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Guide to the University of Chicago Department of Physics Records 1937-2002



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.PHYSICSDEPT
Title	University of Chicago. Department of Physics. Records
Date	1937-2002
Size	26 linear feet (42 boxes)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	Contains correspondence, records, reports, reprints, scientific data and recordings that originated in the Department of Physics primarily in 1937-1947 and 1972-1985. Includes data from the Cosmic Ray Study directed by Arthur H. Compton, documents student and faculty interactions with Department, optical grating transactions, the impact of World War II on the Department and profession, renovation and building construction.

Information on Use

Access

Series X contains files to which access is restricted, including student evaluative material restricted for eighty years and one file of budget material restricted for fifty years. Series VIII, Audio-Visual, does not include access copies for part or all of the items in the series. Researchers must consult with staff before requesting these materials. The remainder of the collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: University of Chicago. Department of Physics. Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Scope Note

This collection contains correspondence, records, reports, reprints, scientific data and recordings that originated in the Physics Department primarily, but not exclusively, between the years 1937-1947 and 1972-1985. It is organized into ten series.

Series I. General Correspondence, contains correspondence concerning a variety of matters relating to the Department, the University, and the world of science. Arranged alphabetically,

much of the correspondence relates to students, fellowships, assistantships, optical grating transactions, and a textbook revision.

Series II. Administrative Records, includes chronologically arranged materials documenting faculty activities and department functions.

Series III contains reprints of articles by faculty member,s including A. H. Compton, Carl Eckart, Henry Gordon Gale, Harvey B. Lemon, and A. A. Michelson.

Series IV. Textbook and Course Materials contains annotated textbooks, notes, class records, student papers, and experiment data and results. While representative, this file is by no means an inclusive record of all courses offered by the Department during these years.

Series V contains data from the Cosmic Ray Studies conducted in the later 1930s under the general direction of A. H. Compton. Of special interest are the notebooks kept by Compton while aboard the R.M.M.S. Aorangi. Also included are charts, graphs, and tables of data recorded at magnetic observatories in Cheltenham, England; Christchurch, New Zealand; Huancayo, Peru; and Teoloyucan, Mexico, as well as logs, charts, and data taken on board the Aorangi and the S.S. Talune. The last three boxes of the series contain calculations and photographic records not identified with a particular study location. This series is organized into six subseries: Correspondence, Notebooks, and General Data; R.M.M.S. "Aorangi" Data; Capetown, Cheltenham, and Huancayo Data; Christchurch Magnetic Observatory Data; S.S. Talune, Teoloyucan, and Mexico Data; and General Data. Material from the Cosmic Ray Studies may also be found in Series IX, Oversize.

Series VI includes blueprints for equipment and laboratories built in Ryerson Hall in the 1930s, including instruments that were of interest to the U.S. Navy.

Series VII documents the construction of the Physics Teaching Center from the early proposals in 1962 to completion in 1985. It is divided into 5 subseries: Proposals and Reports, which contains both official and unofficial proposals for discussion by faculty and staff; Correspondence and Press, which includes internal correspondence within the University of Chicago and articles written about the project; Building Specs and Maps, which includes maps of building floors, space and room requirements and the lecture hall layout at CERN; Notes, which includes meeting minutes and handwritten notes about the construction project; Building Problems and Equipment, which includes notes and memos sent regarding problems that need to be addressed as the Physics Teaching Center was being constructed and the equipment within the building, from hardware and furniture to specialty machine equipment.

Series VIII includes audio and video recordings of lectures, symposia and other events hosted by the Department of Physics, primarily in the 1990s.

Series IX contains oversized data graphs from the Cosmic Ray Study.

Series X contains files to which access is restricted, including student evaluative material restricted for eighty years and one file of budget material restricted for fifty years.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html>

Subject Headings

- Compton, Arthur Holly, 1892-1962
- Shaw, Albert Edward
-
- University of Chicago. Department of Physics
- Physics -- Study and teaching

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- Peck, E. R.
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- Simpson, J. A.
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- Slater, J. C.
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- Smith, A. W.
- Smith, H. R.
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- University Press (Chicago)
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Lemon, H. B. and Michael Ference, Experimental Heat, Light and Sound, 1942

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