

## Endowed Border, Culture and Literature Collection: \$1 million

### Background

The Copley Library seeks \$1 million to develop an **endowed border, culture and literature collection**. The University of San Diego, as the university located closest to the U.S.-Mexico border, has international contacts and committed interest in strengthening the relationship between the two nations, as well as providing access to the cultural richness of the shared area.

### Objectives

The collection will contain books, newspapers, journals, personal papers, oral histories, ephemeral materials, photographs, other multimedia, as well as digitally-born and digitized materials in both Spanish and English. Materials will reflect a wide range of documents related to border topics, such as the economy, health, indigenous peoples, the changing natural environment in the region, mutual challenges, peace and commerce, immigration and development, human rights, regional art, and the vibrant cultural expressions of life in the border region.

Experts at USD — including the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, Trans-Border Institute, Latin American Studies, International Relations, Political Science, Business, Marine Science, Sociology, and others — will contribute materials, much of which is not accessible elsewhere. The collection will complement and eventually rival similar collections of Latin American work, including: the Benson Collection at the University of Texas, Austin; Stanford University's Latin American Collection, and University of California, Berkeley's Latin Americana: Mexico and Central America and Central America Special Collections.

### Impact

The border collection will enrich the resources of the Copley Library by creating a comprehensive and

internationally accessible resource of border information for use by campus faculty and students, scholars from other academic institutions, policymakers, researchers and journalists. It will anchor USD as the source for such information, making the academic resources accessible even beyond the campus for deeper examination on a number of important topics. The process of establishing the collection will strengthen established and emerging university ties with academic institutions and other organizations and individuals in Mexico as institutions on both sides of the border produce and gather materials to establish this new collection.

The border collection will also foster USD's work in human rights, immigration and trans-border issues. It will support classroom instruction and assist with enriching research and teaching for USD professors and students focusing on Mexico. As a living, growing collection, the resources will be intertwined with vibrant past and present Mexican perspectives of life on the border and academic border research. Copley Library will become the physical and virtual location for research on California/Baja California border topics and welcome researchers from around the world to the library. Through the online institutional repository users will have access to elements of the collection.

### For More Information

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