**BRING YOUR CLASSES TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS!**

Special Collections has an active archives education program that connects our unique materials to Colby’s curriculum and supports faculty teaching and student learning. We believe our collections are here to be used by students and encourage hands-on engagement with our materials.

Archival experiences at the undergraduate level are often deeply memorable for students and can expand their academic horizons. Working with diaries, letters, scrapbooks, photographs, and any unique primary source can engage students in exciting ways – by challenging assumptions, evaluating historical context, and requiring close and critical observation and reading.

We are happy to work closely with faculty to devise archival labs that align with a range of teaching approaches. We offer different options for instruction and orientation to Special Collections, including:

- **“Skill-building labs”** - students work with materials regardless of content
- **“Content-based labs”** - archival materials connect to the class via time/topic/genre
- **A hybrid approach**, combining these two options

*But darling, have you been to Special Collections yet?*

Archival labs emphasize hands-on examination and analysis of archival materials, introduce students to the archival research skills and methods; provide an orientation to our collections; explore the differences between primary and secondary sources; and discuss how to read, analyze, question, and evaluate archival materials.

We also encourage faculty to develop research assignments using our collections in addition to the lab session, so that students are required to return and engage more fully with the materials. We fully support student research and are happy to work closely with students on their assignments.

The Robinson Room and the Healy Room in Special Collections are available for archival labs throughout the semester and can accommodate both small and large groups of students.

*Special Collections has something for everyone!*

If you are interested in scheduling a lab session in Special Collections, designing a research assignment for your class using Special Collections materials, or just want to know if Special Collections has materials relevant to a class you are teaching, please contact:

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