

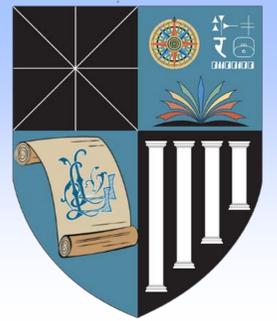


CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

LEATHERBY LIBRARIES

Valuing People, Valuing Spaces: Connecting with Community

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Introduction

Chapman University's Leatherby Libraries is engaged in a long-term strategy to promote diversity and enhance cultural awareness. Using a team centered approach, members from our Arts, Exhibits, and Events Committee, with expertise in marketing, special collections, and displays, along with members of library administration, work together to show our commitment to valuing people and spaces.

The library demonstrates the value of people by engaging with groups who are often marginalized in our local community. We have reached out to Jews and Syrians from the Middle East, Taiwanese and Sikhs from Asia, U.S. war veterans and families, and Latin American, Mexican American, Native American, and Italian community members.

The library values spaces, both physical and online, through the display of diverse artwork, creation of didactic exhibits and displays, creation of educational story rooms, and conversion of library space to permanent exhibition and learning places.

The library provides venues and events for members of our community to share their cultural heritage and diversity with Chapman University students, staff, and faculty. Through carefully curated events and displays and the development of our special collections and archives, the library promotes our socially just perspective of encouraging understanding of local communities.



Native American artifacts, Frank Mt. Pleasant Library of Special Collections & Archives.

Valuing People

Connecting with people is a fundamental value in our library. Whether the people are directly connected to Chapman University, such as the students and community members studying below in one of our reading rooms, or they are invited guests from the Syrian community, the Leatherby Libraries demonstrates our commitment to valuing people by promoting cultural, historical, and contemporary understanding of diversity issues.



Students and community members studying in the Doy and Dee Henley Reading Room under the watchful eye of the Pensamientos Art Exhibit.



Members of the Chapman community converse with Syrian guests prior to the library-sponsored event, "A Country Called Syria," which highlighted cultural, historical, and contemporary issues involved in Syria and the Middle East.

Valuing Spaces

The Leatherby Libraries demonstrates the value of space in group study rooms found throughout the library and in the Center for American War Letters Archives room.



The Mendez et al vs. Westminster et al group study room on the 3rd floor of the library.



A student conducting research in the Center for American War Letters Archives.



The Italian Heritage Archives group study room highlights Italian culture.

Connecting with Community



Members of the Sikh community attending "1984" which commemorates an important historical event in Sikh history.



Two members of the Taiwanese delegation during the "Enchanting Taiwan" photography exhibit.



"Portrait of a Jewish People" display with members of the Chapman University and Jewish community actively engaged in learning about Jewish cultural artifacts.

Conclusion

Engaging our community through thoughtful events, displays, exhibits, art, and presentations provides an avenue for the Leatherby Libraries to instill and develop a respect for people, culture, and spaces.