The Luisa Moreno Labor Studies Collection
A resource resulting from collaboration between the SCL and DHLI

Who We Are:

The Dolores Huerta Labor Institute (DHLI) is the first institute of its kind created to educate community college students about labor issues and history. It develops learning opportunities that allow many of the 130,000 students attending the nine campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) to learn about the political, social and cultural impact of work, the public and private policies that govern employment, the practice of democracy in the workplace and society and the significance of the labor movement.

The DHLI develops educational tools that inform and better prepare students for the workforce and social justice efforts. It offers teaching resources for faculty, classes, special lectures, film series, workshops and seminars, and internships for students.
With these educational resources, students will leave the LACCD colleges well-informed and better prepared for the workforce.

The Southern California Library (SCL) is a community cultural and educational institution in South Los Angeles founded over forty years ago.

The Library holds in-depth archives on the histories of community change in Los Angeles - the stories of how people have collectively struggled for justice in their neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and communities. The histories the Library documents and preserves are primarily of communities marginalized from the dominant telling of history.

The Library shares the lessons of this history through art and cultural expression, programs like book readings and panels, and a rich collection of books, periodicals, posters, photographs, audiovisual materials, and archival collections. The Library makes these resources available so that students, educators, artists, authors, activists, and community residents can use the stories held in its collections to address challenges we face today.

The Project:

The SCL and the DHLI collaborated to create a collection of materials that can support the labor studies programs of the Los Angeles Community College District and other educational institutions. The collection will be primarily used by labor union members and staff, community college students, and faculty members, and will be housed at the Southern California Library. This project is made possible by a grant from the Diane Middleton Foundation.

We welcome your suggestions and input. Please join us in this partnership by:

- Suggesting materials for the collection
- Donating materials for the collection
- Participating in related programs and events
- Promoting the collection in your courses
- Bringing your class on a Library tour (call for tour rates)

For more information about the Library’s programs and resources, please contact Rukshana Singh, Librarian, at rukshana@socallib.org or (323) 759-6063, ext. 16. For more information about the DHLI’s programs, please contact Kenadi Le, Program Coordinator, at kle@dhli.org or (213) 763-7152.
What the Library Holds

The Library’s collections span the breadth of social and political movements in Los Angeles—from labor, civil rights, education, and housing, to immigration, war and peace, and civil liberties—and include over 400 manuscript collections, as well as books, periodicals, subject files, pamphlets, posters, photographs, films, audiotapes, and more.

You can find a brief listing highlighting some of our extensive labor collections below. You can also find descriptions of some of our collections online through the Library’s website, www.socallib.org, or through the Online Archive of California, www.oac.cdlib.org.

Selected Archives

KIWA collection: papers of the Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates, which has effectively used new strategies to fight for poor, immigrant workers.

Hollywood Studio Strike collection: covers events and people in the U.S. film industry who were denied employment because of their political beliefs during the McCarthy era.

Los Angeles Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born: an organization active during the height of McCarthyism devoted to preserving the democratic ideals of equality by defending the rights and liberties of immigrants.

Farm Workers Collection: documents the fight for fair wages and decent living conditions for farm workers in the U.S.

Julius Mel Reich Archives: contains records from local and international unions, the major confederations (CIO and AFL), and political organizations; includes newsletters, strike leaflets, correspondence, contracts, constitutions, cartoons, illustrations, pamphlets, and other ephemera.
Selected Films

- Salt of the Earth (1953)
- Justice for Janitors Eye Witness (1990)
- The Wobblies (1979)

Selected Periodicals and Ephemera

- Pamphlets of Congress of Industrial Organizations; the Industrial Workers of the World; the International Ladies Garment Workers’ Union; the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America
- Labor Herald (1945-1951)
- Los Angeles Citizen (1912-1982)
- Unemployed Vigilante (1934)
- Voice (1976-1996)