

Iowa State University Library
Collection Development Policy
Law

I. General Purpose

While Iowa State University does not have a law school, the collection strives to support those departments which offer courses on the legal aspects of their subject areas and to provide historical and current legal and Congressional information for students, faculty and staff. In addition this collection strives to serve the legal information needs of the constituents of the state of Iowa by making legal information easily accessible to the general public and to insure continued availability in the future.

II. History

As a federal depository since 1907 and a State of Iowa depository library since 1979 the Library receives many legal publications. These publications help to meet the legal information needs of the general public, university administration and the students and faculty. The legal publications also support the curriculum. Iowa State has history, political science, and other departments which have a strong need for information about the laws of the United States. In addition many other departments offer courses in the legal aspects of their subject. To support these needs, the Library collects legislative publications for hearings and bills, laws, codes, regulations and case law at the federal and state level and municipal codes at the local level.

III. Iowa State University Program

The law collection supports the history and political science departments in their need for current and historical congressional information. Support is also provided for courses with a legal emphasis offered in civil engineering, economics, exercise and sport science, hotel restaurant management, human development and family studies, and mechanical engineering. Research areas of interest to teaching faculty, such as family law, agricultural law, copyright and tax law, are also supported. In addition, the instructor for the course on technical writing has asked for some materials related to legal writing.

IV. Subject Boundaries

The law bibliographer selects monographs and serials based on course descriptions in the *Iowa State University Bulletin*, review sources, and consultations with other library specialists. Most materials purchased for the law collection will have an emphasis on United States law. However, with the continued emphasis on globalization, some monographic titles may have an international perspective. Faculty and student requests are filled when possible. Standing orders exist for major serials.

Some legal publications come to the Library from its participation in the federal and state depository programs. It is the responsibility of the law bibliographer to select items to supplement the legal publications received through the depository program. Other bibliographers will be consulted about legal topics in their subject area. Requests for legal materials from other bibliographers will be accepted; however if the topic is deemed to be too narrow, it will be the responsibility of the subject bibliographer to acquire the item.

The bibliographer does not usually select popular works or works designed for use by lawyers or law students

V. General Collection Guidelines

A. Linguistic.

All materials will be purchased in English.

B. Geographical Areas.

The major emphasis is on Federal law and the laws of Iowa and the surrounding states. At the municipal level, we collect the codes of Ames and Des Moines. Some general monographs on topics with an international focus are also considered.

C. Types of Materials Collected.

Materials collected include books and journals. Emphasis is placed on undergraduate level materials. Generally, the Library does not purchase items of a popular nature, dissertations, study guides for LSAT, selected statutes, casebooks and guides for practitioners.

D. Format of Materials Collected

Paper, microfiche and electronic formats are the most intensively collected. When there is a choice of formats to be selected, the decision is based on purpose, content and ease of use.

VI. Specific Collection Guidelines

Emphasis is on the law of the United States with some Canadian and English law also being considered. Generally, we do not collect monographs on the laws of a particular foreign country, but we do collect titles on topics with an international treatment especially if it relates to the departmental legal courses being offered or faculty research interests..

VI. Detailed Subject Areas

Cases, codified laws, administrative regulations of the United State, Iowa and surrounding states are collected. Areas of law important to the collection include: agricultural law, hospitality law, contracts, debtor-creditor, bankruptcy, trusts, tax law, insurance, liabilities, property, copyright, environmental law, torts, constitutional law and legal writing..

VII. Other Resources Available

Lexis-Nexis Academic
Westlaw Campus Research
LexisNexis Congressional
Shepard's Citations
Findlaw <http://www.findlaw.com>
GPO Access http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/
Library of Congress <http://www.thomas.gov/>
Iowa General Assembly home page <http://www2.legis.state.ia.us/>
Slip opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court <http://www.supremecourt.gov>

VIII. Cross-references to Collection Policies

ISU Library General Collection Development Policy
ISU Reference Collection Development Policy
ISU Library Electronic Materials Collection Development Policy

X. Creation date: September 2000

XI. Revision History revised October 2006

XII. LC Class(es), if applicable.

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XIII. Bibliographer name: Joyce A. Lindstrom