

Collection Policy: Women's Studies Program

Last reviewed December 2008

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 Joanne Oud, the Women's Studies Librarian, in cooperation with Margaret Toye, the Program's Library Liaison.

Collection Focus

The Library collection supports teaching, study and research at the undergraduate degree level, especially in support of current courses. These include:

- Introduction to Women's Studies
- Women and Identity
- Women in Canada
- Girls, Women and Popular Culture
- Women and Work
- Gender and Visual Culture
- Violence Against Women
- Feminist Theory
- Gender, Race and Transnationalism
- Gender, Culture and Technology
- Women and Social Justice
- Gender and Social Politics in Contemporary Muslim Societies
- Gender, Cinema and the Developing World

Collection Scope

- **Language:** works written or translated into English are preferred
- **Place of Publication:** priority is given to materials published in North America and the UK
- **Dates of Publication:** emphasis is placed on recently published works
- **Chronological Period:** emphasis is placed on the contemporary period (20th and 21st centuries)
- **Geographical Areas:** no area is excluded
- **Publishers:** scholarly and academic publishers are given priority, although non-scholarly publishers are considered for activist materials

Types, Formats, and Readership of Materials Collected

- Materials with academic-level readership are emphasized
- Web-based format is preferred for reference sources, journals and indexes.
- Single copies of books in print formats are usually purchased. Web-based formats may also be selected, especially if the title is of interest to users at multiple Laurier campuses.
- Types of materials not purchased include: textbooks, abridgements, study aids, limited editions, works by vanity presses, juvenile works, pamphlets, 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. Materials support courses and research in Women's Studies.
- B=secondary emphasis. Materials on major Women's Studies topics, but not directly supporting courses.
- C=selective emphasis. Materials that are useful but less central to the discipline.

Subject Collected	LC Class (where known)	Priority
Feminism		A
Feminist Activism	HQ1236-HQ1237.5	B
Feminist ethics		A
Feminist Methodology	HQ1180	B
Feminist Pedagogy	LC197	B
Feminist Theory	HQ1190-HQ1216	A
Love/romance/relationships		A
Mothering/maternity		A
Sexual orientation		B
Theories of Gender	HQ1190	A
Violence against women		A
Women's movements		B
Women's Studies	HQ1180-HQ1186	B
Women or gender and:		A
• Abuse/Violence		A
• Advocacy/activism		A
• Class		B
• Colonialism		A
• Empowerment		A
• Globalization		A
• Identity		A
• Immigration		B
• Islam		A
• Media		A

• Mental health (theoretical/cultural perspectives only)		B
• Multiculturalism		A
• Muslim societies		A
• Performance art		A
• Physical health (theoretical/cultural perspectives only)		B
• Popular culture		A
• Race/ethnicity		A
• Representation/image		A
• Science (theoretical/cultural perspectives only)		B
• Sex trade		B
• Sexuality		A
• Social change		A
• Social justice		A
• Technology		A
• Therapy (theoretical/cultural perspectives only)		B
• Third world cinema		A
• Nationalism, Transnationalism		A
• Visual culture		A
• Women artists		A
• Work		A

Related Programs and Support

Related materials are also purchased in support of departments and programs such as Communication Studies, English and Film Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Global Studies, Philosophy, and Cultural Studies.

The Universities of Guelph and Waterloo also offer undergraduate degree programs in Women's Studies, and have substantial collections that complement those at the Laurier Library. Their collections are available to Laurier students and faculty through the shared TRELIS Library catalogue.