



Wichita State University Libraries

Collection Development Policies

Physics

A. Purpose of Collection

- Program Information – The Physics department offers courses of study leading to the BA and BS. Physics graduates will have an understanding of basic physical phenomena and the theoretical framework required to interpret these phenomena.
1. Collection Description – given that the Physics department's focus is primarily on undergraduate study the collecting will be done primarily at the C2 level. This does not ignore the fact that the faculty in Physics and many other departments use upper level material in this field.
 2. Anticipated Trends – The physics research community is moving towards open access. Preprint servers and conference proceedings will continue to be critical to scholarly communication in physics.

B. Scope of Coverage

1. Chronological Focus is on current materials, a small collection of classical and historical materials will be bought.
2. Geographic Focus – Primary emphasis is placed on the United States with selective emphasis on the U.K.
3. Formats and Materials Collected – Primary emphasis will be on monographs and serials. Other formats will be purchased at the request of faculty.
4. Publication/Imprint Dates – Current dates only. There will be no retrospective collecting unless specifically requested by faculty or to replace missing core materials.
5. Place of Publication – Primarily U.S.
6. Languages Collected – non-english materials will be bought at the specific request of faculty only.

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

D. Subjects Excluded – NA

- E. Related Collections and Cooperative Efforts – Mathematical physics will be purchased under Mathematics. Collaborate with Education librarian to purchase physics education titles.
- F. Related Collection Development Policies – Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics.
- G. Related Collection Evaluations – Engineering
- H. Other Factors – I buy a lot of lower level books, including text books for the very active undergraduate physics program. These basic materials are important because most nonmajors lack extensive background in the field and require materials that supplement their course texts.

Appendix A – Specific Subjects collected (with Collecting Levels)

Appendix B – Explanation of Collecting Levels and Codes

Subject Librarian: Beth Mohler, engineering librarian

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APPENDIX A – SPECIFIC SUBJECTS COLLECTED WITH LEVELS

SUBJECT	LC CLASS	CL	GL
General Physics	QC 1-75	C2	C2
Mechanics	QC 120-159	C2	C2
Atomic Physics	QC 170-220	C1	C2
Heat	QC 251-318	C2	C2
Heat Transfer	QC 319.8-338	C2	C2
Optics	QC 350-467.	C1	C2
Electricity	QC 501-718.8	C2	C1
Magnetism	QC 770-798	C1	C1
General Astronomy	QB 1-139	C1	C2
Practical Astronomy	QB 145-237	C1	C2
Theoretical Astronomy	QB 351-480	C1	C2
Descriptive Astronomy	QB 500-595	C1	C2
Planets, Comets, Meteors	QB 600-791	C1	C2
Stars	QB 801-903	C1	C2

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*

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** **Basic 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 of 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 Information 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 and bibliographies, historical surveys, 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.