

Film Collection

I. General Statement of Collection Development Policy

The Film Collection supports instruction and research for all academic areas. Selection of music is governed by a separate Music policy, and audiobooks are not collected.

II. Description of the University Programs

The use of film in the curriculum and in research is extremely broad, supporting a wide range of departments. The University has offered courses in film aesthetics, history, production and theory since the 1960s, and a Minor in Film Studies was formally recognized as a university program in 2004.

Courses from departments such as Art, Communication, Education, English, History, Humanities, Religion, Romance Languages and Sociology demonstrate the interdisciplinary approach to film study. The University began offering a Documentary Film Program in the fall semester 2010. This graduate-level program offers courses in writing, production and research, as well as documentary history and ethics.

III. Interdisciplinary Elements of Subject Area

The Film Collection is entirely interdisciplinary. Resources from nearly every library materials purchasing fund may be spent on films. In addition, there is a limited special allocation managed by the Media Coordinator for films of general interest.

IV. Formats and Types of Materials

The collection currently includes videos primarily on DVD. Developing forms of media are evaluated for collection usefulness and added as appropriate. DVD is the preferred format. PAL format will be purchased upon faculty request, but NTSC is strongly preferred. VHS is maintained as a legacy secondary format. Laserdiscs are no longer collected.

Videos maintained in the Film Collection may not be used for events for which admission fees are charged. Public Performance Rights (PPR) are acquired on a limited, case-by-case basis with demonstrated need.

V. Languages

English is the most commonly collected language. However, works in other languages are well represented. Subtitles are preferred to dubbing.

VI. Geographic Areas

The United States and Western Europe are emphasized. All areas of the world are included to support curriculum.

VII. Time Periods

The primary emphasis of new film purchasing is any time period in support of the curriculum.

VIII. Dates of Publication

Because of preservation issues, currently produced or re-issued films are the favored items. Older materials will be evaluated case-by-case.

IX. Deselection of Library Materials

The continuous review of library materials is important as a means of maintaining a valuable library collection. The Z. Smith Reynolds Library has a deselection policy, and materials will be withdrawn from the collection in accordance with this policy. This process will involve the Media Coordinator, relevant library liaisons, faculty representatives and the Library Collection Management group.

X. Subject Areas and Level of Collecting Intensity

All subject areas are represented in the interdisciplinary Film Collection. Feature, foreign, documentary, television, concert and performance videos will all be collected. Titles with notable artistic merit, historical importance, cultural relevance, literary content and critical acclaim will be given preference. Award winning films to support international studies in language and culture will be added whenever possible.

Films acquired to support teaching and research also often include leisure-oriented, popular titles that are used for "home viewing." Additional general popular videos will be selectively acquired, particularly when student organizations donate funds explicitly for that purpose.

Children's videos will be collected as appropriate. General popular videos purchased may include titles in the Children's category. Works produced by Wake Forest University faculty and the students in the Documentary Film Program will be collected as comprehensively as possible.

Updated in September 2014 by Mary Reeves, Media Coordinator, Carol Cramer, Head of Collection Management and Lauren Corbett, Director of Resource Services.