

SCHOOL of DIVINITY

I. GENERAL STATEMENT OF COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Z. Smith Reynolds Library has supported strong programs in Religion from the University's beginning, which has created a solid foundation of classic resources for the School of Divinity. Purchases from the Department for the Study of Religions fund continue to be a valuable supplement for the School. Currently, the collections are most extensive in biblical studies, Christian theology, church history, and comparative world religions. In addition, the collections are strong in the areas of Christian ethics as well as in denominations and sects with a particular emphasis in Protestantism. Baptist-related volumes are housed in the University Archives as part of the North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection.

II. DESCRIPTION OF UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) at Wake Forest is built around a classic core of biblical, historical, theological, and ministerial studies. The M.Div. is a 78-hour program that can be completed in three years of full-time, residential study. In addition to the core curriculum in biblical studies, church history, theology, worship, and homiletics, students are guided through a three-year program of vocational formation, Art of Ministry, including supervised experiential learning in a ministry setting during the second year. All students enroll in a multicultural immersion course that provides an academic component and experiential learning in an urban, rural, or international location. The first class in the School of Divinity was enrolled in 1999, and the program supports approximately 100 students each year.

Multiple joint degrees are also offered. School of Divinity students can earn Master of Arts degrees in: Bioethics, Counseling, Education, Management, and Sustainability. An M.Div and Juris Doctor joint degree is also available with the School of Law. Three Concentrations are also available within the M.Div. course of study: Religious Leadership in Food, Health, and Ecology; Sustainability; and Episcopal Studies.

III. INTERDISCIPLINARY ELEMENTS OF SUBJECT AREA

The nature of religion as an academic discipline is necessarily interdisciplinary and the following areas and subjects are particularly significant to work in religious and theological studies: classics, history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, political science, literature, anthropology, economics, business administration, education, law, medicine, and the arts. Individual interdisciplinary titles are purchased with Divinity funds if its focus operates out of a primary interest in and emphasis on religious studies.

IV. FORMATS AND TYPES OF MATERIALS

Electronic and print materials such as books and periodicals will be the most common acquisitions, but microforms and audiovisual materials will be considered and added where needed. The School of Divinity faculty has approved exclusively subscribing to the electronic version when a journal is published in both print and electronic formats. Duplicative collecting is avoided.

The following types of materials are primarily collected:

Monographs – The Library collects research and major trade monographs. These may include texts and versions of major scriptures, scripture commentaries, biographies of significant figures, and other primary source materials.

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, atlases, directories, indices, and abstracts are collected. Commentaries, translation aids, and homiletical resources are purchased for the Commentary and Biblical Studies section of the Reference Collection, specifically to support School of Divinity coursework.

Serials – Serial subscriptions include both print and electronic formats of religious studies journals. When a journal is published in both print and electronic formats, the default will be to collect in electronic format. Requests for new subscriptions are noted and added when possible.

Abstracts and Indexes – The Library subscribes to databases such as Atla Religion Database (with ATLASerials), ProQuest Religion, JSTOR, Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance, Historical Abstracts, and America: History and Life. Most of these now have complete journal content integrated.

Digital Primary Source Collections – Resources such as Digital Library of Classic Protestant Texts, Digital Library of the Catholic Reformation, Bible in English, Early English Books Online, and ProQuest Historical Newspapers are also available.

Non-print materials – Streaming videos, audio CD's, and DVD's that support the curriculum are purchased. Non-print format collecting is subject to change according to the Library's available presentation technology.

The following types of materials are collected less frequently:

Theses and dissertations – Theses and dissertations from other institutions are acquired on a selective basis as specific faculty and student interest dictates.

Textbooks – In general the Library does not acquire textbooks adopted as required texts for any given course.

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

V. LANGUAGES

Resources in English primarily, and German secondarily, will be emphasized. Primary sources will be collected in the original language and in translation. Secondary texts in Modern Hebrew, Modern Greek, French, and Spanish are collected selectively.

VI. GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

The primary regions of interest for religious studies are the Near East, the Mediterranean region, Western Europe and North America. Other areas, such as Africa, Asia or Central and South America, are of growing interest and will be increasingly collected.

VII. TIME PERIODS

The scope of religious studies parallels that of historical studies ranging from the third millennium B.C.E. to the present. Materials selected reflect interest in Biblical history and Jewish and Christian history. Particular attention is paid to antiquity with growing emphasis upon selective collection in the modern period.

VIII. DATES OF PUBLICATION

The School selects current imprints for the collection with significant 19th and 20th century titles collected retrospectively. All new translations and editions of Christian scriptures as well as significant scriptural commentaries are collected. For other religious traditions, selections include new editions of significant sacred texts and contemporary scholarship.

IX. OTHER GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The School of Divinity at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill both have major library collections in religious studies. Rapid interlibrary loan services are available to Wake Forest University students and faculty through the Kudzu system.

The Library is a member of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) and also benefits from cooperative agreements through membership in NCLIVE.

X. DESELECTING LIBRARY MATERIALS

The Z. Smith Reynolds Library has a weeding policy and materials will be withdrawn in accordance with this policy. Materials that will be frequently reviewed will be Reference materials and other non-circulating items, which may be weeded when superseded by a newer edition or an equivalent electronic edition. This process will involve the library liaison and the Library Collection Management group. If the item is interdisciplinary in nature, additional liaisons will be consulted.

Originally compiled by Sharon Snow (Library) December 1994.

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