



# The Wittliff Collections

## Guide to the Judy Alter Accessions 1965–2015

Collection UPWC-93057

### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Alter, Judy, 1938-
<b>Title:</b>	Guide to the Judy Alter Accessions
<b>Dates:</b>	1965–2015
<b>Abstract:</b>	Judy Alter began donating her papers to the Southwestern Writers Collection/The Wittliff Collections in 1993. Alter writes for both adults and young readers and she is best known for her books on women and girls of the American West. Among her many honors are “best book” awards from the Texas Institute of Letters, the Western Writers of America, and the Western Heritage (Wrangler) Awards from the National Cowboy Museum. In 1996 the Dallas Morning News named her one of 100 Women Who Have Left Their Mark on Texas. In 2005 the Western Writers of America gave Alter the Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Achievement.
<b>Identification:</b>	UPWC-93057
<b>Extent:</b>	22 boxes (Plus oversize)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Repository:</b>	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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## Scope and Contents

Judy Alter began donating her papers to the The Wittliff Collections in 1993. Alter writes for both adults and young readers and she is best known for her books on women and girls of the American West. Among her many honors are “best book” awards from the Texas Institute of Letters, the Western Writers of America, and the Western Heritage (Wrangler) Awards from the National Cowboy Museum. In 1996 the Dallas Morning News named her one of 100 Women Who Have Left Their Mark on Texas. In 2005 the Western Writers of America gave Alter the Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Achievement.

# **Administrative Information**

## **Physical Location**

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use: .  
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

## **Conditions Governing Access**

Collection is open for research.

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Gift of Judy Alter, 2019.

## **Preferred Citation**

Judy Alter Accessions, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

Materials from the Wittliff Collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study. The user assumes responsibility for determining copyright status, obtaining permission to publish, and abiding by U.S. copyright laws. .  
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

## **Controlled Access Headings**

- Cookbooks
- Detective and mystery stories
- Western stories
- Women authors, American -- Texas -- 20th century
- Young adult fiction

## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: 1993-057

Box	Folder
13-16	"Luke and the Van Zandt County War" manuscripts and galleys , undated
13-16	"Mattie" research, correspondence, manuscripts, and galleys, undated
13-16	Unfinished novel loosely based on the life of artist "Rufus F. Zogbaum" , undated
13-16	Draft for "Elmer Kelton and West Texas: A Literary Relationship", undated
13-16	"A Man in the Window"—unpublished novel , undated
13-16	Book reviews from the "El Paso Times and Dallas Morning News" , undated
13-16	Manuscripts for "Growing Up in the Old West" and "Great Women in the Old West" , undated
13-16	"Katie and the Recluse" manuscript , undated
13-16	"Libbie" research; manuscript for this novel based on the life of "Elizabeth Bacon Custer" , undated
13-16	"A Ballad for Sallie" manuscripts and galley proofs , undated
13-16	Material for "Jeanne Williams Western Writers Series" pamphlet , undated
13-16	Clippings on Judy Alter , undated
13-16	"So Far from Paradise" manuscript and clippings for this novel commissioned by the "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" in conjunction with the "Texas Sesquicentennial" , 1986
13-16	Unfinished YA [young adult] novel notated: "My first attempt at fiction- probably 1975-76" , 1975-1976
13-16	Unfinished YA novel 2 , undated
13-16	"Dorothy Johnson" material for "Western Writers Series" pamphlet , undated
13-16	10 folders on the "Golden Shadows Old West Museum: manuscripts and galley proofs" , undated
13-16	"Texas Folklore Society" program, 1993
13-16	"Unfinished 2nd novel" , undated
13-16	Original illustrations for "Luke and the Van Zandt County War", undated
13-16	Publisher's paste-ups for "Eli Whitney" , undated

### Series II: 1993-199

0014	Typed manuscript and galleys for "After Pa Was Shot", published by "William Morrow and Co.", 1978
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### Series III: 1994-045

0014	Typed manuscript (with emendations and printer's notes); cover for "Libbie" by Judy
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Alter, undated

## Series IV: 1996-067

- 0061 Two typescript drafts (and correspondence from publisher) for “Cherokee Rose” or “Ride a Wild Horse” by Judy Alter, undated
- 0061 Typescript for “Jessie” by Judy Alter, undated

## Series V: 1997-050

- 0050 Notes; galley proofs; typescript; proofreader copy; and letter regarding Alter’s book “Rodeos: The Greatest Show on Dirt”, undated

## Series VI: 2004-170

- 493 1 Typed manuscript titled “Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Biography” by Judy Alter with note: “Never published - the editor at ‘Grober’ accused me of ‘plagiarism’ and I never got another assignment from them. It was a trumped-up charge leveled at several other writers at the same time, my lawyer wrote - it turned into quite a ‘brouhaha’.”, undated
- 493 2 Incomplete “untitled” typed manuscript, a sequel to “So Far from Paradise”, undated
- 493 3 Annotated typed manuscript titled, “The (Faithful) Fearful Heart” by Judy Alter with note: “My one disastrous attempt at romance, trite!”, undated
- 493 4 Typed manuscript titled, “Potter’s Wife: A novel of Chicago” by Judy Alter; rejection letters, undated
- 493 5 Typed manuscript titled, “Potter’s Wife” by Judy Alter with note: “An early version of a novel I still hope will come to something”, undated
- 493 6 Annotated manuscript titled, “Haley Goes to Camp” by Judy Alter with note: “This shows how far this had gone before publication was cancelled”, undated
- 493 7 Annotated “untitled” typed manuscript by Judy Alter with note: “Publisher went out of business, book was never published. I had to get my lawyer to collect the ‘Work-for-hire’ fee”, undated
- 493 8 Annotated page proofs for “Cissie Palmer: Putting Wealth to Work” by Judy Alter , undated
- 493 9 Typed short story titled, “Prisoners”, which was published in “Collective Heart”, undated
- 493 10 Typed manuscript titled, “The Perfect Coed” by Judy Alter with note: “My first and so far, only attempt at my story- still want to do it”, various reject letters from publishers, undated
- 493 11 Annotated typed manuscript titled, “I Wish I Lived in Eleanor Lee’s House” a novel by Judy Alter, undated
- 493 12 Typed manuscript that was never published titled, “I Wish I Lived in Eleanor Lee’s House” a novel by Judy Alter, undated
- 493 13 Typed manuscript titled, “So Far from Paradise” a novel by Judy Alter with note: “This novel was commissioned by the ‘Fort Worth Star Telegram’ and ran serially as a part of their sesquicentennial features. Later submitted on request, to this development company which was booking for ‘Disney’ projects, I think” , undated

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|-----|----|--|
| 493 | 14 | List of books; short stories; reviews; columns; and articles written by Judy Alter , undated |
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## Series VII: 2007-073

- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| 811 | 1  | “Kemah”– notes, correspondence, and newspaper clippings, undated  |
| 811 | 2  | “Australia”– notes, correspondence, research material, newspaper clippings and drafts, undated  |
| 811 | 3  | “Becoming American”– notes and research material, undated   |
| 811 | 4  | “Devil Amongst Us”– correspondence with “Eakin Press”; publishing contract; newspaper clippings; notes; royalty statements; and two copies of "The Children’s Book catalog" from “Eakin Press”, Fall 1996 |
| 811 | 5  | “Etta Place”– statements from “Dorchester Publishing” for “Sundance, Butch and Me”, undated   |
| 811 | 6  | “Lamar”– notes, research material, and newspaper clippings of book reviews, undated   |
| 811 | 7  | “Compass Point”– correspondence, notes, and research material, undated  |
| 811 | 8  | “Cissy-used files”– notes and correspondence, undated   |
| 811 | 9  | “Missouri”– notes, draft, and research material, undated  |
| 811 | 10 | “Crystal City/Buddy Guyler”– correspondence and newspaper clipping, undated   |
| 811 | 11 | “Child’s World”– correspondence, undated  |
| 811 | 12 | “Ellen Temple”– correspondence from publisher, undated  |
| 811 | 13 | “Susan Wallace”– 1953 letter to Lewis Wallace from Blair Taylor, undated  |
| 811 | 14 | “Edom”– notes, correspondence, and newspaper clippings, undated   |
| 811 | 15 | “Gail Sheehy Focus Group”– correspondence, undated  |
| 811 | 16 | “Spokane”– correspondence, travel material such as hotel receipts, rental car and plane information, two color photos and newspaper clippings, undated  |
| 811 | 17 | “No. America”– notes and drafts, newspaper clippings, research material, and correspondence, undated  |
| 811 | 18 | “Illinois”– notes, correspondence, research material and draft with notes, undated  |
| 811 | 19 | “Wilder 2”– correspondence, research material, newspaper clippings, and draft with notes all relating to work on “Laura Ingalls Wilder”, undated  |
| 811 | 20 | “Enslow Pubs”– material from publisher includes correspondence, writing agreements and research material, undated   |
| 811 | 21 | “Ballad for Sallie”– invitations for book release, writing agreements, newspaper clippings, correspondence, reviews and three book covers for “Ballad for Sallie”, undated                                |

## Series VIII: 2008-085

- |      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| 1053 | 1 | “Passenger Ship”– includes handwritten notes and some pages from manuscript with editorial comments, undated           |
| 1053 | 2 | “Texas Women”– research material including newspaper clippings and printouts from various internet sources, undated    |
| 1053 | 3 | “Vaccines”– handwritten notes; research material from internet sources; and a writer’s agreement for the work, undated |

1053	4	"Women's Rights"-- handwritten notes; editorial comments; emails; and a writer's agreement for the work, undated
1053	5	"Dead Space"- draft "Dead Space" by Judy Alter with revisions, July 7, 2007
1053	6	Page proofs of "Women's Rights" by Judy Alter, undated
1053	7	Draft of "Audie Murphy, War Hero and Movie Star" with notes, undated
1053	8	Page proofs for "Surgery, Passenger Ships, and Vaccines" by Judy Alter, undated
1053	9	"Dead Space" by Judy Alter, marked: "first draft February 2007" with handwritten notes, undated
1053	10	"Sue Ellen Learns to Dance and Other Stories" by Judy Alter with notes, undated
1053	11	"Life with Food, Books, and Kids" by Judy Alter with notes, undated
1053	12-13	"Manuscript of Potter's Wife" by Judy Alter, undated
1053	14	"Dead Space" by Judy Alter, second draft, February 2007

## Series IX: 2009-030

1097	1-2	Label from folder was missing-- contains drafts of speeches, or talks; numerous topics include women, writing, and women and the West, undated
1097	3	"Upcoming Engagements", undated
1097	4-5	"Texas Writers Column"-- notes, drafts, and numerous newspaper clippings of Alter's column , undated
1097	6	"Owen Wister Award", undated
1097	7-8	"Judy Personal", undated
1097	9-10	"Judy Personal Two", undated
1097	11-12	"Judy Personal Three", undated

## Series X: 2010-066

1259	1	"Cowboys & Country" magazine; "Old West Summer '95"; "Hood 7 Somervell Today" magazine , Spring/Summer 1987; Fall '95/Winter '96; 1995; March 2009
1259	2	"True West" magazine , January 1994; March 1995; January 1996; February 1996; May 1996; May 1997
1259	3	"Persimmon Hill" magazine; "Texas Journal" magazine, Spring 1991; Autumn 1992; Autumn 1993; Spring/Summer 1991; Spring/Summer 1999
1259	4	"Texas Co-Op Power" magazine [more than one copy of some issues], February 1996; May 2006; September 2006; November 2006; April 2007; January 2008; June 2008
1259	5	"Roundup Magazine" [two copies]; "Louis L'Amour" [three copies] , June 1999; August 2000; June 2005; July 1995
1259	6	"Fort Worth, Texas"; "Aura of Fort Worth", December 1998; February 1999; April 1999; November/December 1993; January/February 1994; November/December 1994
1259	7	"Aura of Dallas Fort Worth"; "Fort Worth, Texas" , March/April 1994; May/June 1994; July/August 1994; September/October 1994; March/April 1995; February 1999; May 1999
1259	8	"Book Reviews", undated
1259	9	"John Barclay Armstrong", undated



1259	10	"Audie Murphy", undated
1259	11	"Cherokee"- relating to book "Cherokee Rose", undated
1259	12	"Custer Reviews"- relating to book "Libbie", undated
1259	13	"After Pa Was Shot- reprint", undated
1259	14	"Great African Americans", undated
1259	15	"Henrietta King", undated
1259	16	"Martin de Leon", undated
1259	17	"Extraordinary Women (of the American West)", undated
1259	18	"Publicity - Judy", undated
1260	1	Material removed from "untitled" folder relating to "Pocahontas" manuscript, includes related correspondence, undated
1260	2	"Oprah Winfrey", undated
1260	3	"Runaway Serape", undated
1260	4	"Sam H", undated
1260	5	"From Paradise", undated
1260	6	"Mattie", undated
1260	7	"Miscellaneous publicity", undated
1260	8	"Mattie -reprint", undated
1260	9	"Ma Ferguson", undated
1260	10	"Surgery", undated
1260	11	"Cookbook", undated
1260	12	"Women of the West, 2000", 2000
1260	13	"Short Stories", undated
1260	14	Assorted newspapers and newspaper clippings, undated

## Series XI: 2011-155

1377	1-4	"Research for Extraordinary Women of the American West"-- includes printouts from the internet and handwritten notes, undated
1377	5	"Draft of 1st 8 chapters" of "No Neighborhood for Old Women", August 8, 2008
1377	6	"Partial rough draft" of "No Neighborhood for Old Women", undated
1377	7	"2nd pass " of "Cooking My Way through Life with Kids and Books" , February 2, 2009
1377	8	Draft, with revisions, of "Cooking My Way through Life with Kids and Books"; includes one piece of correspondence, undated
1377	9	Draft of "Skeleton in a Dead Space: A Kelly Jones Mystery", undated
1377	10	Draft of "Texas is Chili Country", undated
1377	11	Draft of "No Neighborhood for Old Women" with notations, undated
1377	12	Draft of "Skeleton in a Dead Space" "edited", November 8, 2009
1377	13	"For Archive"-- newspaper clippings, undated
1377	14	"Overdue"-- correspondence; short story "The Library Cat's Magical Christmas", undated
1377	15	"Dead Space"-- correspondence; publishers lists; limited printouts, undated

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|------|----|--|
| 1377 | 16 | Two copies of magazine "Living with Panache" article on Judy Alter, page 16, undated   |
| 1377 | 17 | Draft of "A Blue Plate Café Mystery", undated  |
| 1377 | 18 | Draft of "Skeleton in a Dead Space: A Kelly Jones Mystery", "later revised", Fall 2010 |

## Series XII: 2013-091

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|------|----|--|
| 1736 | 1  | Letter from Judy Alter to Steve Davis, undated   |
| 1736 | 2  | Speech for "A Celebration of Texas Writers: Exploring Women of the American West with Judy Alter" at Baylor University, April 16, 2012 |
| 1736 | 3  | Speech for the opening of the "UCC Women's Luncheon", September 9, 2012  |
| 1736 | 4  | Certificate of Copyright Registration for "Great Texas Chefs", undated   |
| 1736 | 5  | "Trouble in a Big Box"-draft, October 5  |
| 1736 | 6  | "Trouble in a Big Box"-early draft, plus a letter with comments from "Genie", December 14, 2011  |
| 1736 | 7  | "Trouble in a Big Box"-draft, December 1   |
| 1736 | 8  | "Trouble in a Big Box"-draft plus editor's notes, undated  |
| 1736 | 9  | "Danger Comes Home"-draft, March 27  |
| 1736 | 10 | "Danger Comes Home"-draft with some revisions, undated   |
| 1736 | 11 | "Danger Comes Home"-draft, plus mentor's comments, December 5, 2012  |
| 1736 | 12 | "No Neighborhood for Old Women"-draft, July 5, 2008  |
| 1736 | 13 | "Cooking My Way Through Life with Kids & Books"-draft, undated   |
| 1736 | 14 | "A Frontier Childhood/Gail Borden" -draft, never published, undated  |
| 1736 | 15 | "A Frontier Childhood/Gail Borden"-draft, "another version," never published, undated  |
| 1736 | 16 | "--Texas is Chili Country"-first draft, revised, September 2012  |

## Series XIII: 2014-133

- |      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| 1870 | 1 | "Kelly Two Marketing," Publicity; Correspondence, 2011-2012  |
| 1870 | 2 | "Kelly # 3," Publicity; Reviews; Correspondence, 2011-2012   |
| 1870 | 3 | "Untitled" draft with corrections by Mary Dulle, September 27, 2013                                  |
| 1870 | 4 | "Deception in Strange Places: A Kelly O'Connell Mystery", printout draft with some corrections, 2013 |
| 1870 | 5 | "Kelly O'Connell #6", Printout draft; Fred Erismais' copy with corrections, June 24, 2014            |
| 1870 | 6 | "Kelly O'Connell #6", Printout draft; Fred Erismais' copy lacks final edits, August 7, 2014          |

## Series XIV: 2015-038

- |      |    |  |
|------|----|--|
| 1883 | 12 | Issues of "Texas Co-Op Power", featuring Alter's "Footnotes" column, undated |
|------|----|--|

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|------|----|--|
| 1883 | 13 | Various magazines featuring interviews with Alter: "Louis L' amour Western Magazine"; "Roundup Magazine"; "Living with Panache", undated |
| 1883 | 14 | Draft of "The Perfect Coed", April 2013  |

## Series XV: 2019-107

- |      |    |  |
|------|----|--|
| 3128 | 1  | "The Dallas Morning News"; "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clippings, September 3, 1972-February 18, 1973   |
| 3128 | 2  | Papers by Judy Alter discussing Jane Austen and Lola Montez; and the "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clipping, October 22, 1972                         |
| 3128 | 3  | Paper discussing a book and describing "Willy Women of the West"; letter from "Naylor Company"; "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clipping, June 11, 1972 |
| 3128 | 4  | Paper on "The Nixon's"; paper on "Sean"; and "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clippings, April 9, 1972-June 25, 1972                                     |
| 3128 | 5  | Paper on "Your Money or Your Life"; "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clipping; letter for "Duet in Diamonds", April 9, 1972-July 9, 1972                 |
| 3128 | 6  | Paper on "Anthony Trollope and Private Faces/Public Places"; "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clippings, August 13, 1972- August 20, 1972                |
| 3128 | 7  | "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clippings; paper on "The Golden Book of Jewish Humor", October 1, 1971 -April 2, 1972                                   |
| 3128 | 8  | "Fort Worth Star-Telegram"; paper on "Pearl S. Buck", February 5, 1972- February 13, 1972  |
| 3128 | 9  | Paper on "Change in the Wind": "Fort Worth Star-Telegram", February 27, 1972   |
| 3128 | 10 | Paper on "This Man David"; "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clipping, March 19, 1972   |
| 3128 | 11 | Paper on "Growing Up Female in America and Out of my Time"; "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clipping, January 2, 1972- January 23, 1972                 |
| 3128 | 12 | "Star-Telegram"; "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clippings, 1974-1980   |
| 3128 | 13 | "Doctors and Dalliance" paper; "Fort Worth Star-Telegram", 1974-1975   |
| 3128 | 14 | "Right Now"; "Fort Worth Star-Telegram" clippings, 1975-1979   |
| 3128 | 15 | "The Fort Worth Story", copy of chapters, 1967   |
| 3128 | 16 | "Readers' Copy: Murder at Peacock Mansion", July 2015  |
| 3128 | 17 | "Judy Alter" newspaper clippings; "Scene" magazine; invitation; and card, 1978-1997  |
| 3128 | 18 | "McCloud: An Eastern Western", March 21, 1975  |
| 3128 | 19 | "Sundance Books for Young Readers" pamphlet; "A Mystery Beyond the Ordinary" by Judy Alter, 1984-1985  |
| 3128 | 20 | "Voter's Guide to Democratic Candidates", undated  |
| 3128 | 21 | "Radio Tape: People's Health"; ¼ inch open reel tape, Spring 1965  |
| 3129 | 1  | "Scene Magazine"; "The Dallas Morning News", 1980-1982   |
| 3129 | 2  | "Scene Magazine" multiple issues, 1980-1982  |