PRIVATE PAPERS, DONATIONS, SMALL ACCESSIONS

These consist of private papers of faculty members and other scholars affiliated with the University. This rapidly growing collection dates mainly from the 19th and 20th centuries, as papers of private origin remained in the Library's manuscript department when the Archives were reorganized in 1967.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND SPECIAL RECORDS COLLECTIONS

These include e.g. official university publications [Amtsdrucksachen: Vorlesungs- und Personalverzeichnisse, Hochschulführer, Mitteilungsblätter der Universität etc.], campus leaflets [Flugblätter] (since 1961), posters [Plakate und Anschläge] (since 1914), audiovisual materials, students' lecture notes [Vorlesungsnachschriften] (since 1779) and other manuscripts, unprinted dissertations (since 1810), friendship books [Stammbücher] (since 1593), artifacts and other memorabilia.

CHARTERS, DEEDS AND TREATIES, DIPLOMAS (SINCE 1335)

Library

The service library including the Schmidgall Library (a special collection on students' history) is integrated into the University Library's holdings, catalogued in the Library's OPAC system. It is partially available for loan and partially accessible on reserve.

ONLINE SERVICES AND PUBLICATIONS

In 1972 the Archives were among the first in Germany to begin implementing IT, with (since 1997) a comprehensive online holdings overview, and, since 1998, online finding aids based on the "Tübinger System of Text Processing Programs" TUSTEP. The development of online information remains a particular emphasis even since the completion of finding aid digitization in 2007.

Further selected offerings include e.g.: current news about our work, a commemorative annual calendar of the University, publications by users (updated yearly), a bibliography of the University’s history, a student index from 1817-1918, a special bibliography (”The University and National Socialism”), or an A-Z of dates and facts on the University’s history.

OPENING HOURS

Service facilities: Monday – Friday 9:00-12:00 and 14:00-16:00.

Historical reading room [Handschriftenlesesaal] in the Bonatz-Bau of the Library: Monday – Friday 9:00-18:00.

STAFF

Director: ArchDir Dr. Michael Wischnath
Office: Hermann Brunner-Schäfer
Assistant and IT-Support: Irmela Bauer-Klöden
Stacks: Helmer Smidt
Student assistants

MISSION

In compliance with state law [Landesarchivgesetz, 1987] the records of all the University’s corporate bodies, agencies or officers are to be turned over to the Archives’ 30 years after creation. Also, no university records may be discarded without the Archives prior consent. It is the Archives’ primary mission to accession and appraise these materials and preserve, organize, describe and make accessible to the public those that are attributed permanent historical, legal or administrative value. The Archives may also collect any other records and materials pertaining to the University's history, e.g. records of affiliated organizations or personal papers of faculty members. Additional tasks include the provision of historical information to the administration, as well as to others members of the institution or the general public.

Staff at present consists of 3.5 employees.
History

The University Archives [Universitätsarchiv] are as old as the University itself. When the University was established by Count Eberhard the Bearded [Graf Eberhard im Bart] in 1477 with papal permission, the new body was granted a number of important privileges such as self-administration, tax exemptions and autonomous jurisdiction. The documents containing the grants or confirmations of these privileges by subsequent rulers of the Duchy of Württemberg, which were of vital importance to the University’s academic freedom and its independence from city and provincial authorities, were secured along with other valuables (such as the silver treasure [Silberschatz] and cash assets) first in the vestry of the St. George’s Collegiate Church in Tübingen, an then, beginning in 1549, in a vault under the Main Assembly Hall [Alte Aula]. By the mid-eighteen hundreds, however, these documents had lost their original importance, since the University had been completely reorganized and stripped of its traditional privileges during the Napoleonic era and the years thereafter. Therefore in 1865 the Senate, in order to make archival materials more easily accessible to historians, turned over the old Archives and most other University records originating prior to 1750 to the Library. The Archives formed a separate section within the Library’s manuscript collection until they were placed under the control of a professional archivist in 1967. This was done as part of the preparations for the upcoming 500th anniversary celebrations, but was also motivated by the rapidly expanding amount of non-current records throughout the University. Today the holdings amount to approx. 4,800 linear metres.

Emphases

Legal history: The expert opinions [Konsilien] of the Law Faculty (approx. 40 linear metres 1602-1883) are an oft-enused source, not only for legal history, but also for the social history of the 17th and 18th centuries, such as witchcraft research and gender history.

Medical history: A special emphasis in the archival holdings is represented by the medical history files (approx. 1000 linear metres). These include administrative and patient files of the University clinics, which document a century of medical research. Some areas are documented completely, some by use of a representative sample.

Bequests: The University Archives possess record bequests, particularly from the 20th century, from notable representatives of almost all the University’s disciplines

Student history: The archives of individual student societies and fraternities [Verbindungen] are heavily used. The collections, library and records bequest of the Tübingen historian of student life, Georg Schmidgall, comprehensively document student lifestyles from the beginning of the 19th century. The 20th century student movement is represented by a comprehensive leaflets collection.

Binswanger-Archives: The administrative and patient files of the “Bellevue” psychiatric private clinic in Kreuzlingen near Constance (1857-1980) and the records bequest of swiss psychiatrist and existential psychologist Ludwig Binswanger (1881-1966) are a treasure chest not only for medical research, but also for pre-1950 European intellectual history in general, and attract researchers from all over the world.

Selected Holdings

For a more detailed information please refer to our “Beständeübersicht” online.

A State Supervision and Boards of Examiners

State Supervision (1811-1829).

Church and civil service entrance examination boards [Staatliche Prüfungsausschüsse] (1829-1989).

B Administration, Governing Officers and Bodies


Governing bodies: Records include e.g. almost complete series of Senate minutes (since 1524).

General administrative records: These form the most comprehensive record groups, and contain at least some material on most of the diverse university institutions, as well as on most other aspects of academic life, including e.g. matriculation lists (1477-1958), individual student (since 1829), faculty member and staff files (since 1808).


C Faculties (since 1477)

Records include e.g. matriculation lists (1562-1839), records of appointments, degrees conferrals (since 1477), finances, faculty organization and administration, student opinions [Gutachten/Konsilien] of the theological (1519-1918), law (1602-1883) and medical faculties (1600-1918).

D Service Facilities, Seminars and Institutes

With a few exceptions (notably the Library) these record groups contain 19th and 20th century material only. They typically include files on accommodation, finances, staff, and research projects. Papers of individual faculty members are included in numerous cases.

E Clinics

Administrative records may typically include records on accommodation, finance, and staff, but also the papers of individual staff of faculty members. In addition, a large collection of individual patient records (1832-1968) [Krankenblätter/Krankenakten] is available.

F Students

Records comprise e.g. student representation (1821-1972), student welfare organizations [Soziale Einrichtungen] (1898-1982) and fraternities (since 1871).

G Scholarship Foundations (1509-1990)

H Affiliated Organizations and Institutions

Faculty organizations, learned societies (1823-1981). Other university-related bodies, societies and associa-