



Wichita State University Libraries

Collection Development Policies

Old World History CD Policy

A. Purpose of Collection

1. Program Information

Although the History Department has taught European, Middle Eastern and Asian history at one point or another in its existence, its current Old World History focus is Europe. In this field, the department offers a Master of Arts degree.

The main areas of research in this area are the Ancient World, Late Antiquity, the High Middle Ages and modern Europe. The faculty include Ariel Loftus (Ancient Greece/Rome), Philip D. Thomas (Medieval Europe), Anthony Gythiel (Medieval Europe), George Dehner (History of Disease), Helen Hundley (Russia) and John Dreifort (modern Europe).

The students taking History courses are from a variety of disciplines across the WSU campus.

2. Collection Description

The Old World History collection consists of paper books, electronic books, archival works, paper journals and electronic journal collections.

Due to our collaboration with the professors noted above, the Libraries' book holdings in this regard are quality selections. When compared against the bibliographies in the *Oxford Histories*, the subject collections fared well for a master's level program across the board.¹ Historically, the collection has a strong base, encountering some holes in recent years due to budgetary and priority shifts. Recent retrospective collaborations have made a difference in bridging these gaps.

Although we still collect continuing series, those items have been targeted in the most recent budgetary shortfalls. It should be noted that many of these sets provide valuable primary source coverage. Consequently, they should be retained if at all possible.

It should be noted that there are several different collections related to this subject housed by the University Archives as well.

While suffering some cuts over the years, our journal holdings in this regard are strong. The faculty and librarians have worked together to maintain core journal collections. The recently acquired **JSTOR Arts and Sciences Collections** in addition to **History Cooperative** supplement these efforts in addition to adding journals in secondary fields

(see Middle East and Asia).² However recent budget cuts have taken their toll on those items. These journals need to be protected whenever possible in future serials reviews.

3. Anticipated Trends

As with other areas within the Humanities and Social Sciences, two items will drive our collecting efforts for Old World History: access and budgets.

The balance between print and electronic media may help to bridge several gaps in the future. Certainly, in terms of electronic journals, we have benefited from publishers providing affordable journal packages here in the United States such as the **History Cooperative**, **JSTOR** and **Project Muse**. The success of the **ACLS History E-Book Project** indicates that subject-specific collections could potentially impact historical research to a greater degree than the general collections (e.g.: **Netlibrary**).

With Old World History, due to the collaboration between the faculty mentioned above and the liaison librarians, we have strong core collections for the most part, emphasizing *quality over quantity*.³ Given the budgetary situation and priorities both for the History department and the Libraries as a whole, this activity will need to be monitored carefully to insure a balance between a general collecting base, meeting faculty research needs and satisfying patron's needs. To their credit, these professors make it a point to balance all three of these components in their requests for books and our discussions. Also, since Old World History literature does touch on other subject areas across campus, we do need to keep some works (mainly in translation but with some original holdings) available for patron use as well. These issues are concerns for the Old World History CD area.

B. Scope of Coverage

1. Chronological Focus

For Old World History, the primary chronological areas are Ancient World, Late Antiquity, Medieval and Modern.

Other areas can be collected depending upon available budgetary resources; the importance of the analyzed work(s) within the scope of Old World History in general and the quality of the scholarship in that work. For Europe, that activity would fall into the C1 or C2 levels. For the Middle East and Asia, despite the fact that these are secondary areas for the History Department but are taught in Women Studies by Drs. Deborah Gordon and Doris Chang, these areas should not fall beneath a D Level but should be kept at C2 if at all possible. These designations will be explained in Appendix B.

2. Geographic Focus

The History Department's primary geographic foci are Western Europe, the Mediterranean World and Russia. As noted earlier, interdisciplinary activities within Women Studies (Middle East and Asia) should be considered wherever possible.

3. Formats and Materials Collected

For Old World History literature, the collecting efforts include printed works both in English and other languages where appropriate. The following formats are collected: books, journals and serials. As noted above, when the appropriate opportunity arises to investigate electronic access for Old World History journals and electronic works, we will do so.

4. Formats and Materials Not Collected

Although the focus will primarily be on those formats and materials noted in Section 3 above, other formats will be considered according to the relevance to the overall major and the History Department, courses of study, areas of faculty research/teaching, and overall continuity of the collection. As I said in Section 3, such endeavors will be subject to availability, overall collecting priorities and budgetary constraints.

5. Publication/Imprint Dates

Most purchases will be recently published works although out of print works will also be considered. Retrospective projects conducted between faculty members and the subject librarians will be considered as well depending upon available budget, collection priorities, the time involved and the project scope.

6. Place of Publication

All academic publishers' works are considered. However, some publishers' works will tend to be purchased more than others. In all cases, the work's overall quality not just the publisher or its reputation will determine a purchase.

7. Languages Collected

Works in this field are collected primarily in English. All secondary works (unless requested by the faculty members) are collected in English. Primary sources can be collected in other languages. However again, foreign language sources will be collected in translation whenever possible. If a faculty member requests that a source be acquired in the original language, every effort will be made to get the work as permitted by availability and available funds.

C. Summary of Subjects Collected and Collecting Levels

The main areas collected here at WSU include:

| Subject | LC Class | Current Collection Strength |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| General Europe | D | C1 |
| United Kingdom | DA | C1 |
| Central Europe | DB | C2 |
| France | DC | C2 |
| Germany | DD | C2 |
| Greco-Roman World | DE | B |
| Greece | DF | C1 |
| Italy | DG | C2 |
| Low Countries | DH | C2 |
| Netherlands | DJ | C2 |
| Russia, former Soviet Union | DK | C1 |
| Northern Europe; Scandinavia | DL | C2 |
| Spain and Portugal | DP | C2 |
| Switzerland | DQ | C2 |
| Balkan Peninsula/Turkey | DR | D |
| Asia | DS | C1 |
| Africa | DT | Not major area |
| Oceania | DU | Not major area |
| Gypsies | DX | Not major area |

D. Subjects Excluded

There are no excluded subjects. Although some may only be collected at a minimal (re: level as spelled out in **Appendix B**).

E. Related Collections and Cooperative Efforts

Any collaborative interdisciplinary collecting effort should interact with those from the other History Department subject areas for budgetary reasons. Other subjects affected are: MCLL, Gender Studies, Religion, English Literature, Political Science in addition to other Social Science and Humanities areas. Interdisciplinary certificate programs such as the new Medieval and Renaissance Studies certificate will impact these collaborative efforts in a positive way.

F. Related Collection Development Policies

Any Old World History CD Policy should interact with those from the other History Department subject areas for budgetary reasons. Other subjects affected are: history, English literature, Gender Studies, Philosophy, Religion and other Humanities areas.

G. Related Collection Evaluations

See E and F above.

H. Other Factors

Access to Old World History sources (largely in English language interdisciplinary sources) is available through **Project Muse**, **History Cooperative** and **JSTOR**. Core electronic book collections can be found through **the ACLS History E-Book Project** and the *Oxford Histories* noted above.

This policy was created on June 7, 2006.

David J. Duncan
Reference and Humanities Librarian

Appendix A—Specific Subjects Collected (with Collecting Levels)

Appendix B—Explanation of Collecting Levels and Codes

Notes

¹ See the “Old World History Collection Analysis” for the exact percentages.

² Ibid. See the “Journals found in JSTOR Art and Sciences I-IV” for a listing of those journals we have in print, electronic or both.

³ Dr. Dreifort alluded to this collaboration in his response to Dean Rao’s visit to the History Department in November 2005.