Special Collections & Archives is open to all. Visitors from outside Goldsmiths should make an appointment to view material. Goldsmiths students and staff members may access the collection without an appointment during opening hours.

Term time: Mon-Fri, 10-6, until 7 on Wed
Deac Rossell Collection

A substantial collection on cinema compiled by Deac Rossell and donated by him to the Library in 2008. It is wholly international in scope, containing predominantly post-1950 material, including many reference works, on the history of motion pictures.

The collection has both diversity and depth. There are significant holdings on several topics, including animated films, documentary, studio histories, British cinema, Asian cinemas, Indian cinema, Arab cinema and black films and filmmaking of all types including African-American cinema and African national cinemas. Within these thematic groups, the few English-language histories or director studies are mostly present, sometimes backed up with substantial works in other languages; a feature of most of these themes are monographs on individual filmmakers from small publishers and/or unusual sources. There is also a group of film festival catalogues from the 1980s and 1990s, where there are often significant essays on national cinemas or current productions which have never been published in book form - such as the excellent writing on Hong Kong films and filmmakers from the elaborate catalogues published by the film festival in that city. Extensive filmographies can be found in the collection of directories and festival programmes from around the world. There are more than 500 books in total and around 1,000 pamphlets and programmes. There are also 10 manuscripts, including that of Deac Rossell’s work “Living pictures: origins of the movies”, 1996.

The collection will be of interest to students and researchers in anthropology, drama, history, literature, sociology, and music as well as media and visual cultures.

Deac Rossell is Lecturer in European Studies in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is the former Head of Programme Planning at the National Film Theatre, London, and was National Special Projects Officer for the Directors Guild of America in Hollywood, California. He has worked at the UCLA Film and Television Archive, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and at the Boston Phoenix and Boston Globe. He has taught at Tufts University, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, and the European Film School in Ebeltoft, Denmark. The author of books on the invention of moving pictures, the chronophotographer Ottomar Anschütz, and the magic lantern, he is an active contributor to journals, encyclopaedias and conferences on photography, early cinema and pre-cinematic topics, with work published in Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United States.

Searching

The books of the Rossell Collection are on the library catalogue (libra.gold.ac.uk). A search with the collection code RSL will allow you to retrieve all items or to search within the collection.

The pamphlets and film festival catalogues are listed separately. Please contact Special Collections & Archives staff for details.