

Northwestern University Library Collection Development Policy Statement

Electronic Texts by Sally M. Roberts March 25, 1999

I. Brief overview of the collection

A. History of the collection

Not applicable.

B. Broad subject areas emphasized or de-emphasized

This collection supports the instruction and research needs of Northwestern University faculty and students. The collection may include all subject areas in the humanities and related fields, but emphasizes literature, philosophy, and linguistics. Texts mounted on the server are intended to be basic, core texts whose analysis is useful for many subject areas. As this is a new field, texts are gradually being produced to meet primary needs, but there are also a number of highly specialized and esoteric databases being created. Some of these more specialized texts are acquired at faculty request.

C. Collection locations

University Library's Web Server; Electronic Research Center, Reference; circulating collection.

II. Purpose or objectives

This collection is meant to provide full-text electronic texts with sufficient tagging to make them useful for any humanist or linguist wishing to use various means of analysis for literary or linguistic research. The texts are used also by faculty in their instruction.

III. Library unit or title of the selector responsible for this collection

Head, Electronic Text Service

IV. Scope of the subject coverage

A. Language

English primarily, but German, French, Spanish and other romance languages are included.

B. Geographical scope

Unlimited

C. Chronological scope

No limitations

D. Publication dates collected

Any and all dates

E. Formats and genres

1. Inclusions

Standard Generalized Mark-up Language (SGML) tagged texts are purchased for the server, generally as magnetic tapes or on cd-rom; other texts may have html or xml tagging, depending on any search software bundled with the database.

2. Exclusions

For texts that will be searched using the PAT search engine and delivered over the web, we do not purchase any other format than SGML.

V. Acquisitions procedures affecting collection policies

A. Standing Orders

None

B. Approval plans and blanket orders

None

C. Gifts and exchanges

Gifts from other university etext services; no exchanges.

VI. Duplication with other NU library units

Occasionally texts on the server are duplicated by a cd-rom version that is in the circulating collection.

VII. Expensive purchases

The Etext budget is funded by a small endowment account and cannot support the purchase of the larger and more expensive text databases. These are usually purchased from the General Fund or with additional support from appropriate bibliographers.

VIII. Interdisciplinary collections

The Electronic Collections Committee is responsible for selecting and purchasing the larger, more expensive texts. Some of these purchases include an ongoing subscription or access fee. Subject bibliographers also purchases etexts.

IX. Purchases with endowed funds

The Dean Fund supports Etext Service purchases.

X. Cooperation with other libraries

A. Other resources, including local, regional or national libraries

We cooperate informally with several libraries, on an ad hoc basis, sharing texts, technical support, and development efforts

B. Consortia

Some of the databases are purchased via CIC consortial agreements.

XI. Policies for purchasing journal article reprints or electronic files on demand

Not applicable.

XII. Other factor of local importance

Not applicable.

XIII. Collection levels

Not applicable.