Earl K. Long Library

Geography Collection Development Policy

Purpose

The collection supports present and anticipated teaching and research in the field of geography and its sub disciplines. At present, the central focus of the department and the chief interests of the faculty are encompassed in the following areas of teaching and research: physical, cultural, and economic geography, historical geography, environmental geography, cultural ecology, hazards and disasters, meteorology and climatology, rural and urban geography, cartography, remote sensing, geographic information systems, and environmental assessment. The department participates in the BS in Urban Studies with a concentration in Geography, as well as a minor. Certification in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems is also available for both undergraduate and graduate students.

The department also participates in the MS in Urban Studies, with a concentration in Geography.

In addition to the support for the specific degree programs of the Geography department, the collection, especially in view of its broad interdisciplinary nature, also serves as a resource for undergraduate and graduate students in other disciplines. Related departments, colleges, and programs covering subjects of interest to Geography include: Anthropology, Sociology, Planning and Urban Studies, History, Biological Sciences, and Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Language

The primary language of acquisition is English. Materials in languages other than English will be acquired very selectively.

Chronological Guidelines

The collection emphasizes current research, although materials dealing with the history of the discipline of geography will be acquired. In addition, the subdiscipline of historical geography requires some materials dating from earlier time periods.

Geographical Guidelines

Although emphasis is placed on the study of Asia, North America, and Central America, materials dealing with other parts of the world will be selectively acquired.

Treatment of Subject

A variety of materials is collected in geography, but emphasis is placed on published research in the sub disciplines of geography (e.g., cultural or physical geography) and on geographical analyses of particular areas. Works on the methodology of the discipline are collected. Juvenile and popular materials are generally not collected. Textbooks are acquired on a very selective basis.
Types of Material

Monographs and serial publications form the basis for acquisitions. The general format preference for monographs is print, but electronic books are collected on request, and are encouraged as an option for online courses and Course Reserve purchases.

Reference materials, including bibliographies, handbooks, and dictionaries are acquired. The major database sources in the field (GeoRef and GEOBASE) are acquired. Atlases are still an important area of acquisition in this field, though selection of these materials will be done very selectively. Maps and other publications of U.S. government agencies appropriate to the study of geography are acquired through the U.S. Federal Depository program, but may be ordered.

Date of Publication

Emphasis is on materials published within the last decade, with retrospective materials acquired selectively.

Other Resources

Much of the electronic content (books, journals, and databases) that supports the Geography Department is not purchased directly through the departmental allocation but is acquired instead as aggregated content, often in the form of full-text, interdisciplinary databases or electronic journal packages. Many of these resources are purchased through a separate interdisciplinary allocation or statewide consortial buying arrangements.

Related Policy Statements

Other information related to Geography will be found in the following policy statements:

- Urban Studies: land-use analysis
- Geology: remote sensing
- Computer Science
- Biology
- Anthropology
- History

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