

## **Humanities Collection Development Policy for UNO Libraries**

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### **Clientele**

The UNO Libraries Humanities collection development program supports instruction and research in the Departments of English, Communication, Foreign Languages, History, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and associated centers and programs. Primary faculty contacts are the chairs, faculty liaisons, administrative aids, and other interested faculty. The collection development program also supports the information needs of faculty, staff, and students in other departments of UNO as they pertain to the humanities. While the library collects for the UNO campus community, its collection is used by local unaffiliated walk-in visitors and, through the Interlibrary Loan program and reciprocal agreements, with research institutions.

### **Participation of patrons in collection development**

Humanities subject specialist librarians select additions to and withdrawals from the collections in these areas in UNO Libraries. Faculty, staff, and students routinely recommend books, journal titles, and databases. Recommended books are generally purchased. Journal and database recommendations are evaluated, trialed, and considered along with relevant data. Departments are consulted when large changes in the collection, including cancellation or addition of several serial titles or withdrawal from database subscriptions, are proposed.

### **Nature of the subject literature**

Monographs are the most commonly acquired types of materials. Scholarly and literary journals, and items in monographic series are also collected extensively. Publications of various societies and institutions, and the transactions and proceedings of conferences and congresses are acquired in select cases. Major sets or collections in print or electronic formats are acquired if they significantly serve to strengthen present collections, and if funding permits. Reference works, including bibliographies, biographies, encyclopedias, dictionaries, are selectively collected. Videos in various formats are collected in support of the curriculum.

### **Description of materials collected**

In general monographs are purchased as either print or e-book depending on subject area and availability, with no greater emphasis placed on format. Journals and reference works are generally only purchased in electronic format unless the electronic version is incomplete, or if price or license terms 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 humanities. 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. Duplicates are purchased on occasion and at the discretion of the librarian. 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.

### ***Other materials***

Electronic versions of indexes, encyclopedias, and bibliographies are preferred, but print updates may be purchased when the electronic version is cost prohibited. Films, both in DVD and Blu-ray format are purchased when digital or streaming versions are not available. Microforms are no longer collected.

## **Coordination**

Close cooperation is maintained with other librarians at UNO that collect in related subject areas. Cooperation ensures comprehensive coverage while minimizing duplication, particularly for interdisciplinary programs.

## **Collection areas**

### ***English***

The collection supports concentrations in American, British/Irish and Anglophone literature, Creative Nonfiction, Composition and Rhetoric, Linguistics, Technical Communication, First Year Writing, and TESOL. Current growth areas are Latinx literature, Native American literature, comics and graphic novels, and medical humanities. Also collected are ESL materials, including

“high interest, low vocabulary” items, and other items to support the ILUNO (English as a Second Language) Program at UNO.

### ***Communication***

The collection supports Communication Studies along with Journalism and Media Communication. Subject areas include communication law and policy, intercultural communication, organizational communication, public speaking, media studies, media writing, human resources, public relations, advertising, and technical communication. Growth areas are social media and digital networks, social change, global communication, health communication, and film studies. Related collections include social science methodology, research methods, and statistics.

### ***History***

The collection supports the curriculum and faculty research across a wide range of chronology and geography. The chronology includes ancient history, late antiquity, medieval history, early modern history, and modern and contemporary history. Geographically, greater emphasis is placed on the history of the United States and of Europe; but Asia, Africa, and Latin America are represented as well. Published primary sources in the form of books, both print and electronic, or databases are of particular interest for the collection.

### ***Foreign Languages and Literature***

The collection supports the curriculum and faculty research in French, German, Spanish and Russian. Other languages are acquired selectively. Collection development includes all aspects of language studies, including dictionaries, grammar and pronunciation guides, language teaching methods, and TESOL. Growth areas include cultural studies, Central and Latin American studies, and film studies.

### ***Philosophy***

The collection supports an undergraduate curriculum with three major concentrations: a traditional philosophy major covering the core subfields of history of philosophy, metaphysics, theory of knowledge, and ethical theory; philosophy of brain and mind; and law and social/political philosophy.

### ***Religious Studies***

The collection supports an undergraduate curriculum which ranges broadly across the academic study of religion. It addresses major religious traditions around the world (Hinduism and Buddhism; Judaism; Christianity and Islam; Chinese; and indigenous peoples of North America and in Africa). The collection also addresses various themes such as “spirituality and wellness” and “religion and human rights.”

### ***Digital Humanities***

The collection supports a variety of humanities disciplines in the pursuit of computational and informational techniques in the curriculum, faculty research, and public history. The collection has a major concentration in approaches used by History and English, but is widely encompassing of current digital scholarship as practiced by humanities disciplines.