Purpose

The collection supports present and anticipated teaching and research in the field of Political Science 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: Urban politics and public policy; American political behavior and Institutions; U.S. elections and election results; American public opinion and research methods; minorities and women in politics; contemporary political philosophy; public administration and public policy; judicial process and criminal justice; public and constitutional law; international organization and administration; and comparative politics.

The Political Science Department offers graduate and undergraduate courses leading to the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. At the Master's level the department offers the Master of Arts in Political Science and an M.P.A., Master of Public Administration. The Ph.D. program offers concentrations in U.S. politics, comparative politics and international relations.

Language

The primary language of acquisition is English. Materials in other languages are acquired rarely.

Chronological Guidelines

The primary emphasis is on contemporary post-World War II affairs. In certain areas, such as comparative politics and political theory, materials dealing with earlier periods are acquired.

Geographical Guidelines

The areas of major concentration are the United States, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. Little emphasis is placed on other specific geographical locations but international and comparative geographical emphasis is important.

Treatment of Subject

The following treatments are collected:

- practice and methods of
- theory
- computer applications in
- statistical treatment of
- legal aspects of
- social aspects of
- environmental aspects of
- management/ administration of
• biographical and popular biographical treatments of the lives of prominent public figures such as judges, lawyers, politicians, and world leaders as well as such works about important historic figures in the study of political science
• occasionally popular treatments if related to American political policies, practices, behavior, and institutions
• occasionally textbooks at the upper undergraduate level

Types of Material

Monographs and serials form the basis of political science 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.

Other types of materials collected are laws and legislative materials, Louisiana documents, federal documents, law reports and digests. Dissertations are collected on a highly selective basis.

Reference materials such as bibliographies, indices, abstracts, directories, handbooks, encyclopedias and dictionaries are collected. Maps and atlases are collected as appropriate.

Date of Publication

In general, current and retrospective materials are collected. Titles published within the last ten years are most important. Retrospective collecting is determined by program need, collection strength, availability of desired material on the book market, and availability from other libraries.

Other Resources

Much of the electronic content (books, journals, and databases) that supports the Political Science 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 subcollections in the library of interest are:

• The Louisiana Collection, which contains material on state and local governments, politics, and social history.

• Special Collections, which contains historical documents and archives of particular interest in terms of local political history. The early records of the Louisiana Supreme Court serve as a valuable research tool.

• The Multimedia Collection, which contains valuable collections on microfilm, microfiche, and microcard for historical research.

• The Federal Documents Collection selects material from all federal executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.
Other resources outside the library include:

- The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), which maintains and provides access to a vast archive of social science data for research and instruction.
- New Orleans Public Library--Louisiana Division
- Law Library of Louisiana which contains reporters, state codes (other than Louisiana), and other legal material.

Related Policy Statements

College of Business

Though Political Science is primarily responsible for collecting materials on law, certain types of law materials are more properly under the purview of the College of Business (i.e., commercial/investment law, tax law, labor law, contracts, and trade treaties).

Planning and Urban Studies

There is overlap in the collecting interests of Planning and Urban Studies and Political Science, particularly in the areas of public administration and policy sciences. Generally, Political Science collects materials which address these issues at a broad, theoretical level or which focus on the federal government in particular; materials that deal with local city governments or which are geared more towards the practical applications of policy-making and urban planning are the responsibility of Planning and Urban Studies. The Political Science department’s strong interest in local government is supported in large part by the materials purchased through Planning and Urban Studies’ library budget, including books on the history and politics of individual cities.

History

While the Political Science Department has an interest in political history, its collecting emphasis is on contemporary politics and political events. The History Department is primarily responsible for collecting materials on political history of other time periods.

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