

Geography Collection Development Policy

I. General Purpose

The Geography Collection of the Parks Library is designed to support instruction, recreational needs, and minimal research in the interdisciplinary field of Geography. Geography courses are not regularly offered but geographical concepts are taught and used in several departments. These departments include History, Landscape Architecture, Community and Regional Planning, and Geology and Atmospheric Sciences. In addition, the Geography Collection is assisting in the support of the research needs of the University's Geographic Information Systems Facility (GIS Facility).

Geography materials are defined as those materials dealing with the study of the impact of people upon the land. The materials collected include books, serials, maps, atlases, and software. Many items of the collection are located in the Map Room while the others are in the General Collection.

The focus of the Geography Collection is expected to change towards more Geographic Information Systems (GIS) materials. There is planning underway at the University level of offering GIS as a degree program. If this occurs then major changes will be expected in this collection development policy. These GIS materials are becoming more interdisciplinary and increasingly more costly. In addition, the greater collaboration with the Map Room and the GIS Facility will increase the likelihood that more software and metadata will be acquired and housed jointly by the Library and the GIS Facility. Also, the Map Room is experiencing crowded conditions and will need a major weeding project.

II. History

The Geography Collection has not supported any Geography courses since 1996 since the retirement of the professor who taught these courses. Prior to 1996, the Anthropology Department offered one geography course per semester. There are no plans for the replacement of the position.

III. Iowa State University Program

N/A

IV. Subject Boundaries

This section describes the type of materials collected for the Geography Collection. It is broken down by type of material.

Maps: The collection will select as many Iowa-related and United States maps as possible. Also, heavily selected will be maps from the surrounding states of Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, and South Dakota. The collection will receive as many of the map series that are published by the US Government and issued through the Government Printing Office Depository Program. State and City Road Maps as well as recreational maps will be another area of heavy selection. International maps will be selectively acquired.

Books: The collection will strive to have a comprehensive collection of both physical and historical world atlases. It will, also, collection many specific countries' atlases. The collection will acquire general interest geography books as well as many materials on GIS. Textbooks will be collected on a very limited basis. Travel guides such as those published by Fodor or Michelin and dissertations and revised dissertations are not selected. Travel accounts and diaries will be purchased highly selectively but accounts of women explorers and travelers will be given greater emphasis. Tourism materials will be limited to broad world discussion and to the US.

Software and Metadata: The collection primarily obtains Government Printing Office Depository issued software and metadata. The GIS Facility acquires most of the metadata needed for research at the University.

V. General Collection Guidelines

a. Linguistics

Materials are collected primarily in English. Other languages will be considered especially bilingually published maps and atlases.

b. Geographical Areas

All geographical areas are considered for collecting. Strong emphasis is on United States and especially Iowa.

c. Types of Materials Collected

All types of materials are collected.

d. Format of Materials Collected

All formats are collected. Greater emphasis is given to printed materials.

VI. Specific Collection Guidelines

N/A

VII. Detailed Subject Areas

N/A

VIII. Other Resources Available

N/A

IX. Cross-references to Collection Policies

Architecture
Community and Regional Planning
Geology/Atmospheric Sciences
History

X. Creation Date

August 2000 – Kathy A. Parsons

XI. Revision History

April 2004 – Kathy A. Parsons
October 2004 – Kathy A. Parsons

XII. LC Class(es), if applicable

G1-GA1176

XIII. Bibliographer's Name

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