The Elmer L. Andersen Research Scholars Program supports scholarly research projects using materials from the Libraries’ rare and special collections. Named for former governor and University of Minnesota regent Elmer L. Andersen, the new program honors the Governor’s passion for collecting and for expanding the use of the collections. The Research Scholars program is available to scholars including faculty, graduate, post-graduate, and independent researchers using the collections in the Department of Archives and Special Collections. This program is not available to currently enrolled University of Minnesota graduate or undergraduate students or UM faculty.

The program will provide annual support for up to two research projects that require use of one or more of the collections. Awards range from $500 to $2,000 and provide funds for travel, housing and other research related costs. The final research product (e.g., journal article, documentary film) must acknowledge the Libraries’ support and be deposited with the University Libraries.

“What nobler purpose can there be for a University than to gather up the prizes of a culture - preserve them, propagate them, make them available so that the best of what has gone before can be preserved and built on.”

Elmer L. Andersen

Applications should include the following:

- Cover letter that provides a detailed project description, placing the project in the context of its larger field of study and describing the anticipated result of the project (e.g. journal article, book, edited volume, etc.). The narrative should articulate the anticipated use of the University Libraries collections with reference to specific collections to be used and their relevance to the project.
- The applicant’s curriculum vitae
- Two letters of recommendation
- A budget with estimates of related costs

About the collections:
The University of Minnesota Libraries Archives and Special Collections contain diverse holdings from clay tablets to documentation of the history of information technology, from children’s literature to University records, from the literary and performing arts to gay and lesbian culture. Complete description of the collecting areas at http://special.lib.umn.edu/.

Application deadline: September 30, 2011
Award announcement: November 14, 2011
Research must be completed: December 30, 2012

Send application to:
Director of Archives and Special Collections
University of Minnesota Libraries
305 Elmer L. Andersen Library
222 21st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN  55455

Andersen Horticultural Library
Horticulture, botany, natural history, landscape architecture

Charles Babbage Institute
History of information technology and computing

Children’s Literature Research Collection
Internationally recognized resource includes Kerlan Collection and Hess Collection

Givens Collections of African American Literature
Literature, biography, social science, and art

James Ford Bell Library
Rare books, maps, and manuscripts from ca. 40 to ca. 1800 documenting the history and impact of international trade

Kautz Family YMCA Archives
Extensive program information on religion, education, physical education, sports, and leisure from 1850s to 1960s

Manuscripts Division
Performing Arts Archives, Northwest Architectural Archives, and Upper Midwest Literary Archives

Social Welfare History Archives
Archives of voluntary sector social service and social reform organizations and personal papers of leaders in the field

Special Collections and Rare Books
Rare books, fine printing and bindings, and numerous special collections, including the Sherlock Holmes Collections

Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Studies
Books, archives, and a variety of media and artifacts reflecting GLBT history and culture in Minnesota and around the world

University Archives
Historical and legal documents of the University of Minnesota

Upper Midwest Jewish Archives
Institutional and organizational holdings of the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest

Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine
Rare books and manuscripts dating from the early 1400s to 1920

For more information: http://special.lib.umn.edu/