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and Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon State College), then came to the University where he earned a master's degree in history.

Richard then taught public school in California for several years before taking a sabbatical to return to Eugene and earn a second master's degree, this time in library science.

His work in the University library and special collections department as part of his second round of graduate studies inspired a major occupational shift for Richard: "I decided to get into this line of work and out of full-time teaching."

Richard spent one year as librarian and archivist at Eastern Oregon State College in La Grande before assuming custodianship of the University Archives in the fall of 1972.

When Richard first became archivist, the treasures of the Fenton Hall rooms excited him. "But as time went by, I got used to their presence," he says.

Today, Richard says he more or less takes archive material for granted — but not completely. "I still think of them as great pieces of memorabilia."

"Fortunately, the early University people had a sense of history," Richard says, explaining how pioneer faculty and staff members saved records and papers for the benefit of future generations.

Future University archivists, faculty and students will benefit from Richard's "sixth sense" of history: a sense that manifests itself in the care of an estimated 12,000 cubic feet of material representing the history of the University of Oregon.



University archivist Keith Richard spends his working day surrounded by University memorabilia.

Photo by Hank Trotter

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