The University of Massachusetts Lowell Libraries, Center for Lowell History [special collection and archives] was established in 1971 to assure the safekeeping, preservation, and availability for study and research of materials in unique subject areas, particularly those related to the Greater Lowell Area and the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Located downtown in the Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center at 40 French Street, the Center is committed to the design and implementation of historical, educational, and cultural programs that link the University and the community in developing an economically strong and multi-culturally rich region.

Lowell: A City of Refugees
University Creative Economy Grant

In Pat Conroy's current University Creative Economy Grant - Lowell: A City of Refugees, "The Memories of Cambodia: Collection donated to the University of Massachusetts Lowell." Center for Lowell History by Dorothea Tsapasaris is an important component. Dorothea taught ESL English as a Second Language in the Lowell Schools. She was one of the first educators in the late 1980s/ early 1990s to gather the stories and artwork of her young students' lives in Cambodia and arrange to have them published in the national children's literary magazine "Stone Soup." Additional funding from a Digital Commonwealth Grant will provide online public access to hundreds of these stories and drawings.

George Hall Russell Photograph Collection
Collaborative Mass Humanities Grant - Lowell Historical Society and Center for Lowell History

The Digitization of the George Hall Russell Photograph Collection by the Lowell Historical Society and Center for Lowell History has resulted in thousands of photographs from the late 19th and early 20th centuries that document the lives of Lowell's residents and visitors.

Waterpower in Lowell
Digital Commonwealth Grant

The Proprietors of Locks and Canals on Merrimack River built the first industrial center that became the city of Lowell. Its engineering responsibilities included the planning, design, and construction of mills, canals, textile machinery, turbines, and railroad engines. Throughout the 19th century this company experimented in new designs, leading the nation in hydraulic engineering. The roles of the engineer, architect, designer, draftsman, and contractor were filled by one man, James B. Francis. A Digital Commonwealth Grant will provide online public access to the Locks and Canals Collection, Center for Lowell History, University of Massachusetts Lowell, one of the finest civil engineer collections in the United States.

Legacy, University of Massachusetts Lowell
Open Content Alliance Grant

The Boston Library Consortium (BLC) in partnership with the Sloan Foundation and with Open Content Alliance provides public access to digital materials from 13 member institutions, including the University of Massachusetts Lowell. The BLC was the first large-scale consortium to work on such a self-funded digitization project with the Open Content Alliance and is based at the Northeast Scanning Center, Boston Public Library.

Lowell: A City of Refugees
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Dozens of the University's special collections are now available online funded through research grants from Greater Lowell Community Foundation, Mass Board of Library Commissioners, Mass Humanities, Lowell Historical Society, Digital Commonwealth, National Historical Park, Open Content Alliance, and the President's Office.

Research Activities @ UML

The Center for Lowell History has developed many special collections and archives which focus on historic and contemporary issues of Lowell including industrialization, textile technology, immigration, women's history, social history, labor history, transportation, urban renewal and renaissance, environmental history, and genealogy.

Digital Initiatives @ UML

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