Planning and Urban Studies Collection Development Policy

Purpose

The collection supports present and anticipated teaching and research in the broad field of Planning and Urban Studies and its subdisciplines. At present the central focus of the school and the chief interests of the faculty are encompassed in the following areas: Urban Studies and Urban and Regional Planning. All degree offerings are highly interdisciplinary in nature. The department offers a Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies and Planning, a Master of Science in Urban Studies, a Master of Urban and Regional Planning, and a Ph.D. in Urban Studies. The Department also offers a certificate program in Historic Preservation and a credentials program in Hazard Planning.

The Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies and Planning degree is an interdisciplinary program that offers optional concentrations in geography, transportation, urban planning or they can pursue credentials in GIS and Remote Sensing, Hazards Planning or Historic Preservation.

The Master of Science in Urban Studies (MSUS) engages students in the interdisciplinary study of cities and the process of urbanization. Subfields in anthropology, geography, urban planning, cultural resource management and historic preservation are available.

Master of Urban and Regional planning (MURP) program offers training in the planning of cities and regions. The program offers specializations in the areas of Environmental and Hazard Mitigation Planning, Historic Preservation, Housing and Community Economic Development, Land Use and Urban Design, and Transportation Planning.


In addition to the support for the specific degree programs of the Department of Planning and Urban Studies, the collection, because of its broad interdisciplinary nature, also serves as a resource for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members in other disciplines. Related departments and programs which include subjects of interest to Planning and Urban Studies include Anthropology, Business Administration, Economics, Engineering, Geography, History, Political Science, and Sociology.

Languages

The primary language of acquisition is English. Materials in French are acquired on a selective basis. Materials in other European languages are seldom acquired. Material in non-European languages are not collected.

Chronological Guidelines

Primary emphasis is on the twentieth- and twenty-first-century period in Urban Studies, with a focus on the last 25 years. Some works on classical and historical topics such as city planning, public administration and urbanism are acquired.
Geographical Guidelines

Primary emphasis is on the urban areas of the United States, particularly Louisiana and the New Orleans metropolitan area, with secondary emphasis on Canada, Europe, Latin America and the developing nations.

Treatment of Subject

The following treatments of materials in Planning and Urban Studies are collected: Business Aspects, Computer Applications, Economics, History, Legal Aspects, Management and Administration, Political Aspects, Practice and Methods, Role of Government and Social Aspects. Biographical and popular treatment of prominent figures in the fields of Planning and Urban Studies are selectively acquired. Textbooks at the elementary level are not usually acquired. Textbooks at the advanced or professional level may be acquired.

Types of Materials

Monograph and serial publications, as well as federal and state documents, form the basis of acquisitions in planning and urban studies. 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, directories, encyclopedias, and handbooks, are selectively acquired. Geographical and topical maps of urban areas are also collected on a selective basis.

Date of Publication

Current publications form the highest priority. Materials from the most recent five years are emphasized. Some retrospective purchases are made on a highly selective basis.

Other Resources

Much of the electronic content (books, journals, and databases) that supports the Planning and Urban Studies 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.

Several special areas of the UNO Library serve as critical resources for the programs in Planning and Urban Studies. The most important is the Louisiana Collection which is constantly in use for research and teaching purposes. Other important areas are the Federal Documents Collection, in particular the Census material, and the Archives Collection for its material on local urban history. The Louisiana Collection at
the main branch of the New Orleans Public Library is also an important resource for Planning and Urban Studies students.

Related Policy Statements

Other information related to Planning and Urban Studies may be found in the following policy statements:

- Anthropology: Applied Urban Anthropology and Archaeology
- Civil Engineering: Public projects, e.g. roads and bridges
- Geography: Urban Geography and Land Development
- History: Urban History
- Political Science: Public Management and Government structure
- Sociology: Organizational Behavior

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