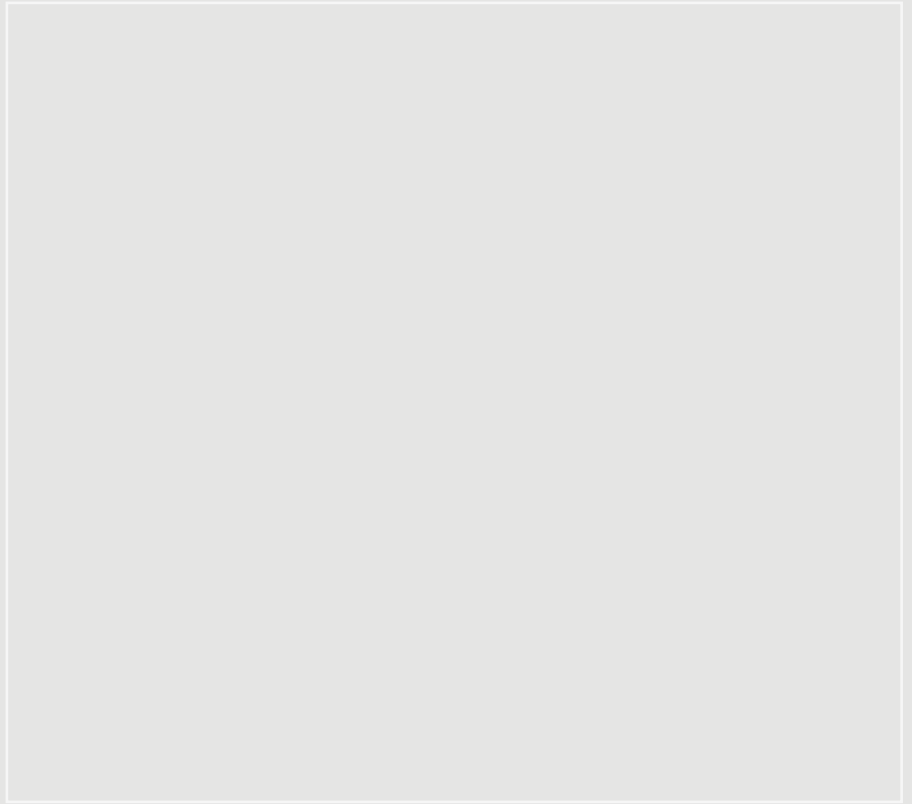


THINKING OF THE WORLD

FAST TRACK: A guide for researchers



How to search our holdings
and request access



Are you new to the SFU Archives?

www.sfu.ca/archives

People and organizations create and keep letters, diaries, financial accounts, reports, photographs, audio recordings, films, and an endless variety of other materials in various media and formats.

When a body of material comes to the SFU Archives, the archivist keeps it together under the name of the organization or person that created it. That is to say, by its provenance.

The archivist arranges the records according to the original order in which the creator kept them. Provenance and original order preserve the evidential value and context of the records. For example, if a letter dated 30 years ago is found with notes for a book published ten years later, a researcher might be able to deduce that the letter was used in the research for the book.

An archival fonds is made up of the records naturally created and kept by a person or an organization in the course of its day-to-day activities. A collection is just an artificial assembly of materials brought together on a subject. While useful, collections might not have the same evidential value as archives. Our holdings contain both fonds and collections.

Since archives are not arranged by subject but by provenance, start

What is a finding aid?

A finding aid describes each archival fonds or collection. An introductory section provides context for the records through a brief history of the organization or a short biographical sketch, and describes the records in general terms.

If the records still look useful to you, follow the links to the

