

Collection Development Policy

AACA Library & Research Center

The AACA Library & Research Center is recognized as a world-renowned resource for the collectible vehicle community, striving to set the standard in celebrating, collecting, preserving and sharing our automotive legacy. Our collection contains books, sales literature, brochures, company documents, owner's booklets, periodicals, service manuals and many more items all relating to the automotive industry and hobby.

The Collection Development Policy outlined below helps AACA Library staff determine if materials a donor wishes to add to our collections meet the Library's goals.

If you are considering donating materials to the AACA Library, we want you to know that we appreciate your interest. We rely on donations to help us build our collections and preserve our shared legacy of transportation and vehicular history.

HOW TO DONATE MATERIALS TO THE AACA LIBRARY

Please contact AACA Library staff before you send or deliver and materials to the Library

Start by reviewing the information in this document. It serves as a guide to the subjects our collections cover and the kinds of materials that best serve the AACA Library's research community.

In order for us to accept a gift of collection materials, the materials must be substantial enough to enhance scholarship in their subject area. We may ask you to describe in writing, with supporting pictures, the contents of your donation before we evaluate it.

What We Collect

The following lists show the types of materials currently held in the AACA Library & Research Center. These lists are not all-inclusive, but they will give you some guidance about the kinds of items we collect.

Material Formats

- Original automotive sales literature
- Owner's Manuals
- Shop Manuals
- Photographs
- Service Bulletins
- Dealer Promotional Material
- Rare Books
- Technical Drawings
- Ephemera such as posters, training aids, models, etc.
- Dealer Data Books
- Fabric & paint sample books
- Historical Research Data
- Personal effects and papers of historical figures from the automotive industry
- Racing programs, guides, media guides, etc.

Our Subject Area Strengths

The AACA Library's holdings are strong in the following areas. We will continue to accept materials from these areas to help make our collections even more comprehensive, but in the case of duplicate material, the best copy will remain in the collection and the duplicate will be sold, traded or discarded.

- Sales literature, American cars & trucks from the 1930s to the present
- Pennsylvania-specific vehicle manufacturers
- Automotive trade periodicals from the 1920s to the present
- General automotive reference books, 1910s to the present
- Fabric and paint samples (American manufacturers), 1950s-1970s
- Owner's Manuals (American manufacturers), 1930s-1990s
- NASCAR programs, photographs and documentation, 1950s-1970s

Subject Areas We'd Like to Develop

We are especially interested in materials that would increase our coverage of the following topics:

- Materials on minorities, diversity & inclusion, 1900s – 1970s, (Automobile Green Books)
- Automotive sales literature, 1800s – 1920s, American & foreign
- Trade periodicals, 1800s – 1910s
- Automotive reference books, 1800s – 1910s
- Foreign sales literature, all dates
- Dealership displays, posters, signs, all dates
- Interactive models and displays
- Early years of AACA (1935-1960)

What we do NOT Collect

- Any periodicals NEWER than 1949
- General repair manuals (Chilton, MoToR, Mitchell, etc)
- Photocopies of original materials
- Materials that are damaged beyond repair, exhibit mold contamination or water damage
- Snapshot photos or slides from car shows
- General scrapbooks

Ownership and Access

As soon as you transfer ownership of your materials to the AACA Library, they become the property of the AACA Library. In return, AACA Library will provide you with an acknowledgement letter describing your donation. We are unable to appraise or suggest a value of any donation. The AACA Library will provide public access to all of the materials in our collection. In most scenarios, material is integrated into the existing AACA collection. In certain instances, reviewed on a case by case basis, material can be placed on our shelves as a separate, distinct collection.

What Happens if a donated item is a duplicate or doesn't fit our collection

If a donated item is a duplicate of a piece already in our collection, we will keep the best example in our collection and sell, trade or discard the duplicate. Items that do not fit our collection will be sold or discarded.

If you have any question about our Collection Development Policy, please contact our Library Director, Chris Ritter.