

# Northwestern University Library Collection Development Policy Statement

## Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections

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### **I. Brief overview of the collection**

#### **A. History of the collection**

Northwestern Univ. has long been an academic institution of the first rank. It has attracted members of the community with wealth and possessions of distinction. The university has attracted unusual and sometimes unique gifts in kind since the 1850s. The most distinctive ones have coalesced into enough of a body of materials that there was a Rare Book Room set aside in the Deering Library in 1933. The first staff members were hired at the creation of the department itself in 1948. An example of the early gifts: a prominent minister in Chicago James Gonsolus, gave the university a manuscript Book of Hours (France, 1450-1475) sometime around the turn of the century; Charles Deering gave the university his set of John James Audubon's Birds of America in 1918. The latter item is now the most valuable book owned by the Northwestern University Library.

#### **B. Broad subject areas emphasized or de-emphasized**

Broad subject areas of interest: late 19th and 20th century European avant garde and art/social movements; art nouveau, symbolism, Dada, Surrealism, Expressionism and Futurism; American and English literature from 1885 to 1970; the Women's Collection (1965 – present); the Siege & Commune of Paris, 1870-1871; the Frank Lloyd Wright collection; theatre history holdings including the Gate Theatre of Dublin, Ireland archive, the Ira Aldridge collection, Edward Gordon Craig, Sir Henry Irving, and Ellen Terry holdings; the Samuel Johnson collection; the publications of Maria Edgeworth, her family and books from her library; the John J. Louis Collection of Graphic Arts; World War II underground collections, notably Holland, Denmark, Norway, France, Germany and Greece. We collect almost no Americana, American Indian materials, scientific history, or medieval manuscripts. There are many other subjects, which are collected by other local institutions (with whom we try not to compete) which we do not collect

#### **C. Collection locations**

All materials discussed in this document are held in the McCormick Library of Special Collections on the third floor of the Deering Library.

### **II. Purpose or objectives**

the McCormick Library does not support an academic discipline, department or specific professor but attempts through its collections and its acquisitions to support the broad inquiry into many areas of humanistic research and scholarship. The McCormick Library has a two fold objective: first, to strengthen and preserve the collections it already has and use its resources to acquire other significant items and collections that can benefit the intellectual work in the Northwestern community, and second, to make available to all users/patrons any and all materials for which the department is custodian.

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

Selectors: Curator of the McCormick Library and the Reference Librarian and Bibliographer of the McCormick Library

### **IV. Scope of the subject coverage**

#### **A. Language**

Latin, English, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, German, Czechoslovakian, and Russian.

- B. *Geographical scope*  
Europe, Russia, England, and America.
- C. *Chronological scope*  
late medieval to the present
- D. *Publication dates collected*  
1450 to the present
- E. *Formats and genres*
  - 1. *Inclusions*  
Broadside, broadsheet, codex, pamphlet, and artists' books
  - 2. *Exclusions*  
Almost none

**V. *Acquisitions procedures affecting collection policies***

- A. *Standing Orders*  
only one, Black Sparrow Press.
- B. *Approval plans and blanket orders*  
Not used at all.
- C. *Gifts and exchanges*  
whenever appropriate to the McCormick Library's purposes.

**VI. *Duplication with other NU library units***

in cases of reference books occasionally and monographs in which the research was from McCormick Library materials.

**VII. *Expensive purchases***

the McCormick Library regularly purchases out-of-print materials that are expensive. In order to add materials to collections, which have been built over many years, it is often necessary to purchase expensive items. All such purchases are made from endowments given to the McCormick for that purpose.

**VIII. *Interdisciplinary collections***

not a consideration, generally.

**IX. *Purchases with endowed funds***

IX. All purchases except for serials, monographs for the women's collection and continuations (a very small amount) are made from endowments.

**X. *Cooperation with other libraries***

- A. *Other resources, including local, regional or national libraries*  
X. The McCormick Library has for many years had cooperative arrangements with other special collections departments in the Chicago area. In order to maximize the strengths of all we do our best to not compete for materials. Those other libraries included: the Regenstein Library, the Newberry, the Chicago Public Library, Loyola and DePaul University libraries.
- B. *Consortia*  
A & B do not apply.

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

Does not apply

**XII. *Other factor of local importance***

local out-of-print dealers, potential donors in the area.

**XIII. *Collection levels***

Conspicuous considerations do not apply, as we collect almost no in-print materials