

Asian American Studies: Collection Development Policy

Objectives of the Policy Statement

The Asian American Studies Collection Development Policy Statement and its selection criteria are intended to articulate guidelines needed to build and maintain a relevant collection of consistent quality and usefulness, to clarify responsibility for building and maintaining the collection, set parameters for the scope of the collection, and to provide rationales for selection and retention decisions. This document is used by the Library's Racial & Ethnic Studies bibliographer as a planning and working tool to insure consistent and balanced growth and maintenance of the Library's Asian American collection, and to aid in communicating these guidelines to the students, faculty, and staff of the Iowa State University community.

I. General Purpose

The Asian American Studies Collection of Parks Library is designed to support study, instruction, and research in the interdisciplinary field of Asian American Studies at the higher education level. Asian American Studies materials are defined as those materials dealing with the experiences of Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans, Korean Americans, Filipino Americans, Vietnamese Americans, and all other of the many Asian American groups living in the United States. Collection emphasis is on the social sciences and the humanities; scholarly and authoritative informational works, appropriate for use at undergraduate, graduate, and research levels, are selected. Popular treatment occasionally may be selected to serve patron needs. Primary clientele of this collection are students and faculty in the Asian American Studies Program, students enrolled in classes meeting the University's diversity requirement, and all others interested in Asian American perspectives and contributions. Since patrons represent a wide variety of demands, resources not specifically related to the curriculum are provided.

II. History

In Fall 1998, an LAS Ad Hoc Steering Committee was formed to initiate a formal and interdisciplinary undergraduate program in Asian American Studies at ISU. The formation of the Asian American Studies Program was announced in Spring 1999, when its first course, "Asian American Culture," was taught that same semester by Professor Marie Rose Wong, then of Regional Planning and Development. Professor Eugenio Matibag was instrumental in the founding of the Asian American Studies program, and was named its director in 1999. At its inception, the Asian American Studies Program consisted of one faculty position. Since that time, the Program has not been able to add faculty positions or new courses.

Before the establishment of the Asian American Studies Program, ISU Library holdings relevant to the Asian American experience in the U.S. were being collected by the Racial & Ethnic Studies bibliographer, but with funds designated for General Diversity acquisitions. There was no dedicated Asian American Studies collection development fund until FY 2000. Since the announcement of the new

program, and since the establishment of a specific Asian American collection development fund line, the collection has grown substantially in terms of number of monographs, videos, and microforms held, as well as in diversity of Asian American experiences and cultures now reflected in the collections. Serial titles have actually decreased, however, due to a number of unfortunate cessations of publication of important Asian American journals and magazines already under subscription. Unfortunately, new Asian American serial titles have not yet emerged.

III. Iowa State University & the Asian American Studies Program

The interdisciplinary Asian American Studies Program currently includes one course in the area of Asian American cultural history. The Asian American Studies program has not yet been able to expand the curriculum or faculty numbers. However, Asian Americans comprise one of the fastest growing racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States and in the state of Iowa.

The Undergraduate Diversity Requirement was initiated in the Fall of 1997, and requires that every undergraduate student take at least three credit hours each of approved U.S. diversity-related and international-related course work. The ISU Center for American Intercultural Studies (CAIS) was initiated in Fall 2005. The Asian American Studies Program is affiliated with the Center, along with African American Studies, American Indian Studies, and the US Latino Studies Program.

IV. Subject Boundaries

In general, classification schemes do not well describe the interdisciplinary nature of Asian American Studies. It is the primary responsibility of the Racial and Ethnic Studies bibliographer to select Asian American materials for the Library in all relevant formats and for all relevant locations in Parks Library, with collaboration and consultation with bibliographers in other subject areas and in Reference, as necessary. It is the responsibility of the Racial and Ethnic Studies bibliographer to make any final decisions concerning replacement, transfers, and withdrawals of Asian American Studies materials in the Library. The bibliographer also may make bindery or repair recommendations, as warranted.

V. General Collection Guidelines

a. Linguistic: The Asian American Studies collection is primarily in English, or bilingual. However, there are no language restrictions and the emphasis is on appropriate material in any language.

b. Geographical areas: Selection of materials is not geographically based, in that all materials judged to be topically relevant to Asian American Studies are considered for inclusion in the collection regardless of place or country of publication.

c. Types of materials collected: All types of materials are considered for selection, taking into consideration issues such as potential use, budgetary

concerns, and other relevant issues, as necessary. In general, all types of materials treating Asian American experiences will be considered for acquisition. Currently, collection intensity centers on monographs, videos, and digital texts.

d. Format of materials collected: All formats are considered for selection, taking into consideration issues such as budgetary concerns, accessibility of format (especially when a resource exists in multiple formats), and other relevant issues, as necessary. In general, all formats treating Asian American experiences will be considered for acquisition.

e. Chronological: In general, both current and retrospective materials are selected for the collection, with the aim being to acquire and retain authoritative works and those of historical interest and research value. Superseded or out-of-date editions may be transferred to a storage facility or withdrawn. In terms of material content or chronological periods covered, all periods of history relevant to Asian American Studies are considered.

VI a. Specific Collection Guidelines

Collection intensity will be focused on the following core areas in the humanities and social sciences, with the aim being to achieve **basic resource level collections** in these areas:

- History of Asian Americans in the United States
- Literature and poetic works by Asian American authors; literary criticism of Asian
- American literature and related works
- Art and visual creative works by or about Asian Americans
- Leisure reading materials relevant to or presenting Asian American perspectives
- Sociology and sociological treatment of Asian American Studies topics, cultures, and issues
- Women's studies materials and issues relevant to Asian American women

Materials in other disciplines may be selected in consultation and collaboration with other subject area bibliographers, with the aim being collectively to achieve from **basic resource level** in areas such as the following:

- Education materials and issues relevant to Asian Americans
- Legal materials and issues relevant to Asian Americans
- Music and ethnomusicology by or about Asian Americans
- Political science and policy issues relevant to Asian Americans in the United States
- Professional issues relevant to Asian Americans

VI b. Out of scope subjects, or, materials not collected

Juvenile materials: Primary juvenile materials (meaning materials intended for a preschool, elementary, middle school or junior high level audience) are not generally collected, except in the case of occasional children's works by prominent literary authors or poets. Requests for children's materials will normally be forwarded to the children's bibliographer for consideration. Secondary materials, such as bibliographies, finding tools, and original scholarly research on the topic of children's materials as relevant to Asian American populations in the United States, may be collected in consultation with the children's bibliographer and reference bibliographers, as necessary.

Asian materials: Materials with an *exclusive* focus on Asia or individual Asian nations, issues, and other concerns are not collected, and are to be distinguished from those materials focusing on the experiences of Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans, Filipino Americans, South Asian Americans, and all other Asian Americans (including Asian immigrants) living in the United States. Requests for Asian materials will normally be referred to other bibliographers.

Multicultural anthologies or collected works: These consist of anthologies or readers that collect a number of essays on different topics within a given unifying theme. If the majority of chapters or essays focus on non-Asian American topics or concerns, the item is out of scope for Asian American Studies and may best be considered for the Racial and Ethnic Studies bibliographer's General Diversity fund line, or referred to another bibliographer.

VII. Detailed Subject Areas

See sections VI a and b above.

VIII. Other Resources Available

There are approximately 38 programs in Asian American Studies at the university level in the U.S. Important Asian American Studies collections are available predominantly at research institutions in states at great physical distance from Iowa. These include, notably, the University of California, Berkeley, NYU, and Cornell. Asian American Studies programs also exist at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Within the state of Iowa, Iowa State University may have the strongest and most diverse Asian American library collections and services. It appears to be the only one of the three Regents Institutions currently with specifically an Asian American Studies program of any kind. The University of Iowa has an Asian Studies Program.

IX. Cross-references to other related Collection Policies

African American Studies
American Indian Studies
General Diversity Studies
US Latino Studies

X. Bibliographer

Susan A. Vega García is the Racial & Ethnic Studies bibliographer at Iowa State

University, and is responsible for building and maintaining the Library's collections in African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, Asian American Studies, and all other US racial / ethnic groups and US Diversity areas.

Statement on Intellectual Freedom

The Iowa State University Library supports the American Library Association's position on intellectual freedom, as set forth in the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read policy, and other ALA policies, procedures, resolutions and guidelines resisting censorship and protecting the freedom to read. Selection decisions for library materials are made in accordance with the Library Bill of Rights, which specifies that no materials should be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of its creators, that materials selected should reflect differing points of view on current and historical issues, that materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval, and that libraries shall challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

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