

Sources for the study of the relationship of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the University of California

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1912

Negotiations began for the transfer of the assets of the Marine Biological Association of San Diego to the University of California in 1912, although the two organizations were closely associated from the very beginnings of the MBASD.

The following manuscript collections at Scripps Archives have material relative to this transfer:

SIO Biographical Files (Archival Collection AC 5) includes files of correspondence s.v. Scripps, E.W. and Scripps, Ellen Browning giving their views about the transfer of property and affiliation of the MBASD with UC.

SIO Subject Files (Archival Collection AC 6) includes files s.v. MBASD, and Property relevant to the transfer of the property.

Minutes of the Marine Biological Association of San Diego (Accession 81-40) includes discussion of the transfer.

Records of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 1912-1923 (Accession 81-41) includes documentation of the negotiations and transfer

Charles A. Kofoid Papers (Accession 82-71) includes correspondence between Kofoid, who was Assistant Director of the MBASD as well as Chair of the Berkeley Zoology Department and William E. Ritter and others negotiating the transfer on behalf of the MBASD.

William E. Ritter Papers (Manuscript Collection MC 4) includes correspondence exchanged by Director Ritter with UC President Wheeler, the UC Regents, etc. on the transfer

Certainly, additional documentation of the UC side of the negotiations will be found in Records of the President (CU-5, Series 1) at Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley and in the Records of the Regents (CU-1) at the Bancroft Library and in historical records still in the hands of the Secretary of the Regents. Bancroft Library also holds an extensive collection of personal papers of William E. Ritter which may contain more information on the transfer. Folder lists for these collections can be found on the UC California Digital Library's Online Archives of California.

1954-1960

There is a great deal of information on the developing relationship of SIO/UCSD among the early records of the founders of the university and the directors of Scripps. Some of these collections are at Scripps Archives, and others at the UCSD Archives in the Mandeville Special Collections Library of the UCSD Libraries.

At Scripps Archives

Roger Revelle Papers (MC 6 and MC 6A)

SIO Office of the Director (Revelle) (Accession 81-23)

SIO Office of the Director (Nierenberg) (Archival Collection AC-2) Material under the heading “Relationship of SIO with University of California” and under “Reorganization of SIO” in Box 91 of this collection. Take a good look at this collection, there is a lot of rich information under a lot of headings.

SIO Staff Council Records, 1958-1998 (Archival Collection AC22) includes some interesting documents in Box 2 in a bound volume entitled, “Minutes of Meetings, 1958-1964” when the UCSD Faculty Senate was formed and there were discussions of the relationship between Scripps and UCSD.

Fred Noel Spiess Papers (Accession 2000-15, et. al) Spiess was Director of SIO after Roger Revelle’s departure and until Nierenberg’s appointment. He dealt with administrative issues that cropped up between 1960-1964.

At UCSD Archives

UCSD Campus Expansion Files, 1951-1964 (RSS-3) These were Roger Revelle’s files as Chief Campus Officer UCSD (he was never chancellor). Material on the acquisition of the UCSD campus land, land deals, etc.

UCSD Chancellor's subject files, 1958-2000 (RSS-1) This collection includes Chancellor York’s records, and it is worth reading his files on Scripps.