College Undergraduate Slang Study Records (C4589)

Collection Number: C4589

Collection Title: College Undergraduate Slang Study Records

Dates: 1967-1968

Creators: Baker, Collin F., III, 1947-
Ladd, D. Robert, Jr., 1947-
Robb, Thomas N., 1947-

Abstract: Surveys and results of a language study conducted by linguistic students at Brown University in 1967 and 1968 on the usage of slang.

Collection Size: 0.75 cubic feet
(21 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@sh smo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor’s works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] College Undergraduate Slang Study Records (C4589); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The materials were donated to the University of Missouri by D. Robert Ladd, Jr., in November 1993 (Accession No. CA5374) and in February 1994 (Accession No. CA5403).

Processed by: Aleksandra Kinlen, July 12, 2023
Historical Note:

The College Undergraduate Slang Study (C.U.S.S.) was conducted jointly by three linguistics majors—Collin F. Baker, III; D. Robert Ladd, Jr.; and Thomas N. Robb—at Brown University between 1967 and 1968. Questionnaires were sent to 23 colleges, predominantly in the northeastern United States, and consisted of 101 definitions designated by a letter and a two-digit number. Responders were asked to provide slang equivalents for the definitions, which were then compiled by the three researchers. The final written product of the study is not present in this collection but is discussed in Julie Coleman 2010 work *A History of Cant and Slang Dictionaries: Volume IV, 1937-1984* (p. 196-198).

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Surveys

Results

Scope and Content Note:

Surveys

This series contains approximately 375 completed slang questionnaires eventually analyzed by Baker, Ladd, and Robb and are arranged alphabetically by university of respondent. There are also completed surveys marked as “not used” by the researchers, also arranged alphabetically. *Note: Pembroke College responses are filed with Brown University.*

Results

This series includes compiled answers from the surveys, above, as well as two examples of computer punch cards used in the study and one example of the questionnaire cover sheet.

Container List:

f. 1-20          Surveys
   f. 1            University of Alabama
   f. 2            Boston University
   f. 3            Brandeis University
   f. 4            Brown University
   f. 5            Connecticut College
   f. 6            Cornell University
   f. 7            Dartmouth College
   f. 8            Emmanuel College
   f. 9            University of Massachusetts
   f. 10           Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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   f. 13           Smith College
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