



Guide to the John Irsfeld Professional Papers [UNPROCESSED]

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Irsfeld, John H.
Title:	John Irsfeld Professional Papers [UNPROCESSED]
ID:	MS-01223
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1970 to 2010
Physical Description:	12.84 Cubic Feet (10 boxes)
Physical Description:	10.83 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This collection is unprocessed. See Access Note for more information. The John Irsfeld Professional Papers [UNPROCESSED] (approximately 1970-2010) consist of materials documenting the career of novelist and former English professor John H. Irsfeld. The papers include published and unpublished creative works, correspondence, and research files pertaining to Irsfeld's literary career, as well as teaching materials and correspondence from his time as an English professor and administrator at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

Preferred Citation

John Irsfeld Professional Papers [UNPROCESSED], approximately 1970-2010. MS-01223. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Novelist and former English professor John H. Irsfeld was born on December 2, 1937 and grew up in Mineral Wells, Texas. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in 1959 from the University of Texas at Austin, he taught high school Spanish and English in Calallen, Texas. From 1961 to 1964, Irsfeld served in the United States Army. After his military service, Irsfeld returned to UT-Austin,

where he completed his Master of Arts in 1966 and Ph.D in 1969, studying English and American literature.

Irsfeld joined the English Department faculty at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) in 1969 and became full professor in 1977. He served as the Chair of the English Department from 1977 to 1984, and again from 2000 to 2004. Irsfeld held many other administrative positions within the university, including serving as Deputy to UNLV President Robert Maxson from 1987 to 1990 and as Vice President from 1990 to 1994.

In addition to his teaching and administrative career, Irsfeld was a novelist and contributing writer to many Las Vegas, Nevada and Texas publications. His published novels include *Little Kingdoms*, *Coming Through*, *Rats Alley*, and *Radio Elvis and Other Stories*. John Irsfeld retired from UNLV in 2011 with Professor Emeritus status, and as of 2025, resides in his home state of Texas.

Source:

Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. "John H. Irsfeld." Accessed November 26, 2025. <https://library.unr.edu/nevada-writers-hall-of-fame/john-h-irsfeld>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

The materials in this collection are unprocessed. Advanced notice is required for access. Please contact Special Collections and Archives for more information.

Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. Material in this collection may be protected by copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other

interests not owned by UNLV. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives (special.collections@unlv.edu) for additional information.

Additions

Further additions to this collection are anticipated.

Appraisal Note

Acquired by Sarah Quigley, Director, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings on literature in Las Vegas, Nevada and the history of UNLV.

Processing Note

These records are unprocessed. In 2025, Landon Paljusaj accessioned the collection and created a rough box-level inventory of the materials. No other work has been performed on the materials. Future additions to this collection are anticipated.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

John Irsfeld Collection, 1983-2003, Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, Boston University Libraries. <https://archivesspace.bu.edu/repositories/9/resources/1439>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Creative writing
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Literary and academic research files, creative works and reviews, literary press, correspondence, and UNLV teaching and administrative files, approximately 1970 to 2010	box 01
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, research files, literary reviews, and teaching evaluations, approximately 1970 to 2010	box 02
Book reviews and publisher correspondence, manuscript revisions and drafts, research files, and UNLV course materials, approximately 1970 to 2010	box 03
Novel manuscripts, correspondence, doctoral dissertation, assorted publications, and UNLV course materials, approximately 1970 to 2010	box 04
Published creative works, proof copies, and literary press and promotions, approximately 1970 to 2010	box 05
Novel and short story manuscripts, approximately 1970 to 2010	box 06
UNLV teaching and course materials, correspondence, and research files, approximately 1970 to 2010	box 07
UNLV teaching and course materials, editorial correspondence, published newspaper articles, and assorted publications, approximately 1970 to 2010	box 08
UNLV comprehensive planning documents, course catalogs, directories, and reports, approximately 1970 to 2010	box 09
<i>Rats Alley</i> correspondence and press, UNLV teaching and course materials, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and research files, approximately 1970 to 2010	box 10