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 support for 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 https://www.lib.umn.edu/special.

Application deadline: September 25, 2015
Award announcement: November 13, 2015
Research must be completed: December 31, 2016

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

For more information:
https://www.lib.umn.edu/special/archives-and-special-collections-web-pages