



LA&M Staff

Executive Director

Rick Storer

Director of Operations

Jeffrey Storer

Archivist/Collections Librarian

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To Donate

The LA&M prefers that any donor complete a donation agreement by downloadable PDF or submitting it electronically through our website; donors then send the donation to our mailing address below:

Leather Archives & Museum
Attn: Jeffrey Storer
6418 N. Greenview Ave.
Chicago, IL 60626

Visit us on the web:
www.leatherarchives.org

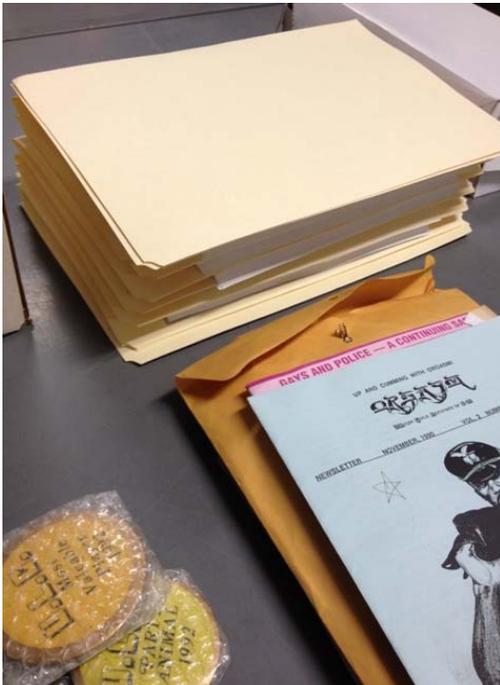
Donating Your Personal and Organizational Materials to the Leather Archives & Museum

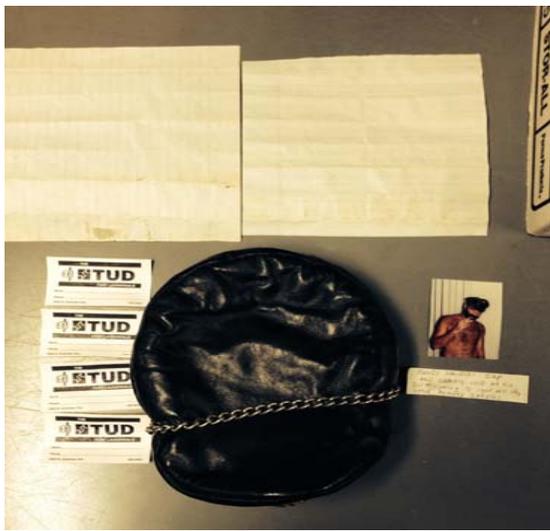
A quick guide for potential donors



Mission

The **Leather Archives & Museum** is dedicated to the compilation, preservation, and maintenance of leather, kink, and fetish lifestyles. Our museum galleries serve to present educational and historical material to an adult audience. Our reading library and archive serve to support researchers and community members in accessing materials and documentation relevant to the history and culture of leather.





What is an Archival Collection?

Archival collections at the LA&M are personal, organizational, and conglomerate records with historical significance and enduring value to communities involved in kink, Leather, fetish, sadomasochism, and alternative sexual practices. The LA&M is unique in that the community selects records as well as the institution.

Archives are the records created and/or accumulated by people and organizations as they lived and worked within the Leather, BDSM, kink, and alternative sexuality communities.

Collections That Live at the LA&M

Climate control at the LA&M costs about \$8,000/year because it controls the temperature and humidity by alternating heating and cooling. This is particularly important with paper-based documents, artwork, posters, and leathers. Other records are transferred to archival sleeves, folders, and boxes to ensure long-term preservation.

Your Records Have Historic Value

Listed below are types of materials in personal and organizational records that are often valuable to a researcher at the LA&M. This list, which is suggestive and not definitive, illustrates the wide range of documentation that is often useful for historical and administrative research:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • Letters/email | • Memorabilia |
| • Memoirs/
reminiscences | • Legal documents |
| • Diaries/blogs | • Minutes/reports |
| • Scrapbooks/photo
albums | • Brochures and
fliers |
| • Professional papers | • Awards/certificates |
| • Fibers/Leathers/
Uniforms | • Photographs (with
subjects and loca-
tions identified) |
| • Speeches/lectures | • Films/videos/audio
tapes (including
identifying infor-
mation) |
| • Articles/essays | |
| • Subject files/
Ephemera | |

What You Can Do at Home

Prior to donation, here are some basic tips for self-archiving!

- Store documents, leathers, a/v materials in a relatively cool and dry place. If your basement or garage is damp, I recommend storing materials in plastic bins.
- Folder and label records as much as you can!
- * Using manila folders is great -it at least allows for documents to be organized and isolated from materials that may

cause deterioration! If possible, separate newsprint and other types of acidic paper from other documents.

- Consider donating any audiovisual materials that are in danger of becoming obsolete or unreadable. Digital obsolescence is a situation where a digital resource is no longer readable because the physical media, the reader (required to read the media), the hardware, or the software (that runs on it), is no longer available.

How Our Collections Are Used

Our collections at the LA&M have been used for exhibits, documentaries, biographies, non-fiction books, blogs, doctoral dissertations, research papers, websites, and social media such as Tumblr, Facebook, and YouTube. Know your history. Learn more about the archival collections at the LA&M.

We ask that materials whose value is not always intrinsic (i.e.--Leathers, artifacts, photographs, etc.) be accompanied with documented provenance, or information regarding the origins, custody, and ownership of an item or collection.



Become a member of the LA&M and donate your collections to us! By becoming a sustaining donor, you help us continue to provide the optimal environment for our collective leather history.