“Mobile money” services permit cell phone users to send small amounts of money via text message to their friends and relatives. There are over 90 mobile money services in the world today, mainly in emerging economies.

Google Wallet is a virtual wallet that securely stores your credit and debit cards. Allows payments in-store using Google Wallet anywhere MasterCard® PayPass™ is accepted.

We are deeply grateful to the individuals who have established the following Named Library Funds.

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Gifts to the Libraries help preserve the past and are an investment in the future of our university, community, and state. For information about supporting the UCI Libraries, please call 949.824.4658.

For the full exhibit checklist with annotations, online exhibits, and past exhibits, please see: exhibits.lib.uci.edu.
Any item can be invested with monetary properties. Some societies have used shells or beads for exchanges to signify the making or breaking of important relationships. Human societies, in their search for effective mediums of exchange, have transitioned from coins to paper currencies to objects that serve as surrogates for money. Today credit cards, online bank accounts, and the automation of financial transactions through electronic fund transfers have ushered in what many believe is a “cashless society.”

Money does not have to come from the government or only be used for commerce. Throughout history, people have created alternative currencies. Some do so in opposition to the state or to assert their own political aspirations. In other societies, special “social currencies” are used to make and to mark important relationships or events. Money can become a lucky token, an offering, a source of safety, or a symbol of stability. Money can also inspire artists, poets, and musicians to illustrate the complex relationships we have with it, with each other, and with the very idea of value itself.

UCI’s Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion is a clearinghouse for anthropological research on mobile money and poverty alleviation worldwide. One area of research is the study of how the mobile phone is becoming an essential financial tool in areas where banks are few and far between.