Earl K. Long Library  
History Collection Development Policy

Purpose

The collection supports present and anticipated teaching and research in the field of history and its subdisciplines. 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: History of the United States, in particular twentieth century, with some emphasis on southern, Louisiana, and New Orleans history; Western European History; Central European history; world civilization in general; urban history in general; U.S. cultural, diplomatic and military history; African American history; U.S. women’s history; U.S. colonial; early American history.

The department offers a B.A. and an M.A. degree in History. In addition, the History Department offers courses in urban history as a field of specialization for the Ph.D. in Urban Studies.

The Master of Arts in History (M.A.) degree program offers optional concentrations in Public History and International and Global Studies. Within the Public History concentration, there are two tracks: a New Orleans track and a Military track.

In addition to the support for the specific degree programs of the History Department, the collection, especially in view of its broad interdisciplinary nature, also serves as a resource for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members in other disciplines. Related colleges, departments and programs covering subjects of interest to the History Department are anthropology, fine arts, geography, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, political science, sociology, and urban studies.

Languages

The primary language of acquisition is English. Materials in French, German, and Spanish relating to the curriculum are acquired on a selective basis. Materials in other European languages and in non-European languages are acquired rarely.

Chronological Guidelines

The history collection spans all periods of time, particularly for U.S. and European history, although there is a strong emphasis on the early modern and modern periods.

Geographical Guidelines

While courses in history treat all geographic areas at the basic level, there is primary emphasis on:
• United States, with particular focus on Louisiana and the south;
• Europe, in particular Austria, England, France, and Germany

There is secondary emphasis on Asia, with some interest in Africa.

**Treatment of Subject**

The following treatments are collected in support of the overall history program, the urban studies Ph.D. concentration, and the international affairs concentration: history of, political aspects of, religious aspects of, role of government in, biographical treatment, popular biographical treatment (on a limited basis), legal aspects of, economics of, social aspects of, and psychological aspects of. Popular treatments, except in biography, are seldom collected.

**Types of Material**

Monograph and serial publications form the basis of acquisitions in history. 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, particularly atlases, historical gazetteers, encyclopedias, and dictionaries are collected. Major research collections, such as digital collections of early newspapers, are acquired when funds permit. Video and audio materials and microforms may be acquired as appropriate.

**Date of Publication**

The primary emphasis is on current materials. Retrospective materials, if of seminal importance to an appropriate area of the history curriculum, are collected.

**Other Resources**

Much of the electronic content (books, journals, and databases) that supports the History 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.

Other resources in the Earl K. Long Library that are of importance to history are the Special Collections (including archives and manuscripts), the Louisiana Collection, the Multimedia Collection, and the Federal Documents Collection.
Additional resources for history may be found at the Tulane University Libraries, the New Orleans Public Library's main library, and the Historic New Orleans Collection.

**Related Policy Statements**

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

- Anthropology: Archaeological studies
- Fine arts: Art History
- Political Science: History of political institutions and governments
- Urban Studies: Urban history