Descriptive Summary

Title: Mary Benson research material about the African National Congress, South Africa
Date (inclusive): 1961-1962
Collection number: 803
Creator: Benson, Mary
Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear ft.)
Abstract: A collection of research notes related to the South African political history and the African National Congress taken by political activist, bureaucrat, and biographer, Mary Benson, during the course of her political career, 1940s to the mid 1960s.
Language: Finding aid is written in English.
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.

Restrictions on Access
Open for research. STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction
Property rights to the physical object belong to the UC Regents. Literary rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or his or her heir for permission to publish where The UC Regents do not hold the copyright.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Mary Benson, April 19, 1963.

Processing Note
Processed by Jesse Erickson in the Center for Primary Research and Training (CFPRT), with assistance from Megan Fraser, August 2011.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Mary Benson research material about the African National Congress, South Africa (Collection 803). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4230370

Biography
Mary Benson was born on December 9, 1919 in Pretoria, South Africa. She attended school in Australia. After her studies, she became secretary with British High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa from 1940 to 1941. She worked with the film director David Lean in London from 1947 to 1949. Subsequently she became the co-founder and secretary of Africa Bureau, London from the years 1950 to 1957. Benson lobbied in England and at the United Nations on South African issues and was active in the African Development Trust and National Campaign for the Abolition of Capital Punishment. She was also a known activist against apartheid. Benson left South Africa and became a political exile in London in 1966. Her publications include Tshekedi Khama (1960), Chief Albert Lutuli of South Africa (1963), The African patriots: the story of the African National Congress of South Africa (1963), At the still point (1970), and Nelson Mandala (1980).

Scope and Content
A collection of anti-apartheid activist Mary Benson's research notes covering a wide array of politically related topics from the 1940s through the 1960s pertaining to African and South African government, civics, activists, and politicians. The formation and delegation of the African National Congress is a central theme among the various topics. With the exception of the notes found in the notebooks, most of the collection materials were typeset and include extensive annotations written throughout the body of the works. The notes also include Benson's personal remarks and opinions on various African political figures, and the annotations indicate sections from the notes that were ultimately disregarded, potentially drawn upon, or wholly included in her subsequent publications.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Benson, Mary--Archives.
African National Congress --History --Archival resources.
Women authors--South Africa--Archival resources.
Women anti-apartheid activists --South Africa --Archival resources.
South Africa--Politics and government.
South Africa--History.

Box 1, Folder 1  **Research notes 1966.**
Scope and Content Note
Copy of letter indicating restrictions on use [now outdated].

Box 1, Folder 2  **Research notes 1964.**
Scope and Content Note
A content list for the research notes and “Miscellaneous notes of confidential remarks extracted from Mary Benson's research notes.”

Box 1, Folder 3  **Research notes undated.**
Scope and Content Note
A content list for the research notes and notes on various subjects including Albert Lutuli, Walter Sislu, Nelson Mandela, and Jordan Naubane.

Box 1, Folder 4  **Research notes undated.**
Scope and Content Note
A content list for the research notes and notes on various subjects including Dr. Alfred Bitini Xuma, multi-racial racial conference proceedings, and Dr. James Sebe Moroka.

Box 1, Folder 5  **Research notes undated.**
Scope and Content Note
Notes on various subjects including Zulu resentment, conferences, Olive Tambo Xuma, Natal from 1945, Indian groups, and Joe Matthews.

Box 1, Folder 6  **Research notes undated.**
Scope and Content Note
Pen Carbon notebook with notes on various subjects including the A.W.A. Champion papers (1909-1941) and notes from newspapers (1918-1946).

Box 1, Folder 7  **Research notes undated.**
Scope and Content Note
Pen Carbon notebook with notes on various subjects including the A.W.A. Champion papers (1909-1941), and typed interview transcriptions.

Box 1, Folder 8  **Research notes undated.**
Scope and Content Note
Pen Carbon notebook with notes on various subjects including the A.W.A. Champion papers (1909-1941), the Moroka papers (ca.1952), notes from newspapers (1918-1946), and typed interview transcriptions.