

Northwestern University Library Collection Development Policy Statement

Video by Stephen Marek January 15, 1999

I. Brief overview of the collection

- A. *History of the collection*
Not applicable
- B. *Broad subject areas emphasized or de-emphasized*
The video collection, which is non-circulating, supports the instruction and research needs of Northwestern University faculty and students. The collection may include all subject areas related to Northwestern University's curriculum and research interests. It includes outstanding titles in the humanities, social sciences, and the physical and natural sciences
- C. *Collection locations*
Mitchell Multimedia Center (Level 2, South Tower)

II. Purpose or objectives

Documentary Films:

Titles in the documentary film collection may cover all subject areas and are selected to support the instruction and research needs of the faculty and students. English language material predominates, with little foreign language material in the collection. Preference is given to films that are unique in their approach or treatment and that will significantly enhance the learning experience. Because they are generally very expensive to purchase, preference is also given to documentary films that have been reviewed favorably and that are likely to be of sustained interest to more than one faculty member or discipline at Northwestern University.

Performing Arts:

Videotapes are acquired in the broad areas of drama, opera and classical music, and dance. Because of their wide interdisciplinary appeal and the limited number of new releases each year, drama and opera videotapes are acquired on a sustained level adequate to support undergraduate and most graduate instruction (although at less than research intensity). Different performances of the same title may be acquired. However, general interest videotapes of classical music performances are not acquired unless they have a special and significant pedagogical value. Dance titles (both ballet and modern dance) are acquired to support a basic collection. Instructional or training titles in the performing arts are not acquired, since these are the audio-visual equivalent of textbooks, which the library does not purchase.

Classic Films:

The classic (feature) film collection supports the Radio/TV/Film department in the School of Speech as well as a broad range of departments in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. The collection covers the chronological period from silent films to date.

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

Stephen Marek

IV. Scope of the subject coverage

- A. *Language*
English, with foreign language films usually subtitled.
- B. *Geographical scope*
Worldwide, with varying emphasis.
- C. *Chronological scope*
No limitations
- D. *Publication dates collected*
Generally new releases, with some older retrospective titles released in the last ten years.

- E. *Formats and genres*
 - 1. *Inclusions*
Laserdisc, DVD, ½" VHS NTSC videotape.
 - 2. *Exclusions*
All other video formats.

V. *Acquisitions procedures affecting collection policies*

- A. *Standing Orders*
None
- B. *Approval plans and blanket orders*
None.
- C. *Gifts and exchanges*
Gifts as received (rare); no exchanges.

VI. *Duplication with other NU library units*

None.

VII. *Expensive purchases*

Most documentary films are, by definition, expensive (\$250+).

VIII. *Interdisciplinary collections*

None.

IX. *Purchases with endowed funds*

None.

X. *Cooperation with other libraries*

- A. *Other resources, including local, regional or national libraries*
None.
- B. *Consortia*
None.

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*

3E (Video collection overall).