

Updated November 17, 2014

Woody Guthrie Center Archives Collection Development Policy:

Mission Statement of the Woody Guthrie Center:

The Woody Guthrie Center is dedicated to preserving Woody Guthrie's body of work and celebrating his life and the continuation of his legacy. As an educational facility, we provide resources to students, teachers, and academics about Woody's important role in American history and his advocacy for social justice.

Woody Guthrie Archives:

Vision:

We inspire creative social change by providing access to the life and legacy of Woody Guthrie.

About:

The archives at the Woody Guthrie Center are an international research destination maintained and managed by a nationally certified archivist. This is the largest collection of Woody Guthrie primary resource materials in the world. The archives' vault is a state-of-the-art facility that is both climate controlled and protected from natural disasters. Our research area is equipped with two research workstations to accommodate in-depth study, and we make every effort to work around individual researchers personal schedules and needs.

Guidelines for Selection for Inclusion to the WGC Archives:

Stemming from the Mission Statement of the Woody Guthrie Center, the Archives preserves records, manuscripts, and artifacts of enduring historical research value related to the life, literary, and artistic works of Woody Guthrie. This includes research on Huntington's chorea an illness that affected Woody Guthrie and his family, the works of artists who have and do inspire social change, and those directly inspired and/or affected by the life of Woody Guthrie.

In addition, the Archives will make every effort to direct potential donors whose collections fall outside our collection scope to the most suitable institution for their materials.

We will not accept "White Elephants" (materials we do not feel we can care for properly).

Criteria for New Acquisitions:

Primary Resources Collected

Subjects:

- Political materials related to the life of Woody Guthrie, the subjects and/or topics in his songs, and artistic works
- Original artwork/s contemporary to the life of Woody Guthrie created by Guthrie, his family, close friends and creative partners
- Original manuscripts, photographs, media, sound recordings, film, correspondences, artifacts and realia created and/or used by Guthrie, his family, close friends and creative partners
- Published and unpublished creative works produced about Woody Guthrie by his contemporaries
- Research materials and papers produced by recognized scholars of Woody Guthrie's life and its effects on social change, music and art
- Artist's papers and produced materials of those who have been affected by Woody Guthrie's life and works and/or who also **work (ed) to promote social change and advocacy** - directly related to the genre of music Woody Guthrie produced and/or his social values

Formats:

We reserve the right to refuse any format that we do not feel we can properly ensure proper preservation. This is up to the discretion of the archivist.

- Paper, fabric, and other organic material
- film and negatives, glass plate negatives, daguerreotypes, cyanotypes, tin types, photographic prints
- Musical instruments
- Sound recordings (all formats)
- Film and video (all formats)
- Digital files (we prefer pdf documents for text files and at least 300 dpi tiff for digital images, .wav for sound and .mov or .avi for video)
- Paper documents
- realia

Secondary Resources/Research Library Materials

The scope of secondary materials collected will be limited to works produced which are directly related to the life of Woody Guthrie, his creative works, and/or his family, close friends and creative partners.

In addition to this, the Archives collects materials related to Huntington's chorea, an illness that affected Woody Guthrie and his family. This may include, but is not limited to, information on current research and public outreach about this illness.

Subjects:

- New discoveries about historical subjects in Woody's creative works
- Creative works produced about Woody Guthrie, as a subject, which have enduring historical research value
- Research and outreach about Huntington's chorea
- Works produced with materials from the Woody Guthrie Archives or inspired by writings and creative endeavors by Woody Guthrie his family, close friends and creative partners

Formats:

- Paper, fabric, and other organic material
- Film, video and negatives, dv tape, CDS, DVDS
- Musical instruments
- Sound recordings (all formats)
- Digital files (we prefer pdf documents for text files and at least 300 dpi tiff for digital images)
- Digital recordings both audio and visual
- Oral Histories

Contacting the Archives about a donation:

Please contact **Kate L. Blalack** (kate@woodyguthriecenter.org), Archivist, at the Woody Guthrie Center for questions concerning a donation.

For more information on donating your personal papers for research please see **The Society of American Archivists** brochure on *Donating Your Personal or Family Records to a Repository*:

(<http://www2.archivists.org/publications/brochures/donating-familyrecs>).