Earl K. Long Library
Sociology Collection Development Policy

Purpose

The collection supports present and anticipated teaching and research in the field of sociology 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: sociology and the environment, gender studies, criminology and deviance, the family, social groups, institutions and organizations, social change, social psychology and mental health, social stratification, methods and statistics, demographics, the sociology of aging and death, urban sociology, and feminist theory.

The department offers a B.A. and an M.A. degree. Students in the graduate program have the option to select a special concentration in the Sociology of Gender and the Sociology of Environment/Disaster.

In addition to the support for the specific degree programs of the Sociology 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 colleges, departments, and programs covering subjects of interest to sociology include Anthropology, History, Political Science, Psychology, and Urban and Public Affairs.

Language

The primary language of acquisition is English. Materials in French and Spanish are acquired very selectively. Materials in other foreign languages are not normally acquired.

Chronological Guidelines

Material on contemporary topics is the primary emphasis.

Geographical Guidelines

Emphasis is placed on the areas of North America, Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Treatment of Subject

Primary emphasis is on the traditional approaches to the discipline of sociology: its history and its political and psychological aspects. Material such as computer applications, statistical/mathematical analyses, are also selectively acquired. Other important areas include the medical, legal, economic, and business aspects of sociology. Less emphasis is placed on the practice, methodology, and teaching of sociology. Important scholarly biographies are selectively acquired. Graduate textbooks are acquired very selectively. Undergraduate textbooks are not acquired.

Types of Materials

Monograph and serial publications form the basis of acquisitions in sociology. 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, dictionaries, handbooks, and encyclopedias are selectively acquired. Subscriptions to standard research databases are acquired. Government documents are acquired through the U.S. Federal Depository Program.

**Date of Publication**

The primary emphasis is on current materials. Because of the University of New Orleans' status as a relatively new academic institution, the collection is rather weak in representative works and classics published during the period from 1930 to 1960, and an effort is made to acquire these as time and money permit.

**Other Resources**

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

The Federal Documents Unit within the Earl K. Long Library is a source of much material that supports the programs of the Sociology Department.

**Related Policy Statements**

Other information relating to sociology will be found in the following policy statements:

- **Anthropology**: Social anthropology, urban anthropology
- **History**: Social movements, labor history, demographics, the study of socioeconomic classes
- **Political science**: Voter behavior, political movements, ethnic minorities, bureaucracies
- **Psychology**: Social psychology, child development, aging
- **Urban and public affairs**: Social and cultural change, urban history