Iowa State University
Collection Development Policies
Theatre

I. General Purpose
The general purpose is to provide library resources for undergraduate instruction as well as student and faculty research in all the areas listed below.

II. History
The teaching of drama at Iowa State College (University) began in 1902 as part of the Department of Elocution and Oratory. Within a year, the name of the Department was changed to the Department of Public Speaking. In 1940, the Department merged with the Department of English to become the Department of English and Speech. In 1969, English and Speech once again became separate departments. The Department was renamed the Department of Speech Communication in 1982. The Theatre Program continued to be administered by the Department of Speech Communication until 1992 when it became part of the Department of Music.

The first student dramatic production on campus was Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1871. There were no formal organizations for the production of plays until 1914, when Fredricka Shattuck formed the Mask Players, the precursor of the Iowa State Players. For several decades the players provided the only vehicle for dramatic production. In 1946, the Laboratory Theater and the Film Theater, a program for the weekly showing of popular films was established. In the following year, Iowa State Theater was formed as the administrative unit to govern three groups: Iowa State Players, Laboratory Theater, and Film Theater. In 1954, Iowa State Theater Program created a Children’s Theater subdivision. The Showboat Players, a special group that performed plays during the summer in Clinton, Iowa aboard the Rhododendron, was formed in 1969. In 1972, the group was moved back to Ames and reorganized as Iowa State Summer Theater. In 1975, Film Theater was eliminated.

III. Iowa State University Program
From the Theatre Department’s website:

*This program prepares the student for graduate school, professional theatre training programs, and the teaching of Theatre at the secondary education level. Courses in Theatrical Design and Technology, Acting, Directing, History and Criticism provide the foundation for students in Theatre. Courses in the appreciation and understanding of Theatre, the Performing Arts, and Acting enhance the general and cultural education of all students, regardless of major.*


IV. Subject Boundaries
In keeping with the Theatre Department’s stated objectives, materials collected will be within the parameters of acting and directing as an applied discipline, the theory and history of acting and directing, and works related to theatre pedagogy. Whereas the 2007 policy included music, dance, and playwriting in the Theatre collection development policy, they have now been removed: music, and musical theatre, is covered in the Music collection policy; dance is covered in the Kinesiology policy, and playwriting is a concern of the English Literature collecting policy. Dance and playwriting are no longer considered a part of the ISU Theatre Department’s offerings.

V. General Collection Guidelines

A. Linguistic
In theatre materials, English is emphasized, with secondary emphasis on French, German, and Italian. Applied materials are acquired almost exclusively in English.

B. Geographical Areas
Theatre materials from the United States and Great Britain are emphasized. Selective materials from around the world are considered.

C. Type and Format of Materials Collected
a. Current monographs, with occasional purchase of retrospective materials
b. Key serials/series in English
c. Plays
   i. Anthologies
   ii. New plays or playwrights that are receiving attention from critical literature and/or the press
   iii. Plays produced in the United States are a focus
d. Up-to-date reference materials in English for encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, and research guides. Selective purchase of directories.

e. DVDs of theatrical performances and documentaries related to theatre studies.

VI. Specific Collection Guidelines

The Library will collect generally to support theatrical scholarship in theatrical history and literature, criticism, sociology, theory, and bibliography. Considerable effort should be taken to ensure that the theatre collection includes a representative collection of works by major playwrights of the modern era.

VII. Detailed Subject Areas

Collection levels:
1. Minimal level
2. Basic/Initial study level
3. Advanced study level
4. Research level
5. Comprehensive level

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Collecting Level</th>
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<td>Drama history and criticism</td>
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<td>Modern British and 20th-century American drama</td>
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<td>Lighting, scenery, set design</td>
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<td>Theater management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playwriting</td>
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<td>Plays (within parameters listed above)</td>
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VIII. Other Resources Available

Many resources are available outside of ISU Library's collections, chiefly through Interlibrary Loan. The Library subscribes to many indexes, abstracts, and full-text databases in electronic format which provide further access to theatre materials, including Dissertations and Theses, ERIC, Academic Search Premier, Google Scholar, JSTOR, Project MUSE, Theatre in Video, and North American Theatre Online.

IX. Cross-references to Collection Policies

   English (Playwriting and Film Studies)
   Music
   Kinesiology (Dance)

X. Creation Date
June, 2000

XI. Revision History
Previous revision, January, 2007
Currently revised as of December, 2013

XII. Bibliographer Name
Dan Coffey, Humanities Bibliographer