Collection Development Policy Statement for Anthropology

Subject Specialist responsible: Otis Chadley, 301-405-9282, ochadley@umd.edu

I. Purpose

Anthropology materials are selected and made available in the University Libraries that support the research and curriculum needs of the anthropology faculty and its students. The Department of Anthropology offers academic programs leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology, a Master of Applied Anthropology degree, and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Anthropology. Core areas of research include anthropology of the environment; anthropology of health; and anthropology of heritage, which is the study of customs and traditions of communities. Faculty and students have access to three archaeology labs; a teaching laboratory in biological anthropology; and a research lab for the study of ethnography.

Coordination and Cooperative Information: Library collections that support research in anthropology and the curriculum are drawn primarily from the collection development efforts of the Anthropology Librarian. As a social science, anthropology is interdisciplinary and involves the study of human societies, their cultures and development. Therefore, the discipline reflects the collection acquisitions of all subject librarians employed by the University of Maryland Libraries at College Park.

Onsite and interlibrary loan access to additional resources in anthropology are made available through partnerships and collaborations with national, state, and local organizations, such as through the Association of Research Libraries that include 126 top research libraries in North America; Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), that is comprised of fifteen research universities in the United States; University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI), that has sixteen research institutions located across Maryland; and the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA), a regional organization of libraries located in Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Diversity: Recognizing that anthropology incorporates individuals of all ages who represent a broad spectrum of racial and ethnic backgrounds, economic and educational levels and physical and mental abilities, the subject specialist/s develop collections that are reflective and supportive of this diversity. For example, the anthropology collections include resources that reflect a variety of political, economic, religious, social, minority and sexual issues. The objective is to support intellectual freedom by providing free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored.

II. Summary of Collection Scope at Current Collecting Levels

During the 1970s, the Anthropology Department was restructured and became a separate program from the previously combined Departments of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology. Current library acquisitions focus on the curriculum and research needs of the Anthropology Department. Scholarly materials in print and electronic format are acquired to support all areas of anthropology. Domestic and international materials are collected. Attention is given to collecting anthropological and archaeological
resources, and collections in folklore, human ecology, ethnography, as well as public health resources that support medical anthropology, and materials in the environmental sciences.

Resources documenting the theory and practice of historic preservation in the United States are collected and housed in our National Trust Library for Historic Preservation Collection. Historic preservation covers cultural heritage, architecture, landscapes and monuments, legal issues, rehabilitation and reconstruction, tourism, and more. This collection consist of books, serials, manuscripts, photographs, postcards, and ephemera. Although not pertaining to the previously mentioned collection, infrequently used library materials and multiple copies of titles are deselected from the collections or relocated to Maryland Off-Site Storage (MOSS). Such materials are retrieved upon request.

Developing the Anthropology Collection

1. **Language(s):** Although the bulk of materials selected for the anthropology collection are purchased in English, major works from languages such as French, German, and Spanish are acquired as well, with a preference given to English translations of significant works produced outside of the United States.
2. **Geographical areas:** Much of the collection consist of American imprints. However, items that support the academic department’s research and teaching on a global scale are also acquired.
3. **Chronological periods/Imprint dates:** Emphasis is on collecting current imprints. Reprints and classic works are acquired as needed, or as replacements for lost or damaged items.
4. **Materials selected**
   1. **Included materials:** Resources are selected in a variety of print and electronic formats, including books, periodicals, newspapers and databases for the study of anthropology. Emphasis is given to collecting in core research areas, which are the anthropological study of the environment, public health, and cultural heritage. The Reference Collection is limited to monographs, including but not restricted to resources such as subject dictionaries, encyclopedias, and handbooks.
   2. **Excluded materials:** Textbooks are not collected, unless requested by a faculty member. Reprints are acquired as needed for lost or damaged items.

III. Additional Collection Information

In terms of duplication, gifts, deselection and preservation of materials, the Anthropology collection adheres to the University of Maryland Libraries’ policies for duplication, gifts, deselection and preservation available at [http://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/collection-development-policy](http://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/collection-development-policy).

**Implementation and Revision Schedule:** This policy has been reviewed by the Collection Development Council ([lib-cdc@umd.edu](mailto:lib-cdc@umd.edu)) and is considered effective on the date indicated below. It will be reexamined regularly by the subject specialist and will be revised as needed to reflect new collection needs and identify new areas of study, as well as those areas that may be excluded.

**Date:** February 22, 2015 OC, Rev. 5/22/15

**CDC 6/23/15**