Finding aid for the Robert Vosper papers LSC.1024

Processed by Manuscripts Division staff. Additions processed by Krystell Jimenez, 2018.

UCLA Library Special Collections

Online finding aid last updated 2018 November 9.

Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library

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URL: https://www.library.ucla.edu/special-collections
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Title: Robert Vosper papers
Creator: Vosper, Robert
Identifier/Call Number: LSC.1024
Physical Description: 19.2 Linear Feet (14 cartons and 13 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1938-1997
Abstract: Robert Vosper (1913-1994), born in Portland, Oregon, was an educator and librarian at the University of Kansas and UCLA. He served as library director for UCLA from 1961 to 1973. After retiring in 1973, Vosper taught courses at UCLA's School of Library Service, now known as the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. This collection contains his papers, including correspondence and notes relating to professional meetings, committee work, teaching, and writing, as well as personal files containing photographs, a transcript of his oral history, and correspondence.

Language of Material: Materials are primarily in English and French, with small amounts of material in German and Japanese.

Stored off-site. All requests to access special collections material must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Conditions Governing Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE: Open for research. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Conditions Governing Use and Reproduction
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Robert Vosper papers (Collection 1024). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Processing Information
Processed by Manuscripts Division staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé, UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections. Additions processed by Krystell Jimenez in the Center for Primary Research and Training (CFPRT), under the supervision of Angel Diaz, 2018. This collection was processed at the box level.
Collection includes one unprocessed audiocassette.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4233935

Biography
Robert Gordon Vosper was born on June 21, 1913 in Portland, Oregon. He was director of the libraries of the University of Kansas and UCLA. Vosper received his BA and MA in Classics from the University of Oregon in 1937 and 1939, respectively, and his library certificate from UC Berkeley in 1940. He worked as a junior librarian at UC Berkeley (1940-1942) and assistant reference librarian at Stanford University (1942-1944) before coming to UCLA in 1944, where he served as head of the library's acquisitions department (1944-1948), assistant librarian (1948-1949), and associate librarian (1949-1952). He also served as director of libraries for the University of Kansas (1952-1961), after which he returned to UCLA. Vosper served as UCLA library director until his retirement in 1973. He then taught courses at the UCLA School of Library Service and was director of the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA (1966-1981).
During his career, Vosper received numerous awards and served on a number of committees. He was director of the Association of Research Libraries' Farmington Plan Survey (1957-1958), which was a plan developed by research libraries to ensure access to materials regardless of war or other extreme circumstances. Vosper was also known for his opposition to the banning of books during the McCarthy era and for pushing for multilingual sources. In May 1970, Vosper came under pressure to shut down the library due to anti-war protests, but he refused and posted a notice stating the libraries must remain sanctuaries for free access to information. His writings focus on building library collections and various aspects of library planning, as well as improving international cooperation between libraries. He passed away on May 14, 1994 in Los
Angeles, CA.

Scope and Content
This collection contains the papers of Robert Vosper, including correspondence and notes relating to professional meetings, committee work, teaching, and writing. Additional materials include newsletters, meeting minutes and agendas, reports, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, course materials, photographs, and publications written by Vosper. These materials are related to Vosper's involvement in the American Library Association, Council on Library Resources, International Federation of Library Association and Institution, and the Association of Research Libraries, his directorship of the libraries of UCLA, University of Kansas and Clark Library, and his teaching at UCLA's School of Library Service. The personal files contain photographs, a transcript of his oral history, materials related to his employment throughout his career, correspondence, a loyalty oath, civil service exam, transcripts, master's degree exam results, a certificate for Order of the Crown from Belgium, and letters of condolence sent to Loraine Vosper after his passing.

Arrangement
This collection has been arranged at the box level and subjects are arranged in alphabetical order.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
COLLECTION CONTAINS AUDIO MATERIALS: Audio materials in this collection will require assessment and possible digitization for safe access. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Related Materials

Subjects and Indexing Terms
University of California, Los Angeles. Department of Library and Information Science -- Faculty -- Archives.
University of California, Los Angeles. Library
Academic librarians -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archives
Vosper, Robert -- Archives

- **American Library Association (ALA) 1950-1997**
  Scope and Contents
  Contains materials related to Vosper's involvement in ALA, including correspondence and forms for his honorary membership, meeting minutes, conference materials, an officer's manual, and presidential addresses. Other topics addressed include rare books conferences, the Committee on Opportunities for Negro Students, Committee to Aid Italian Libraries, National Library Week, conferences in New York and New Orleans, ALA Publishing Board, the ALA Council on freedom of access, the ALA presidency, and the ALA's international relations.

- **Association of Research Libraries (ARL) 1963-1973**
  Scope and Contents
  Contains materials related to the ARL, including national plans; a university management study; meeting minutes; Society of College, National, and University Libraries materials; and materials on the Federal Relations Committee, higher education legislation, and cataloging.

  Scope and Contents
  Contains materials related to the Clark Library, including copies of the entry for the Clark Library in the Dictionary of Literary Biography and related correspondence, additional correspondence, memos, newspaper clippings, committee reports, newsletters, meeting minutes and agendas, notes on collection development policy, fliers, and invitations to events. Some materials are related to the Center for Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Studies and the Faculty Advisory Committee.
Committees and conferences 1950-1988
Scope and Contents

Correspondence 1959-1993
Scope and Contents
Contains both personal and professional correspondence, including with the chancellor's office and personal correspondence on Vosper's family history. Additional materials includes photographs of libraries on the UCLA campus and a ceremony to present a commemorative plaque to Vosper.

Council of Library Resources (CLR) 1968-1993
Scope and Contents
Contains materials related to Vosper's involvement in the CLR, which is now known as the Council on Library and Information Resources, and includes newsletters, correspondence, memos, meeting minutes, press releases, reports presented to the board, and expenses.

Farmington Plan Survey 1958-1979
Scope and Contents
Contains materials related to Vosper's work on the Farmington Plan Survey, which was an attempt by librarians to ensure access to and preservation of foreign research materials during war, conflict, or other events. The plan was later integrated into the Association of Research Libraries' functions. These boxes include the Farmington Plan Handbook: Revised to 1961 and Abridged, correspondence, reports, surveys, materials for the Farmington Plan subcommittees on Asia, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe, a list of Middle Eastern book dealers, a survey of African materials, newsletters, and a report titled "The Acquisition and Control of Publications from the Middle East."

Government Advisory Committee (GAC) and UNESCO 1970-1977
Scope and Contents
Contains materials related to Vosper's work for the GAC on International Book and Library Programs and their partnership with UNESCO. The GAC worked with the Department of State, U.S. Information Agency and U.S. Agency for International Development on overseas literary and library programs. The materials include correspondence, meeting minutes and agendas, newspaper clippings, reports, pamphlets, meeting transcripts, materials related to ALA panels, executive board meetings, library positions, publications, and materials related to International Book Year 1972 and UN International Scientific Information System.
International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) 1962-1992

Scope and Contents
Includes IFLA materials, consisting of Vosper's IFLA membership, pamphlets, notes, correspondence, council sessions and steering committee minutes, newsletters, bulletins, dues and finances, statutes, copyright materials, and materials on the Vosper Fellows program and IFLA's UNESCO partnership, and photographs.

Personal files 1938-1997

Scope and Contents
Includes materials related to Vosper's personal life, including photographs, membership cards, book orders, his early employment history, pay stubs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, a loyalty oath, job offers, a civil service exam, student transcripts, master's degree exam results, University of Oregon transcript, and a certificate for Order of the Crown from Belgium (1977). Additional materials include Zamorano Club materials, letters of condolence sent to Loraine Vosper following his death, programs for memorial services, and an audiocassette labelled "Vosper" that may be an oral history.

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Reprints and publications 1948-1993

Scope and Contents
Contains reprints and publications by Vosper, including pamphlets on UCLA Library's collections, issues of The Library World and College and Research Libraries, a seminar report on Latin American library materials, and articles in the ACLS newsletter.

UCLA School of Library Service (SLS) 1975-1994

Scope and Contents
Contains materials related to courses Vosper taught at the School of Library Service (SLS) at UCLA, now the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. Materials include correspondence, course schedules, press releases, alumni news and directories, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and materials on the American Library in Paris and British Council Library. Courses that Vosper taught included 400, 461, 230, and 272, as well as some seminars. The correspondence also includes discussions on the decision to merge the SLS with the education department after Chancellor Charles E. Young proposed dismantling the program due to budgetary concerns.

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) 1946-1993

Scope and Contents
Contains materials related to Vosper's work as head UCLA librarian and lectures at UCLA. Materials include Emeriti Affairs Association papers, Academic Senate newsletters, Vosper's UCLA appointment, papers on his replacement by Page Ackerman, pay stubs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, his appointment at the Clark Library, the UCLA Medal award (box 27), sabbatical materials, and newsletters for the UCLA and Clark libraries. Additional materials include correspondence with the Chancellor's Office over the renaming of the now Charles E. Young Research Library and notes on the library's acquisition policies.
University of Kansas 1952-1994

Scope and Contents
Contains materials related to Vosper's work as director of the library at the University of Kansas, including correspondence, newsletters, newspaper clippings, photographs, University of Kansas Alumni Magazine issues for 1957 and 1961, pamphlets, a 1953 issue of California Librarian, The Gamut newsletter, and a catalogue of exhibitions at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library. Also included are materials related to Vosper's Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships, consisting of correspondence, pamphlets, research materials, and ephemera.