The retired vice president and treasurer of PACCAR, Inc., a manufacturer of heavy-duty highway trucks, the late Jack J. Jolley was a 1950 graduate of the University of Portland. He and his wife, Joyce, were residents of Bellevue, Washington, and had five children, one of whom graduated from Notre Dame in 1986. Jack served as director of the Friends of Tacoma Dominicans and as chairman of the Washington Research Council. At Notre Dame, he served on the Advisory Council for the College of Arts and Letters, and he and Joyce were members of the Edward Frederick Sorin Society. In establishing this collection, they honored the memory of Jack’s grandmother, Annie O’Rourke, and the rest of his Irish family from County Leitrim.

Earnings from the Jolley/O’Rourke Family Collection in Irish Studies are applied to the continuing development of resources in all areas of Irish history. This includes folklore, travel writing, and historical and political memoirs, and encompasses works by and about W.E.H. Lecky (1838–1903), Francis Plowden (1749–1829), Daniel O’Connell (1775–1847), and Charles Stewart Parnell (1846–1891), among others.

The libraries have also acquired the works of Thomas Crofton Crocker (1798–1854), Sir William Robert Wilde (1815–1876), Chevalier de Latocnaye, and Thomas Day, in addition to resources relating to the political, religious, social, and cultural history of Northern Ireland.