**Exercise: Building Collections**

The following are the core collecting areas for the Special Collections and University Archives Department at the University of Oregon Libraries

* Oregon authors
* Intentional communities
* Women’s movement
* Northwest history and culture
* Authors and illustrators of children’s books
* Environmental history
* Northwest photography

For each fictional collection, consider how it fits with the collecting strengths of the UO Libraries Special Collections and University Archives, its degree of historical interest, and the resources that might be required to care for it.

**Collection 1: The Dorothea A. Reginald Postcard Collection**

From 1953 through 1987, Dorothea A. Reginald, a resident of Kansas City, MO vacationed at Cannon Beach on the Oregon Coast each summer and sent postcards to her niece, Veronica Allsnip, in Boston. Ms. Allsnip kept them and would like to donate the collection of 42 postcards to the UO Libraries.

The postcards themselves are common images of Oregon Coast landmarks, widely circulated at the time. Reginald’s lively and vivid text primarily describes vacation activities (hiking, tidepooling) alongside anecdotes of family life.

**Collection 2: The Wyland Smythe Papers**

Wyland Smythe’s novel, *The Oak and the Grass*, an epic account of four generations of a farm family in the Willamette Valley, was shortlisted for the National Book Award in 1953. Smythe (1928-2004) lived his entire life in Philomath, Oregon. Meticulous in his standards, he never produced another published work.

Smythe’s papers include notes, drafts, and proofs of *The Oak and the Grass,* as well as reams of unpublished attempts at a second novel. Smythe never discarded work in case he wished to return to a previous idea, and his nephew describes the collection as ”a garage full” of boxes of paper.

**Collection 3: The Martinez Family Photo Album**

Hector Carlos Martinez moved to Oregon in the 1940s through the *Bracero* program, which brought agricultural laborers to the state from Mexico during World War II. After the war, he married Estella Figueroa, whose family had lived in Oregon for decades, and moved to Salem, where he worked at a local timber mill. In the 1950s, the Martinez family was one of four Latinx families living in the city.

Hector’s grandchildren would like to donate a family album that includes pictures of Hector and Estella’s life in Salem from 1948-1964. They would like the album to be digitized and made widely available to promote Latinx heritage in the state.

**Collection 4: The Sunflower Papers**

Sunflower was an intentional community in Colorado from 1971 through 1978. Founded by former members of Earthlove, a well-known Oregon intentional community (whose papers are held by UO Libraries), Sunflower shared many of the same ideals but was strictly vegan; its members left Earthlove in part due to debates around the keeping of animals for milk and eggs on Earthlove’s farm.

The collection consists of 3 bankers boxes of diverse ephemera including flyers, event posters, meeting minutes, charter drafts, account books, and more.