

Northwestern University Library
Collection Development Policy Statement

Sociology
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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*
Sociology, social work.
- C. *Collection locations*
Main Library.

II. Purpose or objectives

The goal is to support teaching and research through the PHD level and research by the faculty. The courses are relevant for careers in social research, social policy, teaching, government agencies, citizen reform movements, planning agencies, and business.

The categories are: research techniques (field research methods, data collecting, quantitative analysis); social theories (organization of society, social processes); social problems and inequality (social stratification, ethnic groups, industrialization, deviance and social control); cities, population, environment (urban affairs, demographics); sociology of professions, organizations, and institutions (armed forces, art and culture, education, law, medicine, religion, science, sport); social psychology and social learning (the individual in relation to society).

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

Bibliographer for Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, and Slavic Literature.

IV. Scope of the subject coverage

- A. *Language*
The emphasis is on English-language materials, but French and German are purchased regularly and other European languages selectively.
- B. *Geographical scope*
All areas of the world, with varying emphasis (see Collection Levels). Worldwide comparisons are relevant in many cases.
- C. *Chronological scope*
The emphasis is on current research of present-day societies, but historical background material is also needed, especially in demographic studies.
- D. *Publication dates collected*
Most acquisitions are of current imprints, but retrospective materials are also purchased
- E. *Formats and genres*
 - 1. *Inclusions*
All types of printed materials (original, reprints, and microform), electronic reference and full-text resources, and video recordings.
 - 2. *Exclusions*
None.

V. Acquisitions procedures affecting collection policies

- A. *Standing Orders*
Standing orders for journals and a more limited number of monographic (most monographs being acquired through the approval plans and firm orders).

B. Approval plans and blanket orders

Approval plans for the U S (the largest plan), Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, France Italy, Spain, Latin America, and Russia. No blanket order plans.

C. Gifts and exchanges

Gifts as received, primarily from local donors. No exchange programs.

VI. Duplication with other NU library units

None.

VII. Expensive purchases

Retrospective runs of journals and electronic resources.

VIII. Interdisciplinary collections

Other subject fields in the Main Library are also used for sociology: anthropology for cross-cultural comparisons; Afro-American Studies for race relations; history for the records of societies of the past. Other collections in the NU Library system are also used for sociology: Herskovits Library of African Studies for African societies; Government Publications Department for US and international social policy as well as statistical resources and data services; Main Reference Department for reference publications and electronic resources; Mitchell Multimedia Center for documentary videos; Transportation Library and Law Library for criminology; Health Sciences Library for some sociology of medicine; Newspaper Collection for a record of societal activities.

IX. Purchases with endowed funds

Approximately 50% of acquisitions are made with endowed funds.

X. Cooperation with other libraries

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

Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago for publications from Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and Asia.

B. Consortia

CIC.

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

Research techniques (4)

Social theories (4)

Social problems and inequality (4)

Cities, population, environment (4)

Sociology of professions, organizations, and institutions (4)

Social psychology and social learning (4)