

Iowa State University Library

Collection Development Policy

Department of English

I. General Purpose

Collection activities at Parks Library will support research at all levels in all academic programs that are part of the Iowa State University Department of English. In its collecting activities, the library will address present research needs for the English Department, as well as anticipate future research needs. The nature of these activities and their relation to the English Department are described more thoroughly in Part III.

II. History

Although there was no formal English department, courses in literature, grammar, and rhetoric were part of Iowa State's offerings from the University's inception. Alvin B. Noble was the first chair of the Department of Literature and Rhetoric formed in 1898. Various department name changes throughout the 1900's reflected the inclusion of the Public Speaking Department in 1940, and its exclusion in 1969. Since 1969, the Department has been known as the Department of English. The 1990s saw the Department's first doctoral program, in Rhetoric and Professional Communication.

III. Iowa State University Program

The English Department at Iowa State University contains a number of programs, including Literary Studies, Interpersonal and Rhetorical Communication, Rhetoric and Professional Communication, and English Education at the undergraduate level; Creative Writing, Literature, and Rhetoric, Composition and Professional Communication at the Master's level; and a doctoral program in Rhetoric and Professional Communication. All of these programs are supported by the collections activities at Parks Library. Note: TESL/Applied Linguistics is also a program of study within the English department, but because of its interdisciplinary nature, resulting in the fact that many other ISU academic departments share involvement in the Linguistics program, the support for that particular program is described in the Collection Development Policy for Linguistics.

IV. Subject Boundaries

This section exists to illustrate the collection development priorities relating to the English Department, to describe the areas generally excluded from collection activities, and to outline shared responsibilities with other bibliographers.

The general emphasis in collecting materials for the Literature-related programs within the English Department is on original literary English language texts from all time periods, from early English to contemporary 20th/21st Century prose and poetry. As a corollary to that emphasis, works of criticism pertaining to the above texts are also heavily collected. The collection of contemporary fiction and poetry, and related criticism, is important to the Master's in Creative Writing program. Finally, the beginning of the 21st Century will see strong growth in collection in the areas of Rhetoric and Professional Communication in order to support research in this recently created doctoral program.

Literature written in languages other than English, and criticism that refers to such works, is not represented here, although such materials are well represented in the Foreign Languages and Literatures collection plan. Other areas generally excluded are new and popular "mass market" titles including most "genre fiction", humor, and works whose intended audience falls out of the range of a four-year and graduate academic institution. For more specific exclusions, and for "Leisure Collection" policies, please see Part V, Section B.

The Languages and Literatures Bibliographer works closely with the Bibliographer for Diversity Studies in purchasing African-American, Asian-American, Latino/a and Chicano/a literature. The English Department has taken a vital step in promoting the importance of diversity in higher education by moving towards offering "fewer but broader courses in its undergraduate sequence in British and American literature" and more "courses in multicultural literature and cultural studies at the undergraduate level".¹ Concerning non-American literature, this bibliographer is also the bibliographer for Foreign Languages and Literatures and will make every attempt to collect materials that will benefit the multicultural trends of the English Department.

The Languages and Literatures Bibliographer also shares responsibility with the Education Bibliographer for selecting materials concerning the teaching of written and oral communication, and with various bibliographers in the Science and Technology department of the Library for the selection of technical writing materials.

V. General Collection Guidelines

¹ ISU Dept. of English "Self-Study Report", 1998, p. 37.

A. Linguistic and Geographical Areas

The emphasis for literature is on materials written/published in the English language, although not necessarily of American or British origin. Works of literary criticism will be purchased in any language, depending on the importance of the critical work and/or the primary text(s) to which it refers. Literature written in other languages will in most cases be purchased according to guidelines designed for Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Primary emphasis for materials collected for Interpersonal and Rhetorical Communication, Rhetoric and Professional Communication, and English Education will also be in English. The geographic emphasis will be on works published in North America and the United Kingdom, with the proviso that works from other geographic areas will certainly be considered, depending on quality and relevance to departmental research and instructional needs.

B. Types of Materials Collected.

The primary focus is on collecting monographs and serials. For the library's purposes, journals are defined as serials, as are monographs that extend over a range of (definite or indefinite) volumes. Dissertations are not collected, as such, although revised and commercially published dissertations are treated as any other form of critical publication. (Theses and dissertations authored by ISU students are, of course, collected.) Full-text online journals are given as much consideration as their print counterparts, and decisions will be made on the basis of access and cost. Indexes and abstracts are collected, both print and online, as well as electronic databases, but these are secondary to the primary goal of collecting monographs and serials.

Materials not collected include undergraduate level textbooks, festschriften (with exceptions based on the importance of individual essays contained within), genre fiction, especially that published at the "mass-market" level, and publications generally considered to be outside the scope of University-level instruction and research. Note: Parks Library maintains a "Leisure Reading" collection, the responsibility of which falls to this bibliographer. Although there may, over time, be an overlap between literature that is purchased for this collection and literature that becomes a focus for research, the academic needs of the English Department are not necessarily a determining factor in the purchasing decisions for the Leisure Collection.

C. Format of Materials Collected

As mentioned in Section B, materials are primarily collected in printed (books and journals) format. Every attempt will be made to purchase hardcover books when such a choice exists. Microform materials, videotapes, compact discs (audio and CD-ROM), digital video discs (DVDs) and audiocassettes are also purchased

when appropriate. It is also a policy to review online databases for possible subscription, and to “collect” and catalog relevant free World Wide Web resources.

VI. Specific Collection Guidelines

The Languages and Literatures Bibliographer will continue to collect materials according to the guidelines listed elsewhere in this policy. Future changes in the curriculum may necessitate changes in these guidelines, and it is the responsibility of the Department Chair and/or the Chair of the appropriate academic program, the library liaison, and the bibliographer to communicate regarding necessary changes.

VII. Other Resources Available

- ❑ *Early English Books, 1475-1640*, and *Early English Books, 1641-1700* [available on microfilm: AC1 En 36, 37].
- ❑ *Early English Books Online* <<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/scholar/db/eebo.html>>.
- ❑ *MLA Bibliography* <<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/scholar/db/mlaxxx.html>>.
- ❑ *Arts & Humanities Search* <<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/scholar/db/artshm.html>>
- ❑ *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*: REF A13. A28
- ❑ *Dissertation Abstracts* <<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/scholar/db/dissab.html>>
- ❑ Parks Library's *Literature Resources on the Web* <<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/scholar/bib/lit.html>>

VIII. Cross-references to Collection Policies

- ❑ ISU Library General Collection Development Policy
- ❑ ISU Reference Collection Development Policy
- ❑ ISU Library Special Collections Department Collection Development Policy
- ❑ ISU Library Gift Policy
- ❑ ISU Library Electronic Materials Collection Development Policy
- ❑ ISU Library Approval Plans
- ❑ American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*
- ❑ Existing English Department Strategic Plans, Mission Statements, and Curriculum Guides

IX. Creation date

September, 2000

X. Revision History

None.

XI. LC Class(es), if applicable.

P	Philology
PE	English language
PN	Literature: General and universal literary history
PR	English literature
PS	American Literature

XII. Bibliographer name

Dan Coffey