

Northwestern University Library Collection Development Policy Statement

History
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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

Northwestern University Library's history collections support the teaching and research needs of the department, and reflect the department's traditional emphasis on the history of Western Europe from the middle ages to the Vietnam War, and the history of the United States from colonial times to the Vietnam War. Collecting emphasis has shifted over the years to reflect changing trends in the field of history, broadly defined, and in the shifting teaching and research needs of the department.

The greatest emphasis continues to be placed on the histories of Western Europe and North America. For Western Europe, particular emphasis is given to the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. We also gather in Italian, Spanish, and Austrian history, though not comprehensively. Similarly, we attempt to collect all English-language works, and significant scholarly works in Western European languages, on ancient Greece and Rome. Collecting is also done, but it is not emphasized, for most parts of Central Europe, and for Eastern Europe (see paragraph below). Minimal attention is given to the history of Scandinavian countries. For North America, the library emphasizes the continental United States. We also collect in Canadian and Mexican history, but to a lesser extent.

We gather all important English-language materials on the histories of Latin America, Eastern Europe, parts of Central Europe, China, Japan, and India. We also collect, very selectively, Spanish-language materials on the history of Latin America. English-language materials on the history of the Middle East are collected selectively, and in support of history department programs. Materials on the history of the Middle East may also be found in the Africana Library, and in the collections of the United Libraries.

Historiography and philosophy of history are collected, in concert with the philosophy bibliographer. Genealogy is not generally gathered, except for exceptionally important works that match the overall strengths of the collection.

African-American History, African History, Jewish History, History of Religion, the History of Science and Technology, and Government Publications are the purview of other departments/selectors, although some overlap necessarily occurs. Slavic materials, and materials in classical Greek and Latin, are the purview of other selectors.

C. Collection locations

History materials may be found throughout the main library. Materials may be housed in the main stacks, Special Collections, Newspaper/Microtext, or Government Publications. Most general reference works, as well as some specialized bibliographies and descriptive catalogs, are housed in Reference. Periodicals are housed in the stacks as well as in the periodical room. Back issues of some periodicals are available on microfilm, or via the worldwide web.

II. Purpose or objectives

This collection serves the Department of History chiefly, and, secondarily, those members of other departments who engage in historical research. These latter departments/programs include, but are by no means limited to, American Studies, Art History, Classics, Economics, Jewish Studies, Philosophy, Religion, and Slavic, as well as departments and programs which focus on western languages and literatures.

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

The Bibliographer for History, Economics, and Philosophy is responsible for the collections described in this document. However, historical materials are selected by bibliographers in Special Collections, Government Publications, Africana, SEL, Core and Schaffner. African-American history, Jewish Studies, and Slavic language materials are the purview of other selectors.

IV. Scope of the subject coverage

A. Language

English-language sources for all geographic areas and chronological periods served, as well as for historiography and philosophy of history.

We purchase materials in French, German, Italian, and Spanish for certain countries. Almost no purchases are made in Dutch, Flemish, Scandinavian languages, and Asian languages. No

purchasing is done in Arabic. Hebrew is the purview of the Jewish Studies

Bibliographer, while Slavic purchases are made by the Slavic bibliographer. Greek and Latin fall under the purview of the Bibliographer for Classics.

We purchase historiography and philosophy of history materials in French, German, and, when appropriate, Italian and Spanish.

B. Geographical scope

Europe: Classical Greece and Rome; Great Britain, France, Germany: medieval to post-World War II; Italy and Spain: heaviest concentration in medieval to early modern period, Spanish Civil War, and other important aspects of the histories of both countries. History of the Low Countries: purchases chiefly in medieval and early modern, and in World War II history. Purchasing for the histories of other parts of Europe vary chronologically depending on programs being offered at the university.

North America: United States: colonial to Vietnam; Canada: colonial to Vietnam; Mexico: colonial to post-World War II, but not comprehensively.

Asia: India, China, and Japan: purchases of English-language university-press books, with other materials ordered upon request, and in support of history department programs.

Oceania: Purchases of English-language university-press books.

Latin America: Purchases chiefly of English-language university-press books, as well as select Spanish-language materials in the history of Mexico, Colombia, and, to a lesser extent, other countries in Latin America. Other materials ordered upon request, and/or in support of history department programs.

Middle East: English-language university press books which do not duplicate the collections of the United Libraries and Africana. Other materials ordered upon request, and/or in support of history department programs.

The geographic scope of the history collection will vary according to the needs of the greater Northwestern community.

C. Chronological scope

Classical Greece and Rome

Western Europe: medieval to 1970.

North America: colonial times to Vietnam

Latin America (including Mexico) and the Caribbean Region: no set parameters

Oceania: no set parameters

Asia: no set parameters

Middle East: no set parameters

D. Publication dates collected

We attempt to collect all current North American and British university press and academic-level monographs in the subject areas noted above, as well as current academic-level monographs in French, German, and, to a much lesser extent, Italian and Spanish. We do not have a plan for

retrospective purchasing, although we do purchase retrospectively as opportunities present themselves and circumstances permit. We buy out-of-print titles on a case-by-case basis. We purchase primary sources in reprint, facsimile, and microfilm edition. We purchase large sets of primary source materials, such as correspondence and diplomatic papers. Chronological scope will, like geographical scope, vary according to the needs of the Northwestern community.

E. *Formats and genres*

1. *Inclusions*

Monographs
Reprint and facsimile editions
Serials and monographic series
Collections of sources
Some antiquarian titles, usually on request (these are chiefly the purview of Special Collections)
Microfilm and microfiche, especially of primary source materials
Electronic materials, particularly journals, reference sources (indexes and abstracts) and digitized primary source documents
Specialized reference materials, particularly descriptive catalogs and bibliographies; some paleography

2. *Exclusions*

Manuscripts (collected by Special Collections and Archives)
Rare books (collected by Special Collections)
Most reference materials (purview of the Bibliographer for Reference)
Most government publications (these are the purview of the government publications department)
History of Transportation (purview of Transportation Library)
Introductory textbooks
Non-NU U.S. Dissertations, except on request
Audio, video, film
Most Genealogy
Most pamphlet literature

V. *Acquisitions procedures affecting collection policies*

A. *Standing Orders*

We have standing orders for important monographic series, periodicals, and other sets of primary and secondary source materials.

B. *Approval plans and blanket orders*

No blanket order plans. Approval plans as follows:

United States

France

Germany Italian (limited to medieval and early modern periods)

Iberian Peninsula (very limited)

Great Britain

There is also a firm order selection plan for Latin American imprints.

C. *Gifts and exchanges*

Not a major collection avenue.

VI. *Duplication with other NU library units*

As a general rule, duplication is avoided. Limited duplicate copies exist in Core, Government Publications, Law, Reference, Schaffner, SEL, Special Collections, and United Libraries.

VII. *Expensive purchases*

Expensive purchases are a necessary part of a history collection. For the most part, these are considered on a case-by-case basis.

VIII. Interdisciplinary collections

The history collection overlaps with, but rarely duplicates, materials housed in the following collections:

Africana
Art History
Economics-for economic history
Law Library
Newspaper/Microtext-for historical collections of newspapers
Philosophy-for philosophy of history
Reference
Religion and Jewish Studies
SEL-for history of science
Special Collections
United Library

IX. Purchases with endowed funds

Four endowments support the history collections. The Simon Fund is limited to purchases of materials on the philosophy and practice of government. The Jackson Fund is intended for the purchase of materials on the history of the Americas. The Harris Fund and the McCormick Fund are general in scope.

X. Cooperation with other libraries

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

Within the Northwestern community, but external to the main library building (including Deering), we depend on SEL, Law, and the United Libraries

We depend on the Center for Research Libraries for purchase of large microfilm sets, and for historical newspaper collections. Northwestern students and faculty have reciprocal borrowing privileges at University of Chicago. There are other great collections of primary source materials throughout the Chicago area, the most noteworthy being the Chicago Historical Society, and The Newberry Library.

B. Consortia

Cooperation with CIC and CCMCC for electronic purchases. CRL purchases large microfilm sets.

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

Not applicable

XII. Other factor of local importance

As noted above, strong primary source collections exist throughout the Chicago area. One example is The Newberry Library, which houses, among other things, outstanding resources for the history of Early Modern Europe, Native American history, and materials on the Age of Discoveries, as well as rich collections in genealogy. Similarly, the Chicago Historical Society provides outstanding resources for the study of the American past. The University of Chicago has extremely rich collections in fields in which Northwestern collects materials only in English, e.g., East and South Asian history, and the history of eastern Europe. University of Chicago also houses extremely fine collections of older secondary source material, and has rich special collections.

XIII. Collection levels

Selected collecting levels are below. Note that the levels are divided geographically rather than chronologically, and are meant to be suggestive. Within each geographical unit, however, collecting levels do vary chronologically, and in accordance with the needs of the history department.

1st number: collection strengths

2nd number: collecting level, with current collecting language code

Europe

Great Britain: 4/4F
Central Europe: 3/3F
Austria: 3/3F
France: 4/4F
Germany: 4/4F (for most chronological periods)
Mediterranean Region/Greece: 2/2F (3/3F in classical Greece and Rome)
Italy: 3/3F
Netherlands (Low Countries): 3/3F
Eastern Europe and Russia: 3/3F
Northern Europe/Scandinavia: 3/3F
Spain: 3/3F
Portugal: 2/2F
Switzerland: 3/3F (4/4F in early modern)
Asia: 3/3F (depending on country; some countries are 1/1E or 2/2E)
Oceania: 3/3E
North America
United States: 4/4F
Canada: 3/3F
Mexico: 3/3F
Latin America and the Caribbean Region (excluding Mexico): 2/2F to 3/3F depending on the country