

University of Waterloo Library

The accompanying Collection Development Policy statement is submitted by Jane Forgay, Liaison Librarian for the History Department and is approved by the undersigned.

Alison Hitchens, Associate University Librarian,
Collections, Technology and Scholarly Communication

Jane Forgay, Liaison Librarian

Julia Roberts, Department Chair

Geoffrey Hayes, Faculty Library Representative

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Collection development policy statement for the History Department

June 2021

Persons responsible for collection

The decision to select library materials is the responsibility of the Liaison Librarian, Jane Forgay, in consultation with the Faculty Library Representative, Geoffrey Hayes.

Department description

The History department offers courses and research areas towards undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degrees. The following geographical, temporal, and themed areas describe in broad terms faculty members' teaching and research activities.

- Canadian history 1600s – present
- United States history 1600s - present
- Britain and its Imperial history from 1700s
- African-Colonial/post-Colonial history 1800s - present
- Early Modern European history 1450 – 1750s
- Modern European (including Eastern European) history 1750s - present
- Transnational/global history
- Race, racism, and anti-racism history
- History of gender and sexuality
- War and society
- Indigenous history
- Digital history
- Public history
- Historiography

Scope of coverage

Materials are collected which support teaching and research that fall within the areas described above. Materials outside these areas may also be acquired when related research or teaching is being conducted by individual faculty members. A more specific subject break-down of this scope is provided in the section: **Subjects / themes and collecting levels.**

Indigenous Peoples, racialized people, and other underrepresented voices

The Librarian will actively seek out and acquire works of Indigenous peoples, racialized people, and the works of other underrepresented voices when they fit with the department's research and teaching focuses.

Language

With regard to secondary sources, English is the preferred language, but other languages are collected if considered relevant.

Geographical areas

There are no limitations providing the area relates to the teaching and research areas listed above.

Chronological periods

Generally, 15th century to present.

Dates of publication

Emphasis is given to current publications for secondary literature. With regard to primary sources, materials produced during a period that falls within an area of focus will also be acquired.

Types and formats of materials collected

Any type of material will be collected if it is relevant to the teaching and research in the areas listed above. Types of greatest importance are monographs, serials, and primary documents. Relevant bibliographies, biographies, chronologies, research databases (indexes/abstracts) are also collected. Both print and electronic/digital formats are considered but when possible, duplication of content is avoided.

Materials generally excluded but may instead be acquired by the Library's Special Collections & Archives and Geospatial units or by the campus Media Resources Library are manuscripts, photographs, maps and illustrated histories, streaming video, and films in formats such as DVDs. The Library does not normally acquire textbooks.

In acquiring new digital content, preference will be given to formats that are open and accessible whenever possible.

Subjects / themes and collecting levels

For further explanation about collecting levels, see Appendix 1.

Subjects / themes	Collecting level
Canadian history	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonial society 	Instructional - Research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War, military, and society • Social and cultural history • Social movements • Intersectionality and sport • Racism, anti-racism, and human rights • Gender • Indigenous – settler relations • Black Canadian history • Economic and political histories • Foreign relations 	Instructional - Research
United States	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • America through the Civil War era <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous-Settler relations • Enslavement • Immigration • Economic, political, and social movements 	Instructional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • America since the Civil War era <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic, political, and social movements • Human rights • Racial divides • Popular culture 	Instructional - Research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th & 21st century America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place in world politics • Vietnam War • Cold War, Cold War culture • Immigration • Racial divides • Civil rights • Protest movements • The “Sixties”, “Seventies”, “Eighties” • Popular culture, music, film 	Instructional - Research
Early Modern European History	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanism and religion 	Instruction - Research

Subjects / themes	Collecting level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renaissance and Reformation • Gender • Social, political, and economic structures 	
Modern European History	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social/economic structures • Political systems • Revolutions, occupations, and resistance • Wars 	Instruction - Research
Global history / Transnational governance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonial/Imperial and post-colonial histories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Britain ○ India ○ Africa ○ Caribbean • International relations/foreign policy • Global Indigenous rights • Empires • Diasporas • Human rights • Reparations 	Instruction - Research
Digital history	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodologies 	Instructional
Public history	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodologies 	Instructional - Research
Historiography	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodologies 	Instructional – Research

All collections are systematically reviewed for currency of information and to ensure that essential and important resources are retained. Superseded editions and titles are withdrawn as necessary. Classic retrospective materials are retained and preserved to serve the needs of historical/historiographical research.

Other resources available

History faculty and students benefit from many materials acquired for anthropology, classical studies, computer science, gender and social justice, political science, sociology, government information, and Special Collections & Archives.

The Library explores opportunities for collaborative purchases with the Ontario Council of University Libraries and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network.

Appendix

Explanation of levels of collecting

Out of scope

Materials to support research and curricula in this subject area are not covered in this Collection Policy Statement. Coverage of interdisciplinary subject areas and topics linked across departments can be identified with references to other Collection Policy Statements.

Basic information/reference level

The collection serves to introduce and define the subject. Only the most important reference works, general surveys, the most significant works of major authors, and a limited selection of representative general periodicals are collected. This level of collecting can be abbreviated as Basic/reference in the collection policies

Instructional support level (Undergraduate)

The collection supports all courses of undergraduate study. Materials collected include a wide range of reference works, fundamental bibliographic tools, and an extensive collection of monographs and periodicals. Access to owned or remotely-accessed electronic resources, including texts, journals, data sets, etc. is provided.

Research level

The collection includes major published source materials required for master's degree programmes, doctoral study and independent research in the subject. All formats, including appropriate foreign-language titles, are acquired. Historically important monographs, archival materials, and back-runs of serials are acquired as necessary.