Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences
Collections Overview

A great museum starts with an outstanding permanent collection. As the world’s most prominent curator of moving image history, the Academy has been collecting and preserving movie-related materials since the 1930s.

The Academy’s unparalleled permanent collection contains more than 10 million photographs, 190,000 film and video assets, 80,000 screenplays, 50,000 posters, and 20,000 production and costume design drawings. The collection also includes more than 1,400 special collections of film legends such as Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn, Alfred Hitchcock, and John Huston. These special collections contain production files, personal correspondence, clippings, contracts, manuscripts, scrapbooks, storyboards, and more.

The Academy’s collecting divisions work collaboratively to acquire, preserve, digitize and exhibit the broad range of materials entrusted to their care by generations of filmmakers and collectors. A description of each collecting division follows.

**THE ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES:**

The Museum’s growing collection of three-dimensional motion picture artifacts is the newest collecting effort within the Academy’s archival divisions. Actively acquiring objects since 2008, the Academy Museum project’s holdings now number approximately 2,500 items representing motion picture technology, costume, production design, makeup and hairstyling, promotional materials and memorabilia, historic awards, and media artifacts.

A few of the key objects in the collection include D.W. Griffith’s original Bell & Howell 2709 film camera, Dorothy’s Ruby Slippers and the Cowardly Lion’s mane from “The Wizard of Oz,” Shirley Temple’s Juvenile Oscar and career memorabilia, the Aries 1B spaceship model from “2001: A Space Odyssey,” the only surviving full-sized shark model made from the original mold used on “Jaws,” and costumes worn by Angelica Huston in “The Addams Family,” and Jared Leto in “Dallas Buyers Club.”

The Technology collection includes examples of pre-cinema devices, early and modern motion picture cameras and projectors, sound, editing and lighting equipment, and other landmark inventions that have advanced the filmmaking arts.

Costume Design is represented by a range of wardrobe created for films from the silent era to the present, for iconic performances from dramas, musicals, comedies, epics, science fiction and historical films.

The Production Design collection includes a wide variety of Props (set and hand props, including screen-used weapons), set décor items, matte paintings, set models, miniatures, and motion picture creatures (animatronics, models, puppets and maquettes).

Makeup and Hairstyling objects span a range of realistic and fantasy makeups, and include face appliances, makeup busts, life masks, wigs, and makeup cases owned and used by prominent performers and makeup artists.
THE ACADEMY FILM ARCHIVE:
Dedicated to the preservation, restoration, documentation, exhibition and study of motion pictures, the Academy Film Archive is home to one of the most diverse and extensive motion picture collections in the world, including the personal collections of such filmmakers as Alfred Hitchcock, Cecil B. DeMille, George Stevens, Fred Zinnemann, Sam Peckinpah and Jim Jarmusch.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences was founded in 1927 and began acquiring film material in 1929. The Academy Film Archive, established in 1991, holds over 190,000 items, including all of the Academy Award-winning films in the Best Picture category, all the Oscar-winning documentaries and many Oscar-nominated films in all categories.

The Academy Film Archive also holds the world’s largest collection of movie trailers, an extensive home movie collection, and an impressive array of independent and experimental film, in addition to international and Hollywood productions. They are a global leader in the preservation and restoration of film, and one of the world’s largest repositories of 35mm film prints.

THE MARGARET HERRICK LIBRARY:
The Margaret Herrick Library is a world-renowned, non-circulating reference and research collection devoted to the history and development of the motion picture as an art form and as an industry. Established in 1928, a year after the Academy was founded, the library moved to its current Beverly Hills location in 1991.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
More than a thousand collections document the product and activities of companies and organizations as well as the careers of producers, directors, writers, actors, cinematographers, art directors, costume designers, composers, makeup artists, animators, columnists, publicists, executives and others who have made a significant contribution to the industry. Collected material includes production files, scripts, correspondence, clippings, contracts, manuscripts, notes, scrapbooks, costume and production design drawings, storyboards, sheet music, music scores and recorded sound.

PHOTOGRAPHY
The library’s 10 million+ photographs include reference stills and stills of film scenes, individuals and advertising; candid and informal photos and behind-the-scenes production shots; research photos; and images of premieres, studios, theaters, equipment, residences and Hollywood landmarks. While the majority are original black-and-white photographs, there are also negatives (black-and-white and color), color slides and transparencies, film frames, glass negatives and glass slides.

GRAPHIC ARTS
The library’s Graphic Arts Collection encompasses posters and production art. The poster collection includes more than 42,000 items representing the cinema from some of its earliest attractions to current theatrical releases, and consists primarily of one-sheet posters from
Hollywood films as well as examples from independent and foreign productions. Production art materials document more than eighty years of motion picture design. Acquired from designers, collectors and professional organizations, the collection primarily consists of costume and production design drawings, but also includes other forms of production art such as title art and animation artwork. The collection also includes a small number of paintings and illustrations of individuals prominent in the motion picture industry.

ACADEMY AWARDS HISTORY AND OSCAR STATUETTES

The Academy Library is the premiere research facility for information and materials on the history of the Oscars and the Academy as an institution. The Academy’s best-known event is the annual Academy Awards presentation, and the library’s holdings documenting the ceremonies and related events are extensive. Photographic coverage includes arrivals, presentations, backstage activities and the Governors Ball. Manuscript materials include transcripts, show programs, invitations and tickets, posters, and sizable clipping files. Our holdings also cover related events such as the Governors Awards and Scientific and Technical Awards ceremonies, the Nominees Luncheon, and nominations announcements.

The Academy also collects and safeguards a significant collection of historic Oscar statuettes that have been awarded during the nine decades of its history. The Museum Collection contains numerous set design models and other materials generated during the production of the annual Academy Awards broadcast.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

The library collects English-language books and pamphlets on motion pictures, as well as important foreign language publications and a few selected books in allied fields such as television, radio, theater and music. The collection is international in scope and encompasses the early pre-cinema years to the present; hundreds of new titles are added to the holdings each year.

The library’s collection includes popular and scholarly works on a wide range of topics. Holdings include books on the cinema history of the United States as well as countries around the world; reference works and general film history; biographies and career studies of actors and filmmakers; and genre books looking at everything from adventure films to Westerns.

The collection also includes works on every aspect vital to the filmmaking process, from screenwriting to marketing and exhibition. Recent additions focus on the latest video/digital filmmaking processes currently in use.

Among the many rare items in the holdings are Eadweard Muybridge's 1881 first edition of Attitudes of Animals in Motion, Moving Picture Annual and Yearbook for 1912, and a copy of the novel Gone with the Wind, autographed by all of the film's principal cast members as well as its producer and director.

CORE COLLECTION FILES

The Core Collection Files contain articles clipped from a wide range of newspapers and magazines, studio press releases, publicity and advertising material, and photographs.

Categories include Production files, Biography files, Subject files, and Awards and Festivals files.
The files document more than a hundred years of films and filmmaking. New material is continually added to the files, making them an invaluable resource not only on the history of cinema but also on the contemporary motion picture industry.

PERIODICALS

The library's periodical holdings of more than 3,000 titles cover all aspects of filmmaking from the first decade of the twentieth century to the present. Periodical collection highlights include:

- A comprehensive collection of industry trade publications dating back to Views & Films Index (1906) and including other early works such as Moving Picture World, Motion Picture Herald and Motion Picture News, as well as up-to-date holdings of The Hollywood Reporter, Daily Variety, Screen International and Boxoffice.
- A wide range of fan magazines, including extensive runs of such influential publications as Photoplay, Motion Picture Magazine, Modern Screen, Movieland and Silver Screen.
- Important technical, popular and scholarly journals, including American Film, American Cinematographer, Moviemaker, Sight and Sound, Films in Review, Film Comment, SMPTE Journal, Camera Obscura, Screen and Millimeter.

SCREENPLAYS

Since the 1930s, the library has been acquiring film scripts and building an impressive general reference collection. Over the years, this collection has grown to include scripts for more than 15,000 produced films spanning the years 1910 to the present. In addition to screenplays for thousands of American feature films, the Script Collection also includes screenplays for silent productions, foreign language films, documentaries, animated features and shorts. Most screenplays are unpublished versions in variant forms, from step outlines and treatments to first drafts, revised and final drafts, and cutting continuities. Published scripts are also actively collected.

ACADEMY VISUAL HISTORY COLLECTION:

Since 2012 the Academy’s Visual History Program has recorded over 100 oral histories on HD born-digital video, seeking to document diverse representatives from a wide variety of film professions. Some of the collection’s interviewees include: Emmanuelle Riva, Dennis Muren, Albert Maysles, Gena Rowlands, Jiri Menzel, Sharmila Tagore, Luis Valdez, Thelma Schoonmaker, Barbara Hammer, Tony Walton, Irwin Young, DA Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus. The collection includes video, photos and transcripts.

ACADEMY ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION:

The Oral History Program’s collection consists of more than 70 in-depth audio oral histories on subjects ranging from art direction and film editing to censorship and Academy history. Beginning in 1989, the program has sought to document the lives and careers of individuals.
who have worked in various areas of the motion picture industry. The collection consists of audio tapes, including master cassettes and access copies; digital masters; edited transcripts; indexes; and photo documentation.

The Academy has also archived the interview collections of:

- **Howard Walls**, the Academy's first film curator. The collection is comprised of interviews Walls conducted in 1948 and 1949 with several silent filmmakers, notably J. Searle Dawley, Albert E. Smith, Edgar Davenport and actress Blanche Sweet. Walls called the project "Voice Recordings of Film Pioneers."

- **Craig Johnson's interviews** with lawyers, agents, producers and executives were conducted between 2008 and 2013 and include oral histories with Sid Sheinberg, Pat Kingsley and Richard Zanuck.

- **Writer's Guild Foundation 'Writer Speaks' Oral Histories**. Their archival collections contain the personal papers of prominent writers, vintage scripts, photographs, artifacts, the historical records of the Writers Guild of America, West, one of the first labor unions in the entertainment industry, as well as oral histories. The Writers Guild Foundation’s oral history program, The Writer Speaks, includes over 60 visual history interviews with award-winning film and television writers intimately sharing stories about their lives, career and craft.

- **International Cinematographers Guild Interview Collection**. The technicians and artisans in the guild work in film, television, live entertainment, animation, special effects, and new media. The guild has recorded 433 oral and visual history interviews, of which nearly 300 are housed at the Academy Film Archive. The collection includes such interviewees as László Kovács, Allen Daviau, and Vilmos Zsigmond.

- **Film Music Foundation Collection**. The Foundation’s oral history collection consists of in-depth interviews with composers, lyricists, song writers, arrangers and orchestrators who discuss their unique experiences in writing scores for film and television. Maurice Jarre, Danny Elfman, Patrick Doyle, Johnny Mandel, Lalo Schifrin and Dave Grusin are among the composers featured in the collection.

- **The Motion Picture Editors Guild Legacy Archive** is a collection of interviews focusing on the life and career history of its members. The project began recording in 2007 and currently has almost 100 visual history interviews, with a growing number of interviews each year. Participants are interviewed by members of the board, peers or family members who also work in the field. Some examples are Stanley Franzen, Mia Goldman, Charles Campbell, Lynzee Klingman, Donn Cambern, and Dede Allen.