University Archives preserve the academic, athletic and administrative legacy of the university from 1874 to the present. The Archives collect administrative files, reports from the academic colleges and administrative units, announcements, correspondence, flyers, event programs, brochures, broadcast media, photographic negatives and newscippings. The Archives also retain preservation copies of course offerings, historical campus directories, yearbooks such as the Obelisk, student dissertations and theses, and publications of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale University Press.

Noted faculty collections include:

- The papers and selected anthropological field-recordings of African American choreographer, anthropologist, and performer, Katherine Dunham
- Artifacts and publications documenting geodesic dome-designer R. Buckminster (Bucky) Fuller’s legacy as a professor at SIU and “resident genius” of the Carbondale community
- The private collections of historian John Willis Allen, documenting Illinois’ vanished towns, regional activity in the civil war, pioneers, slavery, along with artifacts from the rich historical legacy of the region
- The sacred music collection of University organist and world-renowned performer Marianne Webb
- Regional photograph collections of photographer C. William Horrell and several of his students
- The Elena M. Sliepcevich Centre for Health Education Studies, including the collections of Elena M. Sliepcevich, Judy Catherine Drolet, Paul D. Sarvela, and the American School Health Association Collection of Key Leaders

If you would like to make a gift or schedule a transfer of university records to the archives unit of the Special Collections Research Center, please visit the Donating and Giving page.

[1] Some papers of noted faculty, such as those of operatic soprano Marjorie Lawrence, are housed in our manuscripts unit.