

## **HUMANITIES**

### **I. General Statement of Collection Development Policy**

The Humanities fund provides support for the undergraduate level Humanities program, which offers an interdisciplinary minor; the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree; and faculty research.

### **II. Description of the University Program**

The Humanities and MALS programs cover a wide range of literary and cultural topics. Courses cross traditional disciplinary lines in literature, history, philosophy, religion, politics, and the arts, and invite a synthesis of views from multiple disciplines.

### **III. Interdisciplinary Elements of Subject Area**

Materials purchased with the Humanities budget may also support the various liberal arts departments as well as interdisciplinary programs or minors such as Women's and Gender Studies, American Ethnic Studies, Medieval Studies, and Foreign Area Studies.

### **IV. Formats and Types of Materials**

Print and electronic materials such as books and periodicals will be the most common acquisitions, but microforms and audiovisuals are considered and added as needed. Preference may be given to electronic format, depending upon such factors as cost, availability of secure archives, and the needs of the program. Duplicative format collecting is avoided. The following types of materials are collected:

Monographs – The library collects research and major trade monographs. In consonance with the academic endeavors of the University community, the emphasis is on scholarly studies and on scholarly editions of literary works.

Reference – The Reference Collection supports the curriculum emphases of the various academic programs and the information needs of the Wake Forest community. Major reference materials such as bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, indices, and abstracts are collected.

Serials – A serials collection constitutes an integral part of the library's research resources in the Humanities. The serials collection represents the historical and current requirements of the Humanities program and will continue to be developed as new courses are added; funds are also available for a limited number of interdisciplinary journals

Abstracts and Indexes – The library subscribes to a broad range of databases covering disciplines in the Humanities. In addition, the library provides access to significant primary source databases.

Proceedings – Proceedings or reports of conferences, symposia and international congresses are collected selectively.

Theses and dissertations – Dissertations and theses which have not been commercially published are rarely acquired, and then only as specific faculty or student interest warrants.

Textbooks and Anthologies – In general the library does not acquire textbooks adopted as required texts for any given courses nor textbook-style anthologies. However, anthologies which represent previously marginalized groups (gender, ethnic, regional, etc.) or topical cultural themes may be considered for purchase.

Microforms – Microforms are purchased to fill in gaps in periodical holdings or in cases where the information is not available in electronic or print format.

Non-print materials – Videos, audio CDs and DVDs that support the curriculum are purchased and are housed in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library. Non-print format collecting is subject to change according to the Library's available presentation technology.

## **V. Languages**

Works collected will be primarily in English, including works of foreign literature in translation. However, important literary works and critical studies pertaining to them may be purchased in the original language.

## **VI. Geographic Areas (subject approach)**

The collection focus, as with the Humanities program itself, is not limited to any particular geographic region or regions.

## **VI. Time Periods (subject approach)**

All time periods and literary movements, as reflected in the program curricula, are collected.

## **VII. Dates of Publication**

The collecting effort is directed primarily at current and recent scholarship. However, retrospective titles may be acquired in response to changes in the curriculum (new courses and minor and interdisciplinary programs), faculty research interests, and other academic initiatives. Very selective retrospective purchasing may involve reprints, microform, or electronic archives.

## **VII. Deselecting Library Materials**

The continuous review of library materials is important as a means of maintaining an active library collection. The Z. Smith Reynolds Library has a weeding policy. Materials will be withdrawn from the collection in accordance with this policy. This process will involve the

library liaison, the faculty representative(s), and the Library Collection Management group. If the item is interdisciplinary in nature, additional liaisons will be consulted.

Requests from all professors teaching Humanities or MALS courses will be accepted. Suggestions from other members of the university community are considered as well. All requests are channeled through the Humanities and MALS selectors who manage the expenditure of the respective funds.

Compiled by Scott Adair, April 1994; revised by Ellen Daugman, May 1997.  
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