



Wichita State University Libraries

Collection Development Policies English Language and Literature

A. Purpose of Collection

1. Program Information

The Department of English of the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Master of Fine Arts (Creative Writing) degrees. In addition, it participates in two interdisciplinary certificate programs, Film Studies and Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Students may concentrate in literature, creative writing, or English education. Those seeking the MFA specialize in fiction, nonfiction, or poetry. Those seeking the MA follow one of three plans: Plan A emphasizes literature, composition, and pedagogy. Plan B emphasizes research, scholarly writing, and the study of literature. The emphasis of Plan C is on creative writing. The department does not offer a doctorate.

There are 18 permanent faculty members in the Department with teaching and research interests in language and linguistics, all periods of British and American literature, drama, folklore, creative writing, and film.

The majority of the 210 undergraduates majoring in English concentrate in literature. Creative writing is the second most popular concentration. The department's creative writing programs, both undergraduate and graduate, are strong in the areas of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. In the graduate program, MFA candidates outnumber MAs.

Since all entering freshmen must take English composition and many of the department's literature courses are options in the General Education program, virtually every undergraduate student on campus takes at least one English class, regardless of major.

2. Collection Description

The English Language and Literature collection exists to support the teaching and research needs of the Department of English faculty and students. Materials are housed in Ablah Library. Included in the collection are monographs, scholarly journals, literary magazines, films on DVD or videocassette, non-music sound recordings, microforms, and electronic databases. Audiobooks are not collected; however, they are available at no cost to users through the Kansas State Library's Overdrive program.

The library's monograph collection contains titles in the following Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH): Philology and Linguistics (P), English language (PE), Literary history (PN), English literature (PR), and American literature (PS). The library's holdings are strongest in the PR and PS classifications. The holdings in Philology and Linguistics, while not extensive, are of high quality and the collection is kept current in the areas of sociolinguistics, language acquisition, and comparative linguistics.

In Literature, the collection contains the works of major and critically-acclaimed authors writing in English from all time periods. All genres of literary work are collected. Emphasis has been on American and English literature, but increasingly, select literary work from other anglophone countries is added. Literary biographies, theory and criticism, and literary history are also collected.

The library subscribes to a sizeable collection of scholarly journals and literary (also known as little) magazines, numbering over 190 specifically in the fields of English language and literature in print. Twenty-one journals are available electronically in English language, 48 in American literature, and 55 in English literature of the British Isles and the rest of the anglophone world. Additionally, the library keeps bound volumes of journals from the 18th through 20th centuries which are important to the study of literature and culture.

Several periodicals are available on microform. The most significant recent addition to the collection is the microfilm set of Early English Books.

Databases useful for the study of English language and literature are available to the WSU community from both on campus and off. These include the Literature Research Center, Literature Online (LION), the Modern Language Association International Bibliography, and, through LION, the Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature. The Humanities Full Text index through WilsonWeb and Academic OneFile through Gale are also useful to researchers in literature and language.

While the library does own some electronic books related to English studies, the faculty generally prefers to use print.

The University Libraries acquired or is in the process of acquiring some substantial materials and resources from FY2006 onward. These include the addition of two British literary studies journals; approximately 50 "classic" American films on DVD, purchased with a gift; 49 personal memoir graphic novels; the ProQuest database Literature Online; and Early English Books on microfilm.

3. Anticipated Trends

The collection of Medieval and Renaissance texts and criticism will continue to increase to support the Medieval and Renaissance Certificate program established in 2006. In keeping with increased interest in multiculturalism at both the departmental and university levels, works on or by women, racial or ethnic minorities, homosexuals, and other traditionally marginalized groups are increasingly collected. The English Department recently added courses in Postmodern literature, Race Relations in America, African-American literature, women's literature, and Irish literature (in connection with a Travel Study course). The new collection of personal memoir graphic novels will help support the established course in popular culture. Three new Americanists were added to the English Department's faculty in Fall 2007 and it is expected that requests for American literature and criticism will increase.

B. Scope of Coverage

1. Chronological Focus

All time periods are collected.

2. Geographic Focus

The collection focuses on the British Isles and the United States, including indigenous peoples of North America. Literature and some criticism from English Canada is also collected to a lesser extent. Authors

writing in English from former British colonies or protectorates such as India, Jamaica, Kenya, Hong Kong, and Australia are also collected.

3. Formats and Materials Collected

The bulk of the English language and literature collection is made up of books and print journals. This includes bibliographies, literary guides, handbooks, casebooks, specialized dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, concordances, literary biographies, essays, novels, poetry, short stories, creative nonfiction, plays, filmscripts, literary theory and criticism, writing theory, and linguistic theory. Material is collected when it meets certain criteria:

- The work is relevant to courses taught at Wichita State University;
- The work is of interest because of literary qualities, author, genre, experimental nature, etc. to the WSU community;
- The work shows promise of enduring literary worth;
- The work is of high quality and deals with topics related to Kansas or the Midwest;
- The author is associated with the English Department, including current and former faculty and current and former students of the Creative Writing Program.

Material requested by departmental faculty, even when not fitting into the categories above, will be added to the extent practicable.

4. Formats and Materials Not Collected

The only expressly excluded format is audiobooks (regardless of format). E-books, whether for use on a personal computer or on portable devices, are collected only in rare circumstances and are not favored by the English Department faculty. Literary criticism of authors whose work is not in the library's collection, chapbooks, self-published work, textbooks, collections of aphorisms, most anthologies, and rhetoric handbooks for use in instruction are generally not collected.

5. Publication/Imprint Dates

Current publications are emphasized. Older publications are added to fill gaps in the collection or when requested by faculty, students, or staff and deemed appropriate to the collection. Currency is not a critical factor in the study of English literature.

6. Place of Publication

There is no strict limit to place of publication, but material published in the United States is generally preferred for cost reasons. While linguistic studies and literary criticism are often published simultaneously in the UK and the US, British fiction, poetry, plays and so on are not. The bibliographer would normally wait until a US edition is published to add it to the collection. Materials published exclusively in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other Anglophone countries are collected only selectively.

7. Languages Collected

Materials are acquired in modern English, old or middle English, and translations of old or middle English into modern English. Very few materials are collected in Welsh, Irish, or Gaelic.

C. Summary of Subjects Collected and Collecting Levels (See Appendix A for Details)

D. Subjects Excluded

No subjects are expressly excluded from the collection, but certain areas outside the purpose of the collection would be acquired only if they fit within the selection criteria discussed elsewhere. These subjects include erotica, romance novels, genre fiction, pop fiction, light verse, and humor.

E. Related Collections and Cooperative Efforts

Many areas relate to English literature and language, including philosophy, history, religion, women's studies, ethnic studies, and classical languages. The library participates in interlibrary loan programs and exchanges material with Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and other institutions.

F. Related Collection Development Policies

Individual collection policies for the subjects named in Section E may be found in the Collection Development and Research Services Group offices and online at <http://library.wichita.edu/colldev/subjectpoliciesalpha.htm>.

G. Related Collection Evaluations

The collection evaluation for English Language and Literature is available in the Collection Development and Research Services Group offices.

H. Other Factors

Special Collections has several collections of interest to scholars of English literature. See <http://specialcollections.wichita.edu>.

Appendix A. Specific Subjects Collected (with Collecting Levels)

Appendix B. Explanation of Collecting Levels and Codes

Liorah Golomb, Assistant Professor and Humanities Librarian
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Appendix A. Specific Subjects Collected (with Collecting Levels)

LC CLASS	SUBJECT	COLLECTING LEVEL
P101-410	Language. Linguistic theory. Comparative grammar	C2
PE1-3729	English	C1
PN1-6790	Literature (General)	C1
PN1-44	Periodicals, Yearbooks, Societies, etc.	C1
PN45-57	Philosophy. Esthetics	C1
PN59-72	Study and teaching	D
PN80-99	Criticism	C1
PN101-245	Authorship	C1
PN172-239	Technique. Literary composition, etc.	C1
PN441-1009.5	Literary history	C1
PN451-497	Biography	D
PN500-519	Collections	D
PN597-694	Special relations, movements, and currents of literature	C1
PN683-687	Legends	C2
PN688-691	Poetry	C1
PN692-693	Prose. Prose fiction	C1
PN695-779	Modern	C1
PN715-749	Renaissance (1500-1700)	C1
PN801-820	Romance literature	C1
PN841	Black literature (General)	C1
PN842	Jewish literature in various languages	C2
PN851-(884)	Comparative literature	C1
PN(905)-1008	Folk literature	C1
PN980-995	Fables	C1
PN1008.2-1009.5	Juvenile literature	C2
PN1010-1525	Poetry	C1
PN1031-1049	Theory, philosophy, relations, etc.	C1
PN1065-1085	Relations to, and treatment of, special subjects	C1
PN1110-1279	History and criticism	C1
PN1301-1333	Epic poetry	C1

LC CLASS	SUBJECT	COLLECTING LEVEL
PN1341-1347	Folk poetry	C1
PN1351-1389	Lyric poetry	C1
PN1600-3307	Drama	C2
PR1-9680	English literature	C1
PR1-56	Literary history and criticism	C1
PR57-78	Criticism	C1
PR111-116	Women authors	C1
PR125-(138.5)	Relations to other literatures and countries	C2
PR161-488	By period	C1
PR171-236	Anglo-Saxon (Beginnings through 1066)	C1
PR251-369	Medieval. Middle English (1066-1500)	C1
PR401-488	Modern	C1
PR421-(429)	Elizabethan era (1550-1640)	C1
PR431-(439)	17th century	C1
PR441-(449)	18th century	C1
PR451-(469)	19th century	C1
PR471-(479)	20th century	C1
PR481-488	21st century	C1
PR500-614	Poetry	C1
PR621-744	Drama	C2
PR750-890	Prose	C1
PR821-890	Prose fiction. The novel	C1
PR901-907.2	Oratory	D
PR908	Diaries	D
PR911-918	Letters	C2
PR921-928	Essays	C1
PR931-938	Wit and humor	D
PR(951)-981	Folk literature	C2
PR1098-1369	Collections of English literature	D
PR1490-1799	Anglo-Saxon literature	C1
PR1803-2165	Anglo-Norman period. Early English. Middle	
PR	English	
PR2199-3195	English renaissance (1500-1640)	

LC CLASS	SUBJECT	COLLECTING LEVEL
PR3291-3785	17th and 18th centuries (1640-1770)	
PR3991-5990	19th century, 1770/1800-1890/1900	
PR6000-6049	1900-1960	
PR6050-6076	1961-2000	
PR6100-6126	2001	
PR8309-9680	English literature: Provincial, local, etc.	
PS1-3576	American literature	
PS126-138	Biography, memoirs, letters, etc.	
PS147-152	Women authors	
PS163-173	Treatment of special subjects, classes	
PS185-231	By period	
PS185-195	17th-18th centuries	
PS201-217	19th century	
PS221-228	20th century	
PS229-231	21st century	
PS241-286	Special regions, states, etc.	
PS241-255	North	
PS261-267	South	
PS271-285	West and Central	
PS301-326	Poetry	
PS330-353	Drama	
PS360-380	Prose	
PS370-380	Prose fiction	
PS400-408.2	Oratory	
PS409	Diaries	
PS410-419	Letters	
PS420-429	Essays	
PS430-439	Wit and humor. Satire	
PS(451)-478	Folk literature	
PS490	Juvenile literature (General)	
PS501-689	Collections of American literature	
PS530-536.3	By period	
PS537-574	By region	

LC CLASS	SUBJECT	COLLECTING LEVEL
PS538-549	North	
PS551-559	South	
PS561-572	West and Central	
PS580-619	Poetry	
PS593	By form	
PS601-617	By period	
PS623-(635)	Drama	
PS642-659.5	Prose (General)	
PS651-659.2	By period	
PS660-668.2	Oratory	
PS666-668.2	By period	
PS669	Diaries	
PS670-678.2	Letters	
PS680-689	Essays	
PS700-3576	Individual authors	
PS700-893	Colonial period (17th and 18th centuries)	
PS991-(3390)	19th century	
PS3500-3549	1900-1960	
PS3550-3576	1961-2000	

APPENDIX B – EXPLANATION OF COLLECTING LEVELS AND CODES

1. COLLECTING LEVELS*

Current Collection (CL) -- existing strength of collection (required)
Collection Goal (GL) -- desired or target collecting goal (required)
Acquisitions Commitment (AC) -- current collecting level or growth rate (optional)
Preservation Commitment (PA) – commitment to physical and/or content preservation (optional)

2. COLLECTING LEVEL CODES OR INDICATORS

Each collecting level is assigned one of the following codes:

A	Comprehensive Level
B	Research Level (doctoral)
C1	Advanced Study Level (advanced undergraduate, masters)
C2	Basic Study Level (undergraduate)
D	Basic Information Level
E	Minimal Level
NC	Not Collected

The following is a detailed definition of each code:

A Comprehensive level. A collection in which a library endeavors, so far as is reasonably possible, to include all significant works of recorded knowledge (publications, manuscripts, other forms) for a necessarily defined field. This level of collecting intensity is that which maintains a “special collection”; the aim, if not the achievement, is exhaustiveness.

B Research level. A collection includes the major published source materials required for dissertations and independent research including materials containing research reporting, new findings, scientific experimental results, and other information useful to researchers. It also includes all important reference works and a wide selection of specialized monographs, an extensive collection of journals and major indexing and abstracting services – including electronic resources -- in the field. Supports doctoral and other original research.

C1 Advanced study level. A collection which is adequate to support the course work of advanced undergraduate and master's degree, or sustained independent study; that is, which is adequate to maintain knowledge of a subject required for limited or generalized purposes, of less than research intensity. It includes a wide range of basic monographs both current and retrospective, complete collections of the works of more important writers, selections from the works of secondary writers, a selection of representative journals, and the print and electronic reference tools and fundamental bibliographical apparatus pertaining to the subject.

C2 Initial study level. A collection which is adequate to support undergraduate courses. It includes a judicious selection from currently published basic monographs (as represented by Choice selections) supported by seminal retrospective monographs (as represented by Books for College Libraries); a broad selection of works or more important writers; a selection of the major review journals; and current editions of the most significant print and electronic reference tools and bibliographies pertaining to the subject. Not adequate to support master's degree programs.

D Basic level. A highly selective collection which serves to introduce and define the subject and indicates the variety of information available elsewhere. It includes major dictionaries and encyclopedias,

selected editions of important works, historical surveys, important bibliographies, a few major periodicals in the field, and a limited collection of basic electronic resources.

E Minimal level. A subject area in which few selections are made beyond very basic works.

NC Not Collected. A subject area in which no selections are made, i.e. out of scope.

* The collecting levels and codes assigned to each LC Class are derived from the WLN Conspectus.