

Iowa State University Library

Collection Development Policy

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

I. General Purpose

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

II. History

Foreign languages were taught sporadically at Iowa State from the University's inception, but it wasn't until 1899 that the Department of Modern Languages was formed. The number of faculty throughout the 20th Century in the department fluctuated greatly. In 1969 the name of the department changed to the Department of Foreign Languages, and in 1977 became known as the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

III. Iowa State University Program

The Foreign Languages and Literatures Department offers undergraduate majors in French, German, Russian Studies, and Spanish, as well as minors in the aforementioned languages as well as Latin and Portuguese. In addition, basic instruction is offered in Chinese, Italian, and Classical Greek. Currently, there are no graduate programs offered through the FL&L Department. All of these programs are supported by the collections activities of the Languages and Literatures Bibliographer at Parks Library, as well as the research interests of FL&L faculty members.

The French, German, Russian and Spanish majors each offer courses in basic and advanced language skills, cultural history, and literature. The Portuguese curriculum consists of elementary and intermediate language courses, cultural studies courses for both Portugal and Brazil, and literature courses dealing with Portuguese literature in translation, and advanced readings in Brazilian and Portuguese/African literatures. The other minor offered, Latin, falls under the jurisdiction of the Classical Languages Bibliographer, and will not be discussed in this document. Of the three basic instructional language programs offered, Classical Greek also falls under the same jurisdiction. The Chinese program

offers elementary and intermediate language classes and a course on Chinese literature in English. The Italian program simply offers elementary and intermediate language courses, and no literature courses

IV. Subject Boundaries

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

The foremost emphasis is placed on collecting important literary works from all time periods in French, German, Spanish, and Russian, in both original language format and English translation whenever possible. Works by “secondary” authors are also collected in similar fashion as the budget permits. Care is taken to collect the most important of the contemporary authors in each language, and faculty input is essential to this activity. Critical works that focus on major and secondary authors writing in these languages are also collected, and this includes works of comparative criticism where one or more of the authors discussed may fall outside of the bounds of these four languages. Emphasis is given to works of criticism written in English or in the language of the examined author, but exceptions will be made in cases of important critical works. Major Portuguese authors, and criticism pertaining to their works, will also be collected, in both original language and English language, but not to the extent of the four major languages described above.

Books dealing with the languages themselves will be collected; all languages taught in the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department will be represented, with emphasis placed according to the hierarchy of major/minor/basic instruction. Efforts will be made to ensure that up-to-date dictionaries are collected for each of the relevant languages.

Materials that fall outside the boundaries of the collection development plan include texts written by authors described above which are translated into languages other than the original or English. In general, foreign translations of works of English literature will not be collected, nor will undergraduate level foreign language textbooks. Material that is determined to not be at the intellectual level of a four-year and graduate university will not be collected. The Linguistics Bibliographer will most likely collect materials that focus on linguistic treatments of any of these languages.

As stated above, Classical Greek and Latin are not represented by this collection development policy, as they are the responsibility of the Classical Studies Bibliographer. The collecting of materials that support the non-literary historical courses offered by the FL&L Department falls under the jurisdiction of the History

Bibliographer. The collecting of materials that concern Spanish language literature written in the United States will be a shared responsibility between the Languages and Literatures Bibliographer and the Latino/a Studies Bibliographer, with the majority of the responsibility falling to the latter.

V. General Collection Guidelines

A. Linguistic.

As stated above, literary texts will be collected in Russian, Spanish, German, French, and to a lesser extent Portuguese, with copies in the original language and English whenever possible. Greater priority will be given to works of literary criticism published in English or in one of the languages represented by the FL&L Department. Foreign translations of English literary works will, for the most part, not be collected. Major classic and contemporary Chinese literature will be collected in English only. Materials dealing with language learning will be collected in English and the language in question.

B. Geographical Areas.

There are no geographical areas that fall outside of the scope of collecting, but priority will be given, for each language, to materials that originate from a nation where that language is spoken.

C. 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. 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 in both print and online formats, as well as electronic databases, but these are secondary to the primary goal of collecting monographs and serials.

Dissertations are not collected, as such, although revised and commercially published dissertations are treated as any other form of critical publication. Other materials not collected include undergraduate level textbooks, festschriften (with exceptions based on the importance of individual essays contained within)

D. Format of Materials Collected

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. Particular attention will be paid to audiocassettes and compact discs that deal with language learning.

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

- ❑ *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>>
- ❑ *Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts*: REF P1 .L2631x
- ❑ *Foreign Languages and Literatures Resources on the Web*
<<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/scholar/bib/forlng.html>>
- ❑ *Hispanic American Periodicals Index*
<<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/scholar/db/hapixx.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 4, 2000

X. Revision History

None.

XI. LC Class(es), if applicable.

P Philology and linguistics
PB Modern European languages
PC Romance languages and literatures
PD Germanic languages
PF West Germanic languages
PQ Romance literatures
PT Germanic literatures

XII. Bibliographer name

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