The Hoole Library book collection numbers more than 40,000 titles. Areas of particular strength include:

The Alabama Collection is a recognized significant collection of published Alabamian and strives to build a comprehensive collection of books by Alabamians, about Alabama and aspects of Alabama, and/or published in the state of Alabama to document the unique cultural and historical experience of Alabama.

The David Walker Lupton African American Cookbook Collection consists of over four hundred and fifty titles from 1827, when the first book with recipes by an African American was published. Since the donation in 2000, new titles within the scope of the collection have been added.

The Wade Hall Collection of Southern History and Culture is a continuing gift of published materials on the literature, music, and popular culture of the South. It includes an extensive collection of sheet music, recorded sound, and Southern literature from the 19th through the 21st century.

The Confederate Imprints Collection, publications produced between April 1861 and April 1865 in the Confederate States, includes more than 1100 imprints. Many are previously unknown.

The Book Arts Collection includes fine press, small press, and other examples of artists’ books. It supports the MFA Program in the Book Arts in the School of Library and Information Studies at The University of Alabama.

The Rare Book Collection broadly supports the teaching and research of The University of Alabama. In addition to meeting users’ research needs, the collection is used in bibliographic instruction to illustrate the history of the book and to teach the link between the text and knowledge. Courses in European and American History; Music and Musicology; English; and Art all visit the Hoole Library on a regular basis. The collection includes incunabula, titles from seventeenth and eighteenth century France and Britain, and eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century American works, including significant holdings documenting the Mississippi valley and travel and exploration in early America.

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