The University Archives, established in 1968 by Tuskegee Institute (University) President Luther Foster, is the repository of the historically valuable records of Tuskegee University. The holdings of the Archives document the growth of the institution from a small rural vocational school in 1881 to the comprehensive university it is today.

Resulting from the efforts of Monroe N. Work (1866-1945), the Archives is an outgrowth of the Department of Records and Research. In 1908, Work founded the Department of Records and Research, where he amassed one of the largest and most comprehensive newspaper clipping files in America, including 188 file cabinets containing approximately 550,000 items. Work’s efforts resulted in the compilation of the *Lynching Records* (1881-1953), *Race Relations Reports* (1954-63), *The Negro Year Book* (1912-51) and the *Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America* (1928).

Upon Work’s retirement as director of the department in 1939, sociologist Ralph N. Davis, his assistant, continued Work’s legacy of collecting, analyzing and disseminating materials relating to all aspects of the black experience, with particular emphasis on the role of Tuskegee University. Following Davis in 1944, sociologist and civil rights pioneer, Charles Gomillion (1900-1995), was the interim director until 1946 when he was replaced by Jessie P. Guzman.

Guzman (1898-1996) was dean of women (1938-1944) at Tuskegee University until her appointment as director of the Department of Records and Research, where she continued the work of her predecessors in documenting the lives of African-Americans and maintaining Tuskegee’s comprehensive lynching records. A professor of history, Guzman helped to compile and edit two volumes of the *Negro Yearbook* (1947 and 1952). The author of numerous articles and pamphlets, she also wrote *Crusade for Civic Democracy: The Story of the Tuskegee Civic Association, 1941-1970*, which was published in 1983. Guzman completed her tenure as director in 1963 and the collections remained under the care of the Tuskegee University Library.

Interestingly, from 1963 until 1968, the records from the Department of Records and Research were split between the library (books, pamphlets, etc.) and the Behavioral Science Department. Behavioral Science was responsible during the 1970s for placing on microfilm the Tuskegee Institute Newspaper Clippings File and the George Washington Carver Papers.
In 1968, the Department of Records and Research was renamed the Tuskegee University Archives and Daniel Williams was appointed the university archivist. It was during this time that the collections under the Behavioral Science Department were returned to the Archives. Williams excelled as a collector. During his 30-year tenure, he amassed many diverse collections, all pertaining to Tuskegee University and African-Americans in general. Williams, known for his vast knowledge of all things Tuskegee, authored many in-house documents and compiled the useful volume *Eight Negro Bibliographies*. Daniel “Danny” Williams retired from the Archives in 1999.

Beavers Wilson, an assistant under Williams, served as coordinator of Archives and Museum while reporting to the director of the Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics and the director of Library Services. Under Wilson’s watchful eye, the existing collections were maintained and the archives continued to grow. Wilson saw the archives through two important events, the initial move of the archives from the library to Drew Hall (a converted student residence building) in 1999 and from Drew Hall to the Bioethics Building (formerly John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital) in 2005. Furthermore, she was assigned the responsibility for the design and location of the Archives in the renovated Bioethics Building. In 2005, the Archives and Museum component was temporarily closed for reorganization.

After reorganization, the Tuskegee University Archives was placed directly under the oversight of the director of Library Services, Juanita Roberts, and was re-opened April 1, 2009. Dana Chandler was subsequently appointed university archivist in August of the same year. Receiving researchers and visitors daily, the Archives continues in the tradition of its predecessors. The Archives provides information services that assist the operation of the institution, and serves as a resource to stimulate and nourish creative teaching and learning, especially by utilizing technology in ways that support its mission. The Archives serves researchers and scholars by making available to and encouraging the use of its collections by members of the community at large.