
- Assign areas for supplies
- Create a check-out procedure for all items leaving the room
- Label all shelves and shelving rows
- Work with long-term volunteers to determine layout of workspace
- Create a map showing location of materials
- Create a staff orientation showing all areas of the room

Goal 4

Make Special Collections material accessible online

Objective 1

Determine how collections will be prioritized for digitization

Strategies

- Work with city government and other collecting organizations to determine which items are already being digitized
- Create a survey of staff and local organizations to determine which items the public would like to have online
- Find and retain requirements from various hosting sites to help determine eligibility
- Create a continuing list of deteriorating collections most in need of digital preservation
- Create a matrix for digitization decision-making which includes findings from the components above as well as requirements such as a completed inventory, cataloging, and file structuring and naming

Objective 2

Determine and procure equipment and software needed for long-term digitization needs

Strategies

- Identify and price software to edit scans
- Identify OCR software to create searchable texts
- Create list of required scanner characteristics and research possible scanner options fitting those needs
- Create list of other organizations with scanning equipment that can be borrowed or used to scan special items
- Determine equipment needs for backup of digital content

Objective 3

Determine library's future use of content management systems for hosting digitized material

Strategies

- Evaluate different systems for access including PastPerfect, Omeka, Gateway to Oklahoma History, DPLA, Images of Oklahoma
- Discuss with city staff how the Stillwater Police Department is storing and accessing its digital content
- Meet with city IT staff to determine feasibility and equipment needs and costs for hosting library's collection

Objective 4

Determine and document best practices for digitization

Strategies

- Create procedure for scanning material
- Create procedure for editing digital material
- Create procedure for creating metadata using current hosting services

Goal 5

Increase the use of Special Collections

Objective 1

Build online space for promoting Special Collection digital collections

Strategies

- Investigate Past Perfect add-ons to allow the public to view material when searching collections
- Locate tutorial on ODL website creation to highlight specific collections
- Determine which staff members will maintain website
- Determine what information will be included on the library's main website

Objective 2

Publicize Special Collections through normal publicity channels

Strategies

- Create a communications plan for special collections
- Work with area organizations to have library collections featured
- Include articles on Special Collection materials quarterly in the newspaper
- Develop a social media plan for highlighting Special Collection material, including the identification of people in photos

Objective 3

Schedule programs and displays that highlight Special Collection material

Strategies

- Coordinate with local organizations on their programming schedules to avoid duplication
- Determine whether Special Collection items should be featured for already planned programs
- Update the walking tour and work with local organizations on creating more history tours that highlight Special Collections
- Work with ODL to include more digitization and preservation programs in conjunction with Stillwater Museum of History
- Create at least two displays each year to be exhibited in library
- Determine display schedule of local organizations and determine whether to loan library material

Objective 4

Increase the security of Special Collections

Strategies

- Document and train staff on current procedure for patrons using Special Collection material
- Determine and document procedures for marking material

- Investigate holding monitored open hours in Special Collections room
- Create system for signing material out of room
- Determine orientation of video surveillance and whether additional view should be added to Special Collections
- Determine a regular inventory schedule

STAKEHOLDERS SURVEY DATA

SURVEY PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY QUESTION

On an average how often do you visit Stillwater Public Library (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic)?

(45 responders)

Monthly 18 Weekly 18 Less than once a month 7 Never 2

Have you used the library's local history collection either in person or online? Check all that apply

(43 responders)

Yes – 22 (includes: librarian got it for me 3; borrowed a book 8; Online images of OK 13)

No – 21

For what purpose did you use the local history collection/What were you trying to learn? answers

summarized/grouped (22 responders)

Curiosity 2 Genealogy 2 Area history, Stillwater, Payne County 8
 Basic research, homeschooling 5 Research on buildings 2
 NA/forgot 3

Were you able to find what you needed using the collection? (responders - 23)

Yes 10 No 2 Partially 11

How did you find out about the library's local history collection? Check all that apply. (43 responders)

Library website 12 Library staff 8 Library catalog 3
 social media 9 did not know about it 15
 newsletter/newspaper 2 other organization 2

Which organizations do you typically contact when you have a local history question? Check all that apply. (31 responders)

NewsPress 6 SPL 19 Sheerar 8 OSU Special Collection 12

If you have never used the local history collection, please tell us why. (30 responders)

didn't know about it 19 not interested/no need 2
 can't check out most things 3 don't know what it has 5
 librarian did not know how to find material 1

What other types of material would you like to see in the library's local history collection?

Historic photos (44 responders)	YES 39	NO 1	MAYBE 2	NO OPINION 2
Maps (45 responders)	YES 34	NO 1	MAYBE 6	NO OPINION 4
Business documents (42 responders)	YES 10	NO 8	MAYBE 21	NO OPINION 3
Papers from Orgs/Clubs (44 responders)	YES 20	NO 4	MAYBE 15	NO OPINION 5
Family histories (44 responders)	YES 32	NO 3	MAYBE 9	NO OPINION 0
Telephone directories (45 responders)	YES 14	NO 9	MAYBE 17	NO OPINION 5
Personal letters/paper from citizens (45 responders)	YES 28	NO 3	MAYBE 11	NO OPINION 3
Government documents (42 responders)	YES 22	NO 2	MAYBE 14	NO OPINION 4

More items to check out (43 responders)	YES 13	NO 5	MAYBE 17	NO OPINION 8
More accessible online (44 responders)	YES 31	NO 1	MAYBE 10	NO OPINION 2

What other types of material would you like to see in the library's local history collection? (16 responders)

- Maybe s display once things are “normal”
- actually I would like to library events w/ speakers about the history of surrounding towns
- land or property records
- Payne County schools history, records & photos
- Historical dates plaque with major events of Stillwater’s past
- oral history / items to check out (I help with our reunions) / info on where to find more
- I cant think of any other items
- extant data such as locally published books
- A directory of what is in the collection such as a poster for wall promotion
- Information directing individuals to Native American tribal resources, if that is applicable. I did not realize that, as a citizen of the Cherokee nation, I could use Iowa tribal resources in Perkins until two years ago. I'm sure I'm not alone.
- Where you can walk on foot
- Information regarding the suppression of speech in the 60s.
- Info on what businesses use to be in current buildings
- Crime stories
- Hmmm I can’t think of anything else.
- History of Stillwater

What programs related to the library’s local history collection would you like to see offered?

Downtown walking tour (41 responders)	YES 33	NO 8
Stillwater's founders (42 responders)	YES 33	NO 9
Digitizing family documents (42 responders)	YES 32	NO 10
Caring for/digitizing family photos (43 responders)	YES 36	NO 7
Using the local history collection (42 responders)	YES 39	NO 3
Stillwater’s Black history (42 responders)	YES 33	NO 9
Stillwater’s Women's history (39 responders)	YES 33	NO 6
Stillwater's historic businesses (41 responders)	YES 35	NO 6
Stillwater schools history (41 responders)	YES 30	NO 11
Stillwater's historic politics (40 responders)	YES 24	NO 16
Famous citizens (41 responders)	YES 34	NO 7
Infamous incidents (42 responders)	YES 35	NO 7
Payne County history (43 responders)	YES 38	NO 5

What other programs related to local history would you like to see offered? (21 responders- all are listed below – responses as written on spread sheet)

- Haunted stories if such exists
- "Preserve WPA images of things like post office mural and sidewalks imprinted with WPA 19__ in local area

- Photos of local business buildings on continued basis as some buildings have had multiple tenants/businesses and continue to change often"
- living history reenactments to make history come alive
- How to use the library to obtain historical information from other libraries.
- When I think of Stilly I think of a place with no history, so maybe something that just emphasizes what has happened here?
- Payne County schools
- Stillwater history added to children's summer program
- more recent history too - like the last 50 years / how to write your family history / how to do research
- Something inclusive of other cultures and backgrounds.
- Native American/tribal history; natural history
- Talks surrounding local history
- Yes
- featured guest speakers; viz. the prohibition speaker from Okla Historical Institute
- Organizations history, local artists plus works, local writers plus works,
- Native American history in the local area. That should be a priority!
- ewerdfgafdg
- no
- Art programs that are related to Stillwater's history - instead of random things that "mean" something to the city. This could be by commissioning locals artists instead of buying or outsourcing. More Native awareness. Use of local businesses and local citizens for actions regarding the city and it's history.
- Osu history
- I can't think of anything else.

How important to you are programs like those listed above? (45 responders)

Important 14

Somewhat Important 16

Very Important 12

Not Important 3

How do you think the local history collection benefits the community? (30 responders- all are listed below – responses as written on spread sheet)

- It gives the community a common history around which to rally. It also allows the community to see and learn from past mistakes.
- I think that it's important for there to be free and accessible resources to learn about our local history.
- Those that need it or have interest have access
- Yes it's hard to appreciate the changes without a "before" to compare to the "after"
- fosters a sense of community & brings people together
- develops pride of community
- I'm interested in genealogy research, but local history can also help the community by showing trends in types of business located here, immigrant patterns, etc.
- Yeah, it may not be something I'm super interested in but I know people who are

- Learning from the past and preserving history
- Helps explain why things are as they are, which can help a group break unhelpful habits & change unhelpful rules/customs
- If someone doesn't preserve the local history...who will, and then it will all be lost to future generations!
- It gives us info from right here locally
- I'm a transfer from Texas that lives here permanently now. As a former librarian back in Texas I have always found it inviting for new patrons to enrich themselves in the history of the community with time seeing is at as home for them.
- History is interesting and fun!
- didn't even know about it until wandering around the library one day - there are smaller collections at the community center - but last time I went, there was no one in charge so they were locked away. I help with our class reunions - it would be wonderful to have more resources - heck, I'd be glad to help!
- Not sure. Not all of us have long ties to Stillwater or we are from immigrant families. Would be interesting to see more collections related to Native Americans and Black history too. These stories are too often left out.
- Positively.
- It allows people to have a better understanding of where this community came from which helps in making decisions about it today
- It's so important for the future residents of Stillwater to know the town history, especially since so many of us are transplants
- information for use to researchers and writers
- Easy by stimulating more content that can be preserved in a safe place. Should have a download site where content can be downloaded, reviewed by library, and if appropriate displayed for public view.
- It provides an excellent picture of how Stillwater has evolved, grown, and potential growth areas.
- "Edmund Burke (1729-1797) ""Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it."" | George Santayana (1863-1952) ""Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.""
- We need to know our history!!! Americans/Oklahomans NEED to know American history and local history to gain pride and understanding from it rather than the desire to erase it or pretend it never happened. It is through the Stillwater Public Library that I personally learned for the first time about the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921, which was NOT taught when I was in high school; and, I am 60 years old!!! You are never too young or too old to learn about local history!"
- sefgagasdg
- Overthrow something old and meaningless
- It only benefits the community if it's offered in an accessible way. Digitally, and physically.
- We can learn about our past

