

University of Waterloo Library

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

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

Jane Forgay, Liaison Librarian

John Ravenhill, Department Chair

Jinghing Huo, Faculty Library Representative

June 2021

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Collection development policy statement for the Political Science Department.....	3
Persons responsible for collection	3
Department activities.....	3
Scope of coverage	3
Types and formats of materials collected	4
Subjects / themes and collecting levels	4
Other resources available.....	6
Appendix.....	7
Explanation of levels of collecting	7

University of Waterloo Library

Collection development policy statement for the Political Science 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, Jingjing Huo.

Department activities

Research and teaching activities of the department focus on :

- Canadian Politics
- Global Politics
- Politics & Business
- Public Policy & Administration

Degrees are offered at the undergraduate and master's levels, with the doctoral program beginning Fall 2022. Many of the department's faculty participate in the University of Waterloo's Master of Public Service and the Balsillie School of International Affairs' Master and PhD programs in Global Governance.

Scope of coverage

Materials are collected which support the teaching and research that fall within the areas described above. A limited number of works that provide foundational and complementary coverage regarding the broad field of political science and its research methodologies are also collected. Materials outside these areas may also be acquired when related research or teaching is being conducted by individual faculty members. A more detailed subject break-down 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.

Languages

English language materials are preferred but materials in other languages are collected if appropriate.

Geographical areas

All geographical areas that are relevant to the department will be collected.

Chronological periods

Focus is given primarily to the 20th and 21st centuries. Stronger emphasis is placed on the post-World War II period.

Types and formats of materials collected

Any type of material will be considered if it is relevant to the teaching and research in the areas listed above and as the Political Science fund permits. Types of greatest importance are monographs and serials. Relevant bibliographies, biographies, chronologies, and 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 with other library funds or by the campus Media Resources Library are government documents, data sets, streaming video, and films in formats such as DVDs. The Library does not normally acquire textbooks.

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

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
Political Theory / Political Philosophy	
• General overviews	• Basic

Subjects / themes	Collecting level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political thought through to the 20th century • Democratic theory • Feminist theory • Justice 	Instructional - Research
Canadian Politics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate policy • Constitutional law, Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the courts • Economic policy • Energy policy • Environmental policy • Federal, provincial, regional, local, and multi-level governance • Health policy • Political parties, campaigns, elections, and marketing • Public administration • Security studies 	Instructional - Research
Global Politics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative politics • Environmental policy • Global governance • International organizations • International political economy and finance • International relations, alliance politics • Migration, refugees, and diasporas • Natural resources economics • Security studies, counterterrorism • Geographic areas beyond Canada with respect to social, economic, political, military, and regime structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ China ○ Global South ○ Israel/Palestine ○ Europe ○ South Asia ○ United States of America 	Instructional - Research
Politics & Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and business 	Instructional - Research

Subjects / themes	Collecting level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry and industrial issues • International organizations • International trade, trade agreements, value chains • Public-private partnerships, privatization • Public sector reform 	
Public Policy & Administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overviews 	Basic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bioethics and biotechnology • Comparative public policy • Emergency, risk, and adaptation management • Environment, climate policies • Gender and public policy • Health, including reproductive, health policy • Public administration and public service • Socio-economic structures • Social justice movements 	Instructional - Research
Research methodologies, lenses, and approaches	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handbooks and manuals 	Instructional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-racism • Ethnographical • Indigenous practices • Interviews, focus group, survey methods 	Research

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

Other resources available

Political Science faculty and students benefit from many materials acquired for anthropology, classical studies, gender and social justice, history, sociology, and government information.

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.