



Photo by Terry Rives

A patron examines some of the gems and minerals from the Williamson Collection, now on display in McDermott's Special Collections exhibit area.

Gem collection at library

By Kurt Wright

"Outstanding," "beautiful," and "I loved it" are comments being made by visitors to the Williamson Collection of gems and minerals on exhibit in the Special Collections area in the McDermott Library through October.

The dazzling array of gems and minerals from all over the world includes a quartz so pure it looks like glass, a colorful watermelon tourmaline, lovely opals in their natural and

opals in their natural and finished states, gold, silver, and malachite in different forms and types. The entire room seems to glow, providing a

visual feast for jewel enthusiast and naturalist alike and a valuable learning experience.

The entire collection of 300 different mineral types and almost a thousand specimens was donated to the Geosciences program at UTD by the Williamson family in memory of their parents, John and Eva Williamson who were responsible for building the collection. Dr. James Carter's Geosciences staff, Special Collections, and the physical plant are to be commended for creating a display truly worthy of the collection.

The exhibit may be seen on the third floor of McDermott, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.