Special Collections-

Located on the fourth floor of the Belk Library & Information Commons, the Special Collections consists of Four major components: Appalachian Collection, Stock Car Racing Collection, University Archives & Records, Rare books and Manuscripts.

The Appalachian Collection has more than 37,000 volumes of books, maps, movies and magazines all relating to the Appalachian region. Folklore, music, religion, genealogy, fiction, African American and Native Appalachia are all gathered here.

The Stock Car Racing Collection contains books, magazines, and videos, as well as clippings, photographs, race programs, press kits, and other stock car racing material. Did you know Stock car racing was started by moonshiners in the mountains?

The University Archives and Records collects, manages, preserves, and shares the University records and publications with enduring historical value. In essence, it is the keeper of the words, images, and sounds that tell the story of life at Appalachian from its founding in 1899 right up to the present day. The University Archives houses not only the official records gathered from offices and departments but also student life collections donated by students and alumni.

The fourth area is rare books and manuscripts- These collections cover subjects such as British history, Beat poetry, psychology and historical children's literature. Our collections include a 1587 copy of Holinshed's Chronicles, the source Shakespeare used in his history plays.

Special Collections’ staff are available to help-please feel free to ask us! This is a quiet study area, however, and we do not allow cell phone use. Because many of our collections are unique or rare, we ask that no food or drinks are used in the collections. Visit Special Collections to discover the library’s treasures, as well as enjoy the best view of campus!