

Walter P. Reuther Library
Wayne State University Archives
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Wayne State University
Walker and Gertrude Cisler Library Records
1 linear foot (1 SB)
1964-1971, bulk 1969-1971

Finding aid written by Meghan McGowan on November 25, 2014

Accession Number: WSR000341

Creator: Walker and Gertrude Cisler Library

Acquisition: Donated to Reuther Library on September 4, 1974.

Language: Material primarily in English, with some correspondence and articles in German.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*.

Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

Notes: Citation style: “Wayne State University, Walker and Gertrude Cisler Library, Box 1, Folder [#], University Archives, Wayne State University.”

Abstract

Walker L. Cisler, chairman of the board for Detroit Edison, financially supported the foundation of The Walker and Gertrude Cisler Library, which was created by the Walker and Gertrude Cisler Library Foundation in 1970. The library was housed in the Charles Grosberg Religious Center on Wayne State University's campus and worked to sponsor research, lectures, and conferences about religion and social conflict. The founders believed that with education about religion came tolerance of others and a decrease in social conflict. The library collection focused heavily on the Holocaust, the role and response of religion in war and peace, religion and the labor movement, and religion and civil rights.

The library was directed by Burt Wolf and Reverend James Lyons and sponsored events such as Areas of Hope in a Divided World Conference with the Center for Teaching about War and Peace in 1970, as well as the Scholars Conference of the German Church Struggle in 1971.

This collection primarily contains documents created by the library itself, including conference materials and library collection goals. Additionally, this collection holds the documents related to the creation of the library on Wayne State University's campus, in addition to the original project proposals for the library. These records also contain some meeting minutes of the Walker and Gertrude Cisler Library Foundation, as well as their by-laws. Finally, this collection contains some editions of radical conservative publications: the National Renaissance Bulletin and the Liberty Letters. Additionally, this collection has some editions of Common Sense published by the Christian Educational Association.

Important Subjects:

Civil rights
Christian conservatism – United States
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
Radicalism
Religious libraries
Religious studies
Social conflict

Important Names:

Disser, Kathleen
Cisler, Walker L. (Walker Lee), 1987-1994
Charles Grosberg Religious Center
Grosberg, Charles
Lyons, James
Wayne State University
Wolf, Burt

Arrangement

Materials in the collection are grouped by subject and arranged chronologically thereunder.

Box 1

1. Summer programs, 1966-1970
2. Letters sent to donors, 1970
3. Pamphlets about archives, circa 1969
4. Correspondence, 1969-1971
5. Grosberg Religious Center staff, 1970-1971
6. United Ministries in Higher Education, 1970-1971
7. Correspondence, Wolf, Burt, 1970-1971
8. Foundation information, 1971
9. Project '74, 1971
10. Conference speeches, 1970
11. Newsletters, 1970-1971
12. Religious publications, 1970-1971
13. Conference script, 1971
14. Finances, 1969-1971
15. Kresge Foundation proposal, 1970-1971
16. Desired books and research interests, circa 1966-1970
17. Areas of Hope in a Divided World, conference, 1970
18. Institute for Religious and Social Conflict, n.d.
19. Microfilm equipment and 3M Company, 1970
20. Donors and donations, 1970
21. Board meeting minutes and agendas, 1969-1970
22. Proposal for theological library, n.d.
23. Planning and development for library, 1966-1969
24. Blueprints, 1967-1970
25. German academies, 1970
26. Incorporation of Walker and Gertrude Cisler Library Foundation into the Charles Grosberg Religious Center, 1964-1970
27. Concord Communications Systems, 1970
28. Insurance information, 1970
29. Cisler Library dedication, 1970
30. Correspondence with Scholar Conference participants, 1970-1971
31. Contract for occupying space at University Center Building, 1971
32. Opening dinner for Church Struggle and Holocaust Scholar Conference, 1971
33. Mailing list for Scholar Conference on the German Church Struggle, 1969-1970
34. Program for Scholar Conference on the German Church Struggle, 1971
35. Newsletter mailing list and correspondence, 1970-1971
36. Advertising and publicity for Scholar Conference, 1970
37. Pre-conference correspondence, 1969-1971
38. Requests for manuscripts and speeches from 1970 conference, 1970-1971

39. Donation and expenditure record keeping book
40. National Renaissance Bulletin, 1971
41. Common Sense publication, Christian Educational Association, 1970-1971
42. Liberty Letter and Liberty Lobby, 1970-1971