Seymour Lubetzky papers, 1938-2003

Finding aid prepared by Mary Priest, 2015; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé. Processing of this collection was generously supported by the Constantine and Perina Panunzio Endowment for University Archives.

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Title: Seymour Lubetzky papers
Collection number: 1544
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 11.2 linear ft. (8 record cartons and 8 document boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1938-2003
Abstract: Seymour Lubetzky (1898-2003) was a professor in the UCLA School of Library Service (1960-69) and a
descriptive cataloging theorist. The collection consists of subject and correspondence files, lecture notes, and audio tapes
from the 1930s through the 2000s related to Lubetzky's work in cataloging and classification in the Library Information
Science discipline.
Language of Materials: Materials are in English.
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA
Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Creator: Lubetzky, Seymour
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
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Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
Reel-to reel audio materials are present and may need to be digitized prior to use or require special equipment for access.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Seymour Lubetzky Papers (Collection 1544). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young
Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.
Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Processing Information
Finding aid edited by Josh Fiala in 2002. Addition processed by Mary Priest in 2015 in the Center for Primary Research and
Training (CFPRT), with assistance from Jillian Cuellar. Processing of this collection was generously supported by the
Constantine and Perina Panunzio Endowment for University Archives.
UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 2221072
Biography
Seymour Lubetzky was born in a small village, in what is now known as Belarus, on April 28th, 1898. It was there that he
studied literature and languages and worked as a teacher before immigrating to the United States in 1925. Lubetzky
studied languages at UCLA, receiving his bachelor’s degree in 1931. In 1932, the University of California, Berkeley awarded
Lubetzky a master’s degree in German languages and library science. After graduation, Lubetzky worked as a cataloger at
UCLA and began regularly publishing articles on cataloging principles. In 1943, Lubetzky was hired at the Library of
Congress to help process a backlog of books needing to be cataloged. His questioning of the existing cataloging system led
to his publication of several articles including Rules for Descriptive Cataloging and Cataloging Rules and Principles.
Principles from these articles carried into standards for the field and are still used in libraries across the world today,
including the Library of Congress. Lubetzky worked as a professor in the UCLA School of Library Science from 1960-1969,
but continued to be active in the field long after his retirement. His works earned him honors from the American Library
Association including the Melvil Dewey Medal in 1977 and an honorary lifetime membership in 2002. Seymour Lubetzky
was 104 when he died on April 5th, 2003.
Scope and Content
Collection consists of subject and correspondence files, lecture notes, and audio tapes from the 1930s through the 2000s
relating to Lubetzky’s work in cataloging and classification in the Library Information Science discipline.
**Organization and Arrangement**

This collection is organized into the following series:

- Series 1: Original Collection, 1938-1987
- Series 2: Addition, 1929-2002

**Related Material**

Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Audio recording: “Lecture Course on Cataloging and Classification” by Seymour Lubetzky (University Archives Record Series 706). UCLA Library Special Collections, University Archives.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Lubetzky, Seymour--Archives.

University of California, Los Angeles. School of Library Service--Faculty--Archival resources.

Catalogers--United States--Archives.

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**Series 1: Original Collection. 1938-1987.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 1</th>
<th>Institute on Catalogue Code Review, vol.3-11.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: In two black binders.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 1</th>
<th>Drafts of rule revisions.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1</td>
<td>Principles of Descriptive Cataloging.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: Mimeo with data sheets.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Carton 1 | The Library Association: Cataloging Rules Sub-Committee--minutes and memoranda. 1949-1960. |
| Carton 1 | Correspondence and memoranda as UCLA professor at School for Library Service. (?), outgoing and incoming interfiled. 1960-1969. |

| Carton 2 | Audiotapes. no.1-33. Contents not clearly identified; possibly a recording of a conference’s proceedings. |
| Physical Description: 33 Scotch (3M Brand) 7 1/2 inch reel-to-reel. |

| Carton 3 | Drafts and copies of papers by Seymour Lubetzky and others. Also includes some minutes and notes taken at various meetings. 1938-1965. |
| Physical Description: 70 folders. |

| Carton 4 | Various contents. |
| Physical Description: 24 folders. |

| Carton 4 | Specialist in Bibliographic and Cataloging Policy. 1951-1960. |
| Physical Description: 5 folders. |

| Carton 4 | Harvard College Library, working papers. |
| Physical Description: 1 folder. |

| Carton 4 | Rule revisions and office memoranda. |
| Carton 4 | Research notes. |
| Carton 5 | Offprints of articles sent to, collected by Seymour Lubetzky. |
| Physical Description: 2 folders. |

| Carton 5 | Letter to Academic Senate, UCLA. and Bibliography for cataloging course. 1960 1963. |
| Carton 5 | Drafts of memoranda and papers. |
| Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 5 | Miscellaneous notes.  
|          | Physical Description: 2 folders. |
| Carton 5 | Evaluation of Seymour Lubetzky's job performance at Library of Congress.  
|          | Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 5 | Correspondence, marked Private.  
|          | Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 5 | Cataloging Code Revision Steering Committee.  
|          | Physical Description: 11 folders. |
| Carton 5 | The Function of Main Entry in the Alphabetical Catalog.  
|          | Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 5 | Draft of AACRI.  
|          | Physical Description: 6 folders. |
| Carton 6 | Draft of AACRI.  
|          | Physical Description: 3 folders. |
| Carton 6 | British Library Association.  
|          | Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 6 | Various papers and manuals.  
|          | Physical Description: 23 folders. |
| Carton 6 | Syllabi for courses in School of Library Service.  
|          | Physical Description: 31 folders. |
| Carton 7 | Commentary of various library issues by Seymour Lubetzky and others.  
|          | Physical Description: 7 folders. |
| Carton 7 | School of Library Service, UCLA, staff meetings.  
|          | Physical Description: 2 folders. |
| Carton 7 | Recommendation by Seymour Lubetzky for Professor Baughman.  
|          | Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Seymour Lubetzky’s Bio-bibliography.  
|          | Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Draft of lecture presented in British Columbia.  
|          | Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Notes on cataloging projects and issues.  
|          | Physical Description: 4 folders. |
| Carton 7 | School of Library Service, committee notes.  
|          | Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Bibliographic Dimensions in information Control.  
|          | Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Engagements, letters and announcements concerning Seymour Lubetzky's lectures.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | *ETV Newsletter.*  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Faculty Center.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Articles on filing.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Grants, applications for.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Syllabi, class list, and evaluations for cataloging course taught by Seymour Lubetzky at University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science.  
Physical Description: 2 folders. |
| Carton 7 | Institute on Future of Library Education.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | InterLibrary Loans.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Kneller Report Committee, SLS.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Law Librarianship.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Map Librarianship.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Curriculum guidelines for Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS).  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Powellisms.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Library Research Clearinghouse, research.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | San Francisco Lectures.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | Travel.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | School Librarianship.  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
| Carton 7 | *University Bulletin.*  
Physical Description: 1 folder. |
Carton 7  UCLA Library borrowing.
       Physical Description: 1 folder.

Carton 7  MAGLP (Multi-Area Group Library Program).
       Physical Description: 12 folders.

Carton 7  Library Curiosities, includes unpublished version of Seymour Lubetzky's Manual of Descriptive Cataloguing.

Carton 8  MAGLP.
       Physical Description: 2 folders.

Carton 8  Code Revision Committee.
       Physical Description: 3 folders.

Carton 8  Notes, commentaries, memoranda on cataloguing issues and code revision.
       Physical Description: 20 folders.


Language of Material: English

Scope and Content
This series also contains academic journal publications from The Library Quarterly and The Library Journal, files from Lubetzky's time with the Library of Congress, and a number of his published articles.

Organization and Arrangement
Folders arranged alphabetically by subject.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
Reel-to-reel audio materials are present and may need to be digitized prior to use or require special equipment for access.

Box 1, Folder 1  Anglo-American Cataloging Rules. 1966-1967.
Box 1, Folders 2-3  Awards and Honors. 1934-1998.
Box 1, Folder 4  Canadian Committee on Cataloging Principles. 1961.
Box 1, Folder 5  Catalog Code Revisions. 1961-1967.
Box 2, Folder 1  Cataloging Examples. 1967-1972.
Box 2, Folders 2-6  Correspondence. 1939-1992.
Box 3, Folder 2  Department of State Librarian Program Report. 1964-1965.
Box 3, Folders 5-6  Library of Congress. 1943-1960.
Box 5, Folders 1-2,  Library Journals. 1940-1975.
Box 4, Folders 1-5  Manuscript Drafts. 1931-1977.
Box 6, Folder 1,  Manuscript for Cataloging Book. 1969.
Box 5, Folders 3-5  National Park Library System. 1929-1936.
Box 6, Folder 3  Publications. 1940-2000.
Box 6, Folder 4  Research Files. 1940-1977.
Box 7, Folder 1-3,  Study Of Cataloging Program. 1965-1969.
Box 6, Folder 5  Subject Cataloging Institute. 1971.
Box 8, Folder 1  University of Illinois Cataloging Seminar. 1967-1970.
Box 8, Folder 2