

RELIGION

I. General Statement of Collection Development Policy

The Collection supports the study and research needs of faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students in the Religion Department. Currently, the collections are most extensive in Biblical studies, Christian theology, church history, and world religions. In addition, the collections are strong in the area of Christian ethics and in denominations and sects with a particular emphasis in Protestantism. Baptist-related volumes are housed in the University's Baptist Historical Collection. There is currently strong interest in the department in strengthening its collection in American religions, especially African-American religious tradition.

II. Description of the University Program

The Religion collection supports both undergraduate and graduate programs. The Department offers an undergraduate major and minor in Religion as well as a joint minor with Classics in Early Christian Studies. In addition, a course in Religion is required for all undergraduate degrees. The Department offers courses designed to give every undergraduate student an opportunity to acquire at least an introduction to the life, literature, and most important movements in the field of Religion.

The MA degree offered in the Department of Religion serves as either a terminal degree or as preparation for doctoral study in Religion. Courses and opportunities for thesis research are available in Hebrew Bible, New Testament, theology, the history of Christianity, Christian ethics, religion and literature, and world religions.

The Department of Religion offers a clinically oriented MA program in Pastoral Care in conjunction with the School of Pastoral Care at N.C. Baptist Hospital. A professional degree (MDiv or equivalent) is required for admission to the program.

III. Interdisciplinary Elements of Subject Area

Materials purchased with the library budget for Religion may also support various liberal arts departments such as history, philosophy, and literature, as well as interdisciplinary programs or minors such as Medieval Studies, American Ethnic Studies, Theater and Dance, and the Master of Arts in Liberal 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.

In consonance with the academic endeavors of the University community, the emphasis is on scholarly critical works and on scholarly editions of primary sources. 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 Religion Department and will continue to be developed as new courses are added. In addition to the major scholarly and professional journals, the collection includes a selection of popular religious and devotional magazines. 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.

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 – 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

Apart from primary sources in the original language, materials in English and German are emphasized. Secondary texts in Hebrew, French, and Spanish are collected selectively.

VI. Geographic Areas (Subject Approach)

The primary focus of the collection is on the Mediterranean region and Ancient Near East, Europe, Asia, and North America. Studies on Religion in Latin America and Africa are increasingly important.

VII. Time Periods (Subject Approach)

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, Jewish and Christian history, and non-Western traditions.

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 research interests, and significant lacunae in the collection. Very 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. The department selects current imprints for the collection with significant modern titles collected retrospectively. All modern editions of Christian scriptures as well as significant scriptural commentaries are collected. For other religious traditions, selections include modern editions of significant sacred texts and contemporary scholarship.

Religion in relation to other disciplines	
Religion and sociology	4
Religion and literature	4
Religion and science	3
Religion and culture	3
Psychology of religion	3
Philosophy of religion	3
Religious ethics	4
Religions of the World	
Origins of religions	4
Islam	3
Biography	4
History	4
Koran (chapters from & works about)	4
Relation to other religions	4
Hinduism	4
Antiquities	3
Sacred books	3
Hindu literature	3
Buddhism	4
Antiquities	3
Persecutions	3
Jainism	3
Zoroastrianism	3
Bahaism	3
Semitic religions	3
Judaism	4
Talmudic & Pre-Talmudic literature	4

Samaritans	4
Medieval Judaism	3
Modern Judaism	3
African	4
American	4
Women in comparative religion	4
Mythology	4
Christianity	4
Early Christian literature	4
Origins of Christianity	4
Antiquities. Archeology	4
Relation to other religions	4
Church History	4
Jewish Christians	4
Early & medieval	4
Renaissance and Reformation	4
Reformation and Counter Reformation	4
Luther	4
Bible	
Modern texts and versions (English)	4
Hermeneutics	4
Biblical archeology	4
Biblical geography	4
Commentaries	4
Theology of the Old & New Testament	4
Apocrypha	4
Systematic Theology	4
Christology	4
Soteriology	3
Eschatology	3
Practical Theology	2
The church and state	4
Liturgical studies	3
Pastoral theology	3
Moral theology	3
Works of meditation	3
Ascetism	4
Mysticism	4

Quietism	4
Natural theology	3
Denominations, sects	
Eastern & Orthodox churches	3
Roman Catholic church	3
Anglican church	3
Protestantism	4
Pre-Reformation sects	
Waldenses	4
Post-Reformation sects	
Anabaptists	4
Baptists	4
Mennonites	3
Christian Science	3
Lutheran churches	3
Reformed or Calvinistic churches	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.

Kaeley McMahan, Library Liaison, December 2014.