The Bentley Historical Library is part of the Victors for Michigan fundraising campaign to further the Library’s critical mission of collecting the materials for and promoting the study of the histories of two great, intertwined institutions: the State of Michigan and the University of Michigan. This, our first foray into a U-M campaign, is both ambitious and transformative, expanding on the Bentley’s fundamental role as an interactive laboratory where a range of audiences— including students, faculty, journalists, historians, family researchers, authors, university officials, and more—can access the educative power of the past in order to better evaluate and impact the present. Our $10 million goal is worthy of the name Victors, enriching the powerful historical experiences possible at the Bentley today while supporting the next generation of historical researchers and patrons. To do all this, and so much more, the Bentley needs you—because our world needs Victors.

Every year, the University of Michigan’s Department of History and School of Information train scores of master’s and doctoral students, many of whom go on to a variety of careers including positions as academic historians and archivists. It is critical to support and train those whose work is related to the Bentley’s core mission to collect the materials for and promote the study of the histories of both the State of Michigan and the University of Michigan.
OPPORTUNITIES

ENDOWED SUPPORT FOR BENTLEY LIBRARY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS EACH YEAR

$750,000 each

Graduate students in historical and archival fields have specific and tailored research needs, many of which can be met through the Library. A graduate fellowship would enable these researchers to focus solely on their work, and to formulate informed questions while drawing persuasive conclusions from archival information. Supporting the thrill of direct access to original sources and new discovery based on these sources will help foster the next generation of historical researchers.

ENDOWED SUPPORT FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS RESEARCHING AT THE BENTLEY LIBRARY

$500,000 each

Undergraduate students love to work in the Bentley collections. The Bentley itself is a kind of laboratory for historical learning, about which students become passionate and engaged. But students need guidance and access to the kinds of training and careers that are possible for academic historians and archivists. Scholarships for undergraduates doing research with Bentley materials can provide an in-depth look at the both collections and the career possibilities therein. Ideally, the funds would provide a summer of research at a level that negated the need for a separate part-time job.

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