

Iowa State University Library
Collection Development Policies
History

I. General Purpose

To provide library resources for undergraduate and graduate instruction as well as student and faculty research. The main users of the history collection are faculty and students of the History Department. Many other disciplines rely on historical resources to enable students to understand the intellectual foundations of these discrete disciplines, a fact that often leads faculty and students to explore a wide variety of interests, which requires the library to collect historical resources quite broadly.

II. History

History courses were taught at Iowa State from 1880-1885 under the general classification of Philosophy. The Department of History was formally established in 1885. In 1924, instruction in history fell under the jurisdiction of the Department of Economics, History, and Sociology. In 1957, the Department of History and Government was expanded to include Philosophy. Since 1969, when it moved from the third floor of Beardshear Hall, the History Department has resided on the fifth floor of Ross Hall. In the late 1970s the Department established doctoral programs in the history of science, technology, and agriculture and rural studies. Master's degrees are offered in all areas.

III. Iowa State University Program

The History Department teaches courses across the chronological and geographical spectrum, but over the past twenty years has developed a vigorous graduate program in the history of science, technology and agriculture. The History Department also maintains the Agricultural History and Rural Studies Program (AHRS) which is the only focused agricultural and rural history doctoral program in the United States.

IV. Subject Boundaries

The History Department offers a broad range of traditional courses, which reflect the core of the subject collection. In addition to traditional surveys of United States and European history, the program and collection at Iowa State University includes the history of women, African-American history, Native American history, Asia, and special emphases on the history of science, technology, and agriculture. The subject is not limited by language or geography. There is some overlap in subject matter with the disciplines of fine arts, government, economics, anthropology, sociology, and the sciences.

General Collection Guidelines

A. Linguistic.

English is the most commonly collected language, with French, German, Russian, Spanish, and the classical languages acquired when appropriate. The Library purchases materials in Japanese and Chinese on a limited basis.

B. Geographical Areas.

There are no geographical limits for the history collection although heavier emphasis is given to the U.S. and Europe (including Russia and the areas of the former Soviet Union), with lesser emphases on Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia.

C. Types of Materials Collected.

Monographs and journals are the primary type of material collected. Microformats and electronic resources are also acquired as appropriate. The Library is a selective regional depository for United States Government publications. Other materials obtained include pamphlets, and dissertations and master's theses.

D. Format of Materials Collected

Paper and microformats are the major types collected. Selected video, audio, and electronic materials are added where appropriate.

VI. Specific Collection Guidelines

Beyond general support for all areas of history emphasized at Iowa State University and noted above in Section IV, the Library collects more heavily in the areas of science, technology, and agriculture to support the doctoral level programs in the department.

VII. Detailed Subject Areas

The History Department has traditionally had a strong interest in United States history, especially in the period since the mid-nineteenth century. Also emphasized are Medieval history and the period since 1500, especially continental Europe and Great Britain. The Library acquires monographs in a broad topical and chronological range. General histories of Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Russia should also be selected as they come available.

As noted in section VI, the History Department has developed doctoral level programs in the history of science and technology and agriculture. Collecting in these areas should receive emphasis.

VIII. Other Resources Available

The Parks Library Special Collections Department holds many significant materials not available in the general collection. Scholars also have access to the holdings of the Center for Research Libraries as well as to the vast network of other library holdings through our OCLC Interlibrary Loan system.

IX. Cross-references to Collection Policies

X. Creation date

June 2000

Ed Goedeken

XI. Revision History

Revised December 2008

XII. LC Class(es), if applicable.

Library of Congress classes C, D, E, and F are the most prominent, although historical treatments appear throughout the classification spectrum.

XIII. Bibliographer name

Ed Goedeken