

Northwestern University Library
Collection Development Policy Statement

History and Philosophy of Science

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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*

Emphasis is placed on Northwestern's faculty current areas of research and teaching

C. *Collection locations*

The greater part of the collection is maintained in the Main Library and in the Seeley G. Mudd Library for Science and Engineering (SEL). Much of the material on history of mathematics is in the Mathematics Library, and some of the material on history of geology is in the Geology Library.

II. Purpose or objectives

The collection supports Northwestern's teaching and research in history and philosophy of science and technology. Faculty interested in this area is often in the History or the Philosophy Departments. In addition, faculty from many other departments such as Economics, Mathematics, Physics, Classics, Mechanical Engineering, etc, also uses the collection.

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

Selector responsible for History and Philosophy of Science.

IV. Scope of the subject coverage

A. *Language*

Chiefly English, but materials in German, French, and other European languages are also collected.

B. *Geographical scope*

International, except for African materials which are collected in Africana.

C. *Chronological scope*

All periods

D. *Publication dates collected*

Current

E. *Formats and genres*

1. *Inclusions*

Monographs and serials. Electronic materials are considered when appropriate.

2. *Exclusions*

Non-Northwestern dissertations are occasionally purchased.

V. Acquisitions procedures affecting collection policies

A. *Standing Orders*

A few monographic are on standing order.

B. *Approval plans and blanket orders*

Approval plan in these subject areas is set up for notification slips.

C. *Gifts and exchanges*

Occasional gift books are received. No exchange programs.

VI. Duplication with other NU library units

Minor duplication with the Galter Health Sciences Library on history of medicine, materials. Scarcely any duplication with other NUL libraries.

VII. Expensive purchases

Because of its importance, and depending on funds availability, when primary source collections published in print or in microform become available, the Library attempts to purchase them.

VIII. Interdisciplinary collections

Often, history and philosophy of science books will overlap several different subject fields (e.g. philosophy, art history, anthropology, etc.) requiring consultation with other selectors to determine the appropriate fund to use as well as the appropriate location for the book.

IX. Purchases with endowed funds

Presently, there are no endowed funds in these subject areas. The Klotz fund is occasionally used since, it was set it up without subject or location restrictions and the donor has shown interested in the history of science.

X. Cooperation with other libraries

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

Agreements for on-site use of materials and interlibrary loan privileges with the University of Chicago and some other collections are in place.

B. Consortia

See Introduction

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

None

XII. Other factor of local importance

Not applicable.

XIII. Collection levels

All Language Codes are E (English-only).

Conspectus subject categories	Current collecting intensity
History of science	3
History of medicine	3
History of technology	3
Philosophy of science	3
Philosophy of medicine	2
Philosophy of technology	2