

Northwestern University Library Collection Development Policy Statement

Literatures in Spanish and Portuguese

by Jeffrey Garrett

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I. Brief overview of the collection

A. History of the collection

Not applicable

B. Broad subject areas emphasized or de-emphasized

Historical strengths in our collections of Spanish and Portuguese literature have been: Catalan language and literature, especially of the late Middle Ages; Cervantes and Cervantine studies; Spanish literature of the 1930s and 40s related to the Civil War; Lusophone African and Afro-Brazilian literature and culture (Africana Library); Spanish-Jewish and Latin American-Jewish (especially Judeo-Argentine) literature and culture.

C. Collection locations

Main stacks.

II. Purpose or objectives

Northwestern University's Department of Hispanic Studies has as its major role the teaching of Spanish and, to a much lesser extent, Portuguese language and culture at the undergraduate level. As of 1997, 13 of 21 faculty members in the department were lecturers engaged principally in language teaching. The graduate program was suspended altogether in the mid-1990s. This focus on the undergraduate curriculum and the lack of a graduate research population has been reflected in a level of acquisitions that is usually described as "instructional support," i.e. short of "research level." Especially since purchases by the Africana Library do not enhance Spanish-language collections (as they do, significantly, for the French- and English-language literature collections), this has resulted in rather small Spanish and Portuguese collections overall in comparison with peer institutions. Beginning in 1998, however, in anticipation of new leadership in the department and a higher level of commitment on the part of the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, the library began to intensify its development activities. In 1998-99, major approval plans were begun with four different booksellers in Spain and Latin America. In 1999, the budget for Spanish and Portuguese-language monographs was increased by 27%, following an equally sizeable budget increase in 1998.

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

Bibliographer, Western Languages and Literatures

IV. Scope of the subject coverage

A. Language

We collect primary literary texts first in Spanish and Portuguese and, if available, in English translation. For the most important writers (e.g. Cervantes, Lope, Lorca, Borges, Marquez), works editions are acquired selectively in other major European languages as well. Spanish translations of Portuguese-language literature (e.g. Pessoa, Saramago, Lispector) and of literature in Catalan and Galician are acquired when available. Criticism and theory are collected in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, selectively in Catalan.

B. Geographical scope

Iberian peninsula, Latin America from Mexico to Chile and Argentina, the Spanish-speaking islands of the Caribbean (especially Cuba and Puerto Rico), as well as the Spanish-language literary production of the United States. Note: Lusophone Africa (Mozambique, Angola, et al.) and the literature of the Spanish-speaking parts of Northern Africa (Ceuta, Tetuan, Morocco) are the exclusive responsibility of the Africana Library.

C. Chronological scope

No restrictions.

D. *Publication dates collected*

No restrictions.

E. *Formats and genres*

1. *Inclusions*

All genres and formats are collected, including microform and electronic sources. Northwestern currently does not subscribe to any online full-text resources in Spanish or Portuguese, but actively collects Spanish-language resources on CD-ROM, e.g. a works editions of Cervantes.

2. *Exclusions*

None.

V. *Acquisitions procedures affecting collection policies*

A. *Standing Orders*

Northwestern University Library maintains a number of standing orders to critical series in Spanish literature.

B. *Approval plans and blanket orders*

In 1998/99, approval plans were initiated to bring a regular flow of research-quality publications to Northwestern University Library.

C. *Gifts and exchanges*

This is not a significant source of new materials for Spanish and Portuguese literature, though appropriate gifts are gratefully accepted.

VI. *Duplication with other NU library units*

Other than some intended duplication in the Core Collection, none.

VII. *Expensive purchases*

Few expensive purchases, e.g. for microfilm, electronic media, have been undertaken in this collection area.

VIII. *Interdisciplinary collections*

Due to the inherent interdisciplinarity of literary study today, Special Collections, Africana (for Portuguese), the Music Library, and the Art Library all have holdings that are of considerable usefulness to students of Spanish and Portuguese literature. Also, particular attention is drawn to the collections of the neighboring United Library that has important holdings in the area of liberation theology and the history of the Catholic Church as it relates to Spain, Portugal, and Latin America.

IX. *Purchases with endowed funds*

A significant portion of materials purchases in this area is made possible by endowments.

X. *Cooperation with other libraries*

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

The proximity of Northwestern University Library to the Newberry Library and the Center for Research Libraries, to the University of Chicago library, and especially to the outstanding Latin American collections of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign allows us to rely upon collections of far greater strength than ours to support student and faculty research.

B. *Consortia*

We rely heavily on the Spanish and Portuguese literature collections of our Committee on Institutional Cooperation partners.

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

Not as part of our collection work.

XII. *Other factor of local importance*

None

XIII. Collection levels

History of the Spanish Language	2F/3F	
History of the Portuguese Language	2F/2F	
History of the Catalan Language	3F/2F	
Spanish and Portuguese Linguistics	2F/2F	
Medieval Spanish Literature	2F/3F	
16th Century Spanish Literature	3F/3F	
17th Century Spanish Literature	3F/3F	
18th Century Spanish Literature	2F/2F	
19th Century Spanish Literature	2F/3F	
Spanish Literature 1900-1940	3F/3F	
Spanish Literature 1940-present	2F/3F	
Colonial Spanish American Literature	2F/3F	
Latin American Literature to 1900	2F/3F	
20th Century Latin American Literature (exc. Brazil)		2F/3F
Portuguese Literature	2F/2F	
Brazil and Other Lusophone Literatures (excl. Africa)		2F/3F