

Collection Policy: Religion and Culture

Last reviewed July 2007

Purpose

The Collection Development policy is used as a guide to shape relevant collections and to ensure consistency in collection development. The decision to purchase library materials is primarily the responsibility of the Collections Librarian in consultation with faculty in the Department.

This policy has been developed by Diane Peters, the Collections Librarian, in cooperation with and endorsed by Dr. Meena Sharify-Funk, the Department Library Liaison, and the Department Chair.

Collection Focus

- To support teaching, study and research up to the doctorate level, as well as to support faculty research

Collection Scope

- **Language:** emphasis is on English, French and German. Secondary emphasis is on other western languages.
- **Place of Publication:** primarily North American, European, Indian and Far Eastern sources are collected. Publications from other countries are acquired as necessary.
- **Dates of Publication:** emphasis is placed on recently published works
- **Chronological Period:** both contemporary and historical works are acquired
- **Geographical Areas:** no area is excluded
- **Publishers:** works from scholarly and academic publishers are emphasized

Types, Formats, and Readership of Materials Collected

- Materials with academic-level readership are selected
- Web-based formats for reference sources, journals and indexing sources are preferred. Print and microform are considered for reason of cost, availability, expected use or long term access.
- Single copies of books in print formats are generally selected. Web-based formats are selected on a title by title basis, especially if the title is of interest to users at multiple Laurier campuses. Duplication of print across Laurier campuses is generally avoided.

- Excluded types include textbooks, abridgements, study aids, limited editions, works by vanity presses, reprints and partial contents (eg. single issues of journals, electronic versions of single chapters of books).

Subjects Collected and Collecting Priorities

Collecting priorities are categorized into 3 levels:

- A=highest emphasis. The collection includes major published materials required to support the core teaching and research at the highest degree level offered by the Department.
- B=secondary emphasis. The collection includes a selection of materials to complement the discipline as a whole, although it may not be a primary focus for courses. This level is also used to identify other departments that may have identified aspects of this area as something of highest emphasis
- C=selective emphasis. Materials, including reference materials and basic journals and indexes are collected to introduce and define an area

Subjects Collected	Classification	Collecting Priority
History of religion, general	BL75-BL87; BL96-BL98	B
Methodology in the study of religion	BL41	B
Early Near Eastern religion and mythology	BL1610-BL1710	B
Greek and Roman religion and mythology (also collected by Classics Department)	BL780-BL820.V8	C
Jewish religious history and thought, general	BM150-BM155.3	B
Old Testament/Hebrew Bible	BM165-BM175	B
Extra-Biblical Literature	BM480-488.8; BS1691-BS1830	C C
Inter-Testamental, Talmudic	BS1830.T74	C
Medieval Judaism	BM180- BM185.4.S533Z	A
Modern Judaism	BM190-BM199	
Islam, general	BP1-BP63	A
Islamic history, theology and philosophy	BP50-68; BP166- BP166.94; BP100- BP134.W6; BP188- BP190	A A
Contemporary issues in Islam	BP60	
Iranian religion, ancient	BL2270-BL2280	C

Baha'i	BP300-BP395	B
Christianity, general	BR1-BR55	A
History, History of religious thought	BR160-1725 (also collected by Seminary Department)	A
New Testament	BS1901-BS2970	A
Contemporary religious issues	BR115	
African Religions and Caribbean Religions, general	BL2390-BL2490; BL2550- BL2592.X36	A
African Diaspora and other Diasporic Studies	DT16.5	A
Caribbean Religion and Culture	BL2565; GN564	B
African-American Religion and Culture	BL2490; BR563.N4; E185.86	B
African-Canadian Religion and Culture	FC106	B
Immigration	FC1035; JV7285	B
Modern religious movements (cults and sects), non-Christian (Emphasis on North America, Europe, South America, Africa, India and the Far East)	BL2700-2780; BL550-BL619;	B

Asian Religions, general	BL1000-BL1035	B
Buddhism, emphasizing origins, South East Asia, East Asia, history, and development	BQ251-BQ799; BQ4000-BQ4060	B
Confucianism and Taoism	BL1830- BL1942.85.X58	C
Shintoism and modern Japanese Religions	BL2200-BL2228	C
Indian Religions		
Hinduism, emphasizing classical period and modern Reform movements	BL1152.3- BL1153.5	B
Devotional movements, Tamil studies	PL4758	B
Temple tradition, temple art, Indian art	BL1243.72	B
Gandhian studies	DS481	B
Jainism, Parseesm (Zoroastrianism) and Sikhism	BL1300-BL1380; BL1500-BL1590; BL2017-BL2018.7	B A
Asian religions in North America	BL2520-BL2525	
Indigenous Religions	BL380	A
Native North American	E98;	B
Hispanic religions	BL2540	C

Special Topics		
Anthropology/Ethnography of Religion	BL41; BL256	A
Medical Anthropology, Religion and Healing	GN296	C
Mysticism	BL625	C
Myth, Ritual, Symbol and Imagination	BL603	A
New Immigrants and Religion	BL2525	A
Psychology of Religion	BL53	B
Religion and Contemporary Society (Racism, economic relations, technology, politics, ecology, violence, etc)	BT734-BT734.3; BR115	A
Religion and Gender Studies	BL65	A
Religion and the Arts	N72.R4	B
Religion and Popular Culture	BR115	A
Religion and Science	BL289-BL290	B
Religion and Sexuality	BT708; BL65.S4	C
Religion and Therapy	RC489	C
Ritual Studies, especially rites of passage	BL600	A
Spirituality	BX1407.S66(US);	B
Women and Religion	BL458	A
Ethics (also collected by Philosophy Department, Seminary)	BJ1188-BJ1395	C

Related Programs and Support

Consortial purchases with the TriUniversity Group of Libraries (Guelph, Waterloo, Laurier university libraries), with the Ontario Council of University Libraries, and on a national level, are pursued.

Efforts are made to coordinate Religion and Culture collections with those purchased

by other departments/schools at Wilfrid Laurier University, including Classics, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, Social Work, and Waterloo Lutheran seminary. In those disciplines, the university offers programs at the graduate level in History, Philosophy, psychology, Social Work, and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

The University of Waterloo library collection supports programs to the Ph.D. level in Religious Studies. In addition, library holdings of St. Jerome's University, Conrad Grebel, University College, and Renison College, which are affiliated with the University of Waterloo, are also included in TRELIS.