EXPLORING THE MAY 4 COLLECTION

Special Collections & Archives
Kent State University Libraries

Presented by Cara Gilgenbach, Head of Special Collections & Archives, Associate Professor, University Libraries
WHAT TO EXPECT TODAY

-- What is Special Collections & Archives

-- Introduction to the May 4 Collection

-- Exploration of Historical Resources & Discussion

-- If Time Permits: Short Tour of May 4 Collection
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

-- Collect, preserve, provide access to historical resources, rare materials, primary sources

-- Support teaching and research at all levels

-- Open to all

-- Work with international community of users
**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES**

**Special collections** - materials that are kept separate from the remainder of a library collection due to the rare, unique, and specialized nature of the resources. In most cases, special collections do not circulate (cannot be checked out) and must be accessed under more restrictive protocols than other parts of a library collection.

**Archive** - a collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, person, or group of people.
MAY 4 COLLECTION

Established by the KSU Libraries in May 1970, almost immediately after shootings

300+ cubic feet of material (one cubic foot = approx. 1,000-1,500 pages of documents)

Materials in all formats: documents, photos, books, audio, film, artifacts, oral histories

Attempts to be comprehensive: all materials, regardless of viewpoint or even quality
PRIMARY SOURCES & SECONDARY SOURCES

Primary sources: provide first hand accounts and direct evidence about a historical event or time period.

Examples: oral histories, diaries, photographs, letters, audio recordings

Secondary sources: one step removed from actual events; often utilize primary sources to synthesize, summarize, and create an interpretation of historical events and time periods.

Examples: books, journal articles, documentaries
OVERVIEW OF MAY 4 CONTENT

-- Actually comprised of multiple archival collections

-- Organized by provenance

-- Information on a topic could be located in multiple collections

-- Tips for success when doing archival research (handout)
IMPORTANT PAGES: TO ACCESS MAY 4 COLLECTION

May 4 Collections Contents page

May 4 Subject Index page

May 4 Collection Index

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Abraham and Isaac - Sculpture (see also Segal, George)

Collection on George Segal's Abraham and Isaac sculpture

Adamek v. Brown

Jerry M. Lewis papers

Administrative Response

Commission on KSU Violence records
Robert C. Dix May 4 papers
Gym Annex Controversy (Tent City) records
Kent State University, Administrative Offices papers
Kent State University May 4 Visitors Center records

May 4 Collection

Contents

The May 4 collection is comprised of over 300 cubic feet of archival materials. This chart provides descriptions of each sub-collection that makes up the May 4 collection. Also included are links to finding aids for these sub-collections, which provide detailed information on the contents of each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box #</th>
<th>Name of Sub-collection</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>KSU Student Government</td>
<td>This collection contains responses from individuals and groups that were sent to Kent State University Student Government in the months after the Kent State shootings of May 4, 1970, as well as related materials produced by Student Government members. Inclusive dates: 1969-1972</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 4 records</td>
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Archivists use documents called **finding aids** to describe the contents and organization of archival collections.

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**Anatomy of a Finding Aid (handout)**

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**Finding Aid**

**Title of the Collection**: Thomas S. Lough papers

**Box Number in May 4 Collection**: Box 21

**Dates**: 1968-1978

**Location**: 12th floor

**Biographical Note**: Thomas Stephens Lough was an associate professor of sociology at Kent State University in May 1970. He was a former faculty advisor to Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and was on the steering committee of the Concerned Citizens of the Kent Community (CCC)—an organization formed in April 1969 in the aftermath of arrests and suspensions of students occupying the Music & Speech building. CCC was made up of a diverse group of faculty and students and focused on issues of due process and the rights and civil liberties of students on campus. The group formulated demands that the charter be reinstated and charges and suspensions be dropped. He was also the only faculty member to be indicted as one of the "Kent 25" (allegations of improper conduct on the part of Lough were unfounded). Lough went on to be a professor of sociology at Sonoma State University (SSU) and an evaluator, judge, and chair of member of SSU's Project Censored. He was also accomplished as a musician. Lough died at the age of 80 on October 11, 2008.

**Scope and Content**: Many of the materials in this collection focus on the Black United Students (BUS)-SDS protest of Oakland Police recruitment on campus and the subsequent Black Student Walkout in November 1968. Also included are materials created by the Concerned Citizens of the Kent Community (CCC), along with official publications and memoranda sent to faculty by the Kent State administration in relation to the SDS and BUS protest activities and subsequent events.

**Processing Note**: In January 2017, this collection, which previously included the papers of William A. Gordon and Kenneth J. Hammond, was re-processed. The papers of each individual have been processed separately.

**Sponsor**: Digitization of this collection was funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

**Folder Contents**

1. Black Student Walkout. "You People:" to Jerry M. Lewis, updated
2. Clipings: Black Student Walkout, 1968
3. Correspondence: Gene Wensinger to Sociology Anthropology Staff, April 1969
4. Correspondence: Paul A. Maloy to Tom Lough, April 1969
DIGITAL ARCHIVE CONTENT

-- 50,000 pages of material from the May 4 Collection digitally captured and are available online

-- Navigation of this content can be tricky and overwhelming

-- Research Tip: Navigate to digital content via collection finding aids—much more controlled and targeted experience

-- Collection Contents and Index pages have icon next to collections that have been completely or partially digitalized.
OTHER DIGITAL RESOURCES

-- Kent State Shootings **Oral Histories**

-- Digital *Daily Kent Stater*
HANDS-ON WORK WITH ARCHIVAL COLLECTION

-- Work in teams of two

-- First part of the exercise is to help you explore and understand a finding aid.

-- After that, explore the contents of your box.
  • Keep folders in order
  • Do not separate contents from folders

-- Answer questions based on the content of your box.
HELP ACCESSING THE MAY 4 COLLECTION

-- Contact Kent State University Special Collections & Archives
   -- specialcollections@kent.edu
   -- 330-672-2270

-- May 4 Information Packet

-- May 4 FAQ page