

Fine Arts Collection Development Policy for UNO Libraries

Tammi Owens, August 2019

Clientele

The Fine Arts collection development program supports research and instruction in the Art & Art History, Theatre, Writer's Workshop, and Music programs. This program also supports the fine arts research and instruction needs for other faculty, staff, and students at the University of Nebraska Omaha. While the library collects for the UNO campus community, its collection is used by local unaffiliated visitors and, through cooperative agreements with research institutions in Nebraska and the Interlibrary Loan program, the greater arts community worldwide.

Participation in collection development

The Fine Arts Librarian selects and de-selects material from the collections in these areas. Department chairs, faculty liaisons, and other interested faculty are the primary contacts for collection development and routinely recommend books, journal titles, and databases for the collection. Recommended books are typically purchased. Journal and database recommendations are evaluated, trialed, and considered along with other relevant data to determine suitability for the collection as a whole. Departments are consulted when large changes in the collection, including cancellation or addition of journal titles or changes in database subscriptions, are proposed.

Description of materials collected

In general monographs are purchased as either print or e-book depending on subject area and availability. Art monographs and scores are typically purchased in print. For all other works there is no greater emphasis placed on format. Journals and reference works are generally only purchased in electronic format unless the electronic version is judged as poorly presented or unstable or if its content is incomplete, or if price or license terms of the electronic version are prohibitive. Where digital versions are available print copies of journal back files and bibliographies, encyclopedias, and other reference materials are not retained. Dissertations are made available through the ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database.

Document delivery is an important source of the literature needed by library users. Currently, document delivery services rely on the Interlibrary Loan Department to deliver monographs and copies of journal articles to the UNO community for teaching and research needs. Fast and efficient document delivery decreases the need to purchase infrequently used materials. Records of past document delivery requests are used as a tool in collection development.

Textbooks are generally not acquired unless the library is purchasing an electronic textbook in conjunction with our Open Educational Resources program.

Books

The monograph collection is vital to research in the fine arts. Librarian and patron recommendations, usage statistics of previous editions or items covering similar topics, publisher promotions, and published reviews are used when selecting books. As a rule, one

copy of a title is purchased. Only electronic books available through institutional licenses are purchased. Whenever possible, electronic books should be purchased with the right to maintain perpetual access, but multiple simultaneous users are also acceptable terms. Electronic books are purchased from a variety of vendors and can be purchased and licensed for UNO use only or purchased and licensed through various library consortia. Due to limited shelving space, print books are periodically reviewed and considered for withdrawal. Criteria for withdrawal include the title or author's importance to the discipline, the usage of the item, local availability of electronic or more current editions, and the physical condition of the item.

Journals

Journals are purchased primarily to support the teaching and research needs of faculty and students. Interlibrary loan borrowing statistics, departmental research needs, and faculty suggestions are used in developing this collection. Priority is given to those publications with multiple requests, anticipated classroom use, and to support new programs.

An evaluation of the journal collection is conducted on a regular basis. Low usage, low or no impact factors, extreme price increases, and problems receiving issues are most often the cause for cancellation.

Scores

Full scores are purchased for chamber music, orchestral, band, and large vocal works. Piano scores for operas, oratorios, and other large vocal works, as well as large instrumental works with solo instrument are purchased. Parts for orchestra, band, string orchestra or other large ensembles, and solo works are typically not purchased except upon request by a faculty member.

Other materials

CDs are purchased when streaming versions are not available. Records are purchased when no other format is available and are held at KANEKO-UNO Library. Films, both in DVD and Blu-ray format, are purchased when digital or streaming versions are not available. Microforms, VHS, and cassette tapes are no longer collected.

Coordination

The Fine Arts Librarian coordinates with other librarians at UNO who collect in related subject areas to ensure comprehensive coverage while minimizing duplication, particularly for interdisciplinary programs. Materials for Writer's Workshop are typically collected by the Humanities Librarian. Materials concerning the creative process, artist's books, some catalogue raisonnés, and some exhibition catalogues are collected by the Manager of KANEKO-UNO, UNO Libraries' creativity library in downtown Omaha.

Scope

Chronology

No time period is excluded from consideration.

Publication date

Emphasis is on acquiring current literature, with older imprints selectively acquired to fill gaps in the collection.

Geography

All areas are considered.

Language

Literature in English is preferred. Materials in other languages is acquired in response to requests by library users and when the materials meet other collection development requirements.

Collection areas

Art & Art History

The department's mission is to educate artists, designers, scholars and teachers by fostering visual literacy, creative expression, and critical thinking through practice and research. There are three degree options for art students: Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art, and Bachelor of Fine Arts. Studio Art students further define their major with a concentration in one of these areas: Two Dimensional (2D), Three Dimensional (3D), Graphic Design, or Media Arts. Students may pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art or a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a PK-12 Teaching Certification. Students may also minor in Art History or Studio Art.

Collection strengths include twentieth-century art in general; American and European painting; and the decorative arts. Growth areas are African, Asian, Latin American, Pacific and Native American art, handicrafts, or textiles; artists of color, female artists, and LGBTQIA artists (or themes); local and regional artists (or themes); graphic arts; arts education; sequential (comic) art and gaming.

Theatre

In the Theatre program, students develop an in-depth understanding of the entire theatre-making process. Degree options for students are a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with focuses in acting/directing, design, or technical and stage management or a minor in Theatre with option of study in general theatre, acting, design/technical, directing, or scholarship.

Collection strengths include theatre in the United States and Europe; study and teaching of acting; and film studies. Growth areas are dramaturgy; technical aspects, such as scenery, lighting, props, costuming, and sound; local and regional playwrights, playwrights of color, female playwrights, and LGBTQIA playwrights (or themes).

Writer's Workshop

This program offers studio-based instruction from professional writers in a collegiate context that incorporates visual arts, journalism, communication and design. The degrees offered include Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in creative writing with an emphasis in fiction, poetry or creative nonfiction; a minor in Creative Writing; or Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Writing. The MFA in

Writing is a two-year primarily distance education program in fiction, poetry or creative nonfiction.

The Writer's Workshop program uses many different collection areas; see collection strengths in English, Art, Journalism, and Communication. Growth areas include critical essays and other works as requested by visiting faculty.

Music

The mission of the School of Music is to offer a comprehensive music program within a professional environment that stimulates the highest standards of excellence in music education, performance, research, creativity, entrepreneurship, technology, advocacy and service. Degree options include a Bachelor of Music in Music Education or Music Performance; a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a concentration in music technology, jazz studies, music entrepreneurial studies, or music studies; or a Master of Music in Music Performance, Conducting, or Music Education.

Collection strengths include orchestral, piano, and jazz scores; operas; music instruction and study; and music biographies. Growth areas are music technology; experimental music; music entrepreneurship; technical material for instruments; and music theory.

Related subject areas:

- Anthropology (ethnography, ethnomusicology, cultural artifacts)
- Education (art and music education)
- English (fiction, critical essays)
- Ethnic Studies, including Native American, African American, Asian American, and Chicano/Latino (ethnography, ethnomusicology, sociology, cultural artifacts)
- Technology (handicrafts and textiles, recording technology)
- Philosophy (aesthetics)
- Latin American and Caribbean Studies (Pre-Columbian thru contemporary ethnography, artifacts)
- Journalism (photojournalism and graphic design)
- Religious Studies (history, iconography of religions, churches, orders, saints, gods in Western and Eastern religions, liturgical music)
- History (pictorial works, such as history documented in WPA photographs)