

SFU Archives:

A guide for researchers



How to search our holdings
and request access

Are you new to the SFU Archives?

Come to us for SFU history and much more!

Our holdings tell the story of one of Canada's top ranked universities, which grew from traditional roots and was transformed through the turbulent sixties. But the dynamic personalities associated with SFU, whose documents and photos we acquire, also hold a wealth of information and insight about many other issues of interest to us all.

Are you interested in:

Provincial history?

W.A.C. Bennett was BC's longest-serving premier, and he founded SFU. His personal papers are housed in the archives and span his entire political career. We also preserve a collection of Columbia River Treaty Tapes containing a lecture series on the development of hydroelectric power in BC, one of Bennett's most far-reaching and controversial megaprojects.

Women's issues?

SFU feminists were in the vanguard of the women's liberation movement in Vancouver and BC. We have collections from Maggie Benston and Andrea Lebowitz as well as the Vancouver Women's Bookstore, Press Gang Printers, the SFU Childcare Society, the SFSS Women's Centre, and the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology.



Janiel Jolley of the Women's Caucus enrolled as a candidate in the 1970 Miss Canadian University contest to raise feminist awareness.



Against all odds, SFU opens on time in September 1965. Left to right: Chancellor Gordon Shrum, first president Patrick McTaggart-Cowan, and Bennett.

Social activism?

The lower mainland has a long tradition of community activists. Read about local women pulling together to help their neighbours as the East Enders Society, or about the John Howard Society's work with the criminal justice system.

Once you become familiar with our finding aids, you'll see that we have collections relating to sports, culture, sciences...even the art of beekeeping.

The East-Enders Society had a "dollar-a-month" club so that anybody could join and help in some way no matter how small their income.

Archives are different from libraries

Some useful terms

People and organizations create and keep letters, diaries, financial accounts, reports, photographs, audio recordings, films, and an endless variety of other materials in various media and formats.

When a body of material comes to the SFU Archives, the archivist keeps it together under the name of the organization or person that created it. That is to say, by its *provenance*.

The archivist arranges the records according to the *original order* in which the creator kept them. Provenance and original order preserve the *evidential value* and *context* of the records. For example, if a letter dated 30 years ago is found with notes for a book published ten years later, a researcher might be able to deduce that the letter was used in the research for the book.

An *archival fonds* is made up of the records naturally created and kept by a person or an organization in the course of its day-to-day activities. A *collection* is just an artificial assembly of materials brought together on a subject. While useful, collections might not have the same evidential value as archives. Our holdings contain both fonds and collections.

Since archives are not arranged by subject but by provenance, start your archival research by considering which organizations or people might have created records that apply to your area of interest. You can get this information from secondary sources or ask the archivist. For example, if Maggie Benston was mentioned in a book about women's rights at SFU, you could find more information among her papers, which we hold.



What's that paper in Maggie Benston's hand? Maybe it's in our Archives.

https://atom.archives.sfu.ca

SFU AtoM

Your portal to SFU's archival holdings

Browse by

- Archival descriptions
- Personal/organizations
- Repositories
- Functions
- Subjects
- Places
- Digital objects

Popular this week

- Course outlines database export: 83 visits
- Desiderata.pdf: 54 visits
- Convocation files: 47 visits
- Contact sheets: 40 visits
- Smallville: 24 visits
- 1986 June 6-7 convocation program: 23 visits
- Smallville: 23 visits
- Pornography - Red Hot Video: 21 visits
- Dedication ceremony - Jack and Sadie Diamond: 21 visits
- Negatives nos. 1973: Apr. - May 1974; no date; Summer 1974; July - Sept. 1974; Dec. 1974; 75001-75099: 20 visits

SFU AtoM Home

SFU AtoM (Access to Memory) is a collaborative venture of SFU Archives and SFU Library's Special Collections and Rare Books.

SFU AtoM provides a single interface for searching the archival holdings of both repositories. The database contains descriptions of records existing in many media and formats; where digital copies are available, they are accessible directly from the description. Over time, we will be increasing the digital content available through the site.

To get started, use the search box or select a browse option.

Search tips

Copyright policy

IMAGE SOURCE:
P-211, Simon Fraser University poster collection
File #211-0-0-1, Campus and event posters

First stop: SFU AtoM

Visit the SFU AtoM (Access to Memory) web site (<https://atom.archives.sfu.ca/>) and examine our holdings. Follow the links to the **finding aid** for the particular fonds or collection that interests you.

What is a finding aid?

A finding aid describes each archival fonds or collection. An introductory section provides context for the records through a brief history of the organization or a short biographical sketch, and describes the records in general terms.

If the records still look useful to you, follow the links to the series descriptions and file lists to narrow down your search. Keep track of the numbers for files that interest you.

Fonds F-82-4

Feminist organizations, actions and issues (1974 - 1982)

File #	Item title	Dates	Access status
F-82-4-0-0-1	Counseling Collective	1974 - 1977	Open
F-82-4-0-0-2	Lesbians Against the Right	1979 - 1981	Open
F-82-4-0-0-3	Lesbian Caucus	1977	Open
F-82-4-0-0-4	Lesbian Rights	1977 - 1982	Open
F-82-4-0-0-5	Manpower Demonstration	1975	Open
F-82-4-0-0-6	South Hill Childcare Society	1975	Open
F-82-4-0-0-7	Women Against Rape [WAR]	No date	Open
F-82-4-0-0-8	Women's Rally for Action	1975 - 1977	Open

Each file in Ellen Frank's fonds has a number for easy reference. "Open" access status means there are no restrictions on these items.

When you are making your file list, note any restrictions on the files such as "pending review." This means that an archivist will have to review the material for privacy issues or other concerns before you can access its contents. Many files can be opened upon review, but you will have to allow time for the review process.

On your first visit to the SFU Archives, we will register you as a researcher so that you may access archival materials. You must use the materials on-site, so allow time to take notes by hand or by laptop computer. Archival staff can perform limited photocopying services for a fee.

We are open Tuesday to Friday from 9 to 12:30 and 1:30 to 4. Hours are subject to change so it's a good idea to make an appointment or check with us before you come.

Visit us at 0400 Maggie Benston Centre, or at www.sfu.ca/archives

Mailing address:

Simon Fraser University
Archives and Records Management Department
8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6
Phone: 778-782-3261 Fax: 778-782-4047
Email: archives@sfu.ca

Ellen Frank fonds

1974 - 1984

25 cm of textual records

Biographical sketch

Ellen Frank's interest in the women's movement began in 1972, while on a Kibbutz in Israel. At the time she was married, expecting her second child, and reading Bette Freidan's *The Feminine Mystique*. In April, upon return to Vancouver, Ellen Frank contacted the 'Woman's Centre' and became involved in a consciousness-raising group. Ms. Frank's involvement with the women's movement expanded from these beginnings. She became, in her words, "unmarried," and went to work at the Woman's Place. In addition, Ms. Frank also became involved in organizing around day care issues, came out as a lesbian, and worked around issues of violence against women. She also spent time organizing demonstrations, being active in occupations, and involved in the fight for women's rights in general.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records created, received and collected by Ellen Frank in her involvement in the women's movement in Vancouver. Activities documented include participation in the Association of University and College Employees (AUCE), the British Columbia Federation of Women (BCFW), the Solidarity Coalition, and activities relating to a number of other feminist organizations, issues, and actions. Includes correspondence, memoranda, minutes, agenda, reports, briefs, newsletters, press releases, notebooks, press clippings, project proposals, posters, and pamphlets.

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

Series #	Series title	Content listings
F-82-1	Association of University Employees	Files
F-82-2	British Columbia Federation of Women	Files
F-82-3	Solidarity Coalition	Files
F-82-4	Feminist organizations, actions and issues	Files

This finding aid describes one of our collections.