

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

I. General Statement of Collection Development Policy

The Collection supports the study and research needs of students and faculty in the Department of Classical Languages as well as the cultural needs of the University community in Greek and Latin languages and literatures, and of Classical Studies, broadly defined as the study of the literature, language, and thought of the ancient world (Bronze Age to the beginning of the Middle Ages) in the geographical area centering around the Mediterranean.

II. Description of the University Program

The Department of Classical Languages offers a bachelor's degree with majors in Greek, Latin and Classical Studies. The Classical Studies major is interdisciplinary. Minors are offered in Greek, Latin, and Classical Studies. Required departmental courses may be supplemented with others chosen from selected offerings in art, history, philosophy, politics, religion and Hebrew.

III. Interdisciplinary Elements of Subject Area

Classical Studies, as the study of an entire historical region's civilization in all its facets, is by its very nature interdisciplinary. Some of the collection needs overlap and are shared in part with the departments of Art, History, Philosophy, Politics and Religion. (See also the Collection Development Policies of these departments.) If the commitment of any of these departments to the study of the ancient world diminishes, it might be necessary for the Classical Languages Department to strengthen its collection development policy in the areas affected.

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. Duplicative format collecting is generally avoided.

In consonance with the academic endeavors of the University community, the emphasis is on works of substantive scholarship. Monographs in English on authors in the curriculum are generally collected. The principal authors include: Aeschylus, Apollonius, Aristophanes, Aristotle, Callimachus, Catullus, Cicero, Euripides, Herodotus, Hesiod, Homer, Horace, Juvenal, Livy, Lucan, Lucretius, Menander, Ovid, Petronius, Plato, Plautus, Pliny, Propertius, Sallust, Seneca, Sophocles, Statius, Tacitus, Terence, Theocritus, Thucydides, Tibullus, Virgil, Xenophon, the Greek lyric poets, and Classical Greek oratory.

Monographs in all languages on authors central to the research of permanent faculty are also collected. At present these authors include Ovid, Lucretius, Tibullus, Propertius, Sallust, Tacitus, Cicero, Virgil, Horace, Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes and the Hellenistic poets. Outstanding works of scholarship, even if peripheral to the faculty's immediate research concerns, should be acquired.

The collection seeks selective coverage in the following areas: texts of Medieval and Renaissance authors; English translations of authors in the curriculum; foreign language monographs on authors in the curriculum; ancient history; Byzantine, Medieval and Renaissance studies; modern Greek literature; ancient religion, ancient philosophy; art and archaeology.

The collection seeks basic coverage in Greek and Latin palaeography, epigraphy, numismatics, linguistics, mythology and papyrology.

The following types of materials are collected:

Monographs – The library collects research and major trade monographs.

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 Department of Classical Languages and will continue to be developed as new courses are added. The collection includes the major scholarly and professional journals. Funds might occasionally be 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.

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 acquired on occasion, mainly 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.

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 – Video and audio materials that support the curriculum are purchased. Non-print format collecting is subject to change according to available presentation technology. Streaming video databases augment the collections of these resources.

V. Languages

The principle languages of the collection are Greek and Latin; secondary scholarship is in (in decreasing order of importance) English, German, French and Italian.

VI. Geographic Areas (Subject Approach)

The primary focus of the collection reflects the geographic parameters of the Classical world: Spain to Iran, Germany to Egypt, but with concentration on Greece and Italy.

VII. Time Periods (Subject Approach)

The collection is generally concerned with the time period of the ancient Greco-Roman world, from the Bronze Age of the second millennium BCE (and its Indo-European antecedents) to the collapse of the Roman Empire in the first millennium CE (and its after-life in the Byzantine world).

VIII. 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 and other academic initiatives (new courses, minor and interdisciplinary programs), faculty and student research interests, and significant lacunae in the collection. Selective retrospective purchasing may involve reprints, microform or electronic archives.

IX. Subject Area and Level of Collecting Intensity

Collecting intensity designations should reflect the Department's present and anticipated curriculum, and should be at levels that enable the Department to implement its academic program.

1. HISTORY (Partly under the auspices of History)
 - a. Greek history 3
 - b. Roman history to 133 3
 - c. Roman imperial history 3
 - d. Roman Law 2
 - e. Greek and Roman epigraphy 2
 - f. Greek and Roman numismatics 2
 - g. Near Eastern History 1
2. RELIGION AND MYTHOLOGY (Partly under the auspices of Religion)
 - a. Greek 3
 - b. Roman 3
 - c. Egyptian and Near Eastern 2
3. PHILOSOPHY (Primarily under the auspices of Philosophy)
4. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (see Collection Development Policy for General Science)
5. ART, ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY (Primarily under the auspices of the Art and Anthropology Departments)
 - a. Greek 3
 - b. Roman 3
 - c. Near Eastern 1
6. LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE
 - a. Ancient Greek Literature (texts and scholarship) 4
 - b. Byzantine Greek Literature 2
 - c. Modern Greek Literature 2
 - d. Greek language 3
 - e. Latin Literature to 138 CE 4
 - f. Latin Literature after 138 CE 3
 - g. Latin Language 3
 - h. Palaeography 3
 - i. Papyrology 3

X. Deselecting Library Materials

The continuous review of library materials is important as a means of maintaining an active library collection. Materials will be withdrawn from the collection in accordance with the Deselection policy.

Compiled by Elen Knott, Liaison/Bibliographer for Classical Languages and Professor Jim Powell, Classical Languages, April 1994. Revised by Jeff Eller, Liaison for Classical Languages, December 2014.