

## Collection Development Policy Statement for African American Studies

**Subject Specialist responsible:** Tahirah Akbar-Williams, 301-405-9195, [takbarwi@umd.edu](mailto:takbarwi@umd.edu)

### I. Purpose

African American Studies materials are selected and made available in the University Libraries that support the research and curriculum needs of the African American Studies Department (AASD). AASD offers a certificate program, a minor in Black Women's Studies, a Bachelor of Arts degree, and a combined Bachelors/Master's Program in African American Studies and Public Management. AASD focuses on the experience of people of African descent, in the United States, Africa, and throughout the African Diaspora.

**Coordination and Cooperative Information:** Library collections that support research in African American Studies and the curriculum are drawn primarily from the collection development efforts of the African American Studies Librarian, but includes collection acquisitions of all subject librarians employed by the University of Maryland Libraries at College Park. As a social science, the subject discipline is interdisciplinary by nature and addresses all subject areas relating to people of African descent. Therefore, it is significant to collect materials from a variety of subject disciplines, with the cooperative efforts of other subject librarians.

Onsite and interlibrary loan access to additional resources in African American Studies 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; Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), 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), that is a regional organization of libraries located in Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

**Diversity:** Recognizing that African American Studies incorporates individuals of all ages who represent people of African descent, residing in the United States and throughout the world, with varying 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 African American Studies collections include resources that reflect a variety of political, sexual, religious, social, minority and economic 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

The University of Maryland's African American Studies Department was established in 1969, and has evolved into a leading undergraduate program. As the library needs of the department has developed over the years, the acquisition of library materials that support those demands has grown. Emphasis has been on acquiring library materials that support faculty research and course offerings, such as the new minor in Black Women's Studies. Attention is given to collecting scholarly items in print and

electronic format that focuses on the Black experience in the United States, Africa, and worldwide. It is important to note that the Libraries has an African-American and African Pamphlet Collection. It contains 20<sup>th</sup> century materials on African, African-American, and Caribbean culture and literature, spanning the years 1905-1979. The pamphlets are in English, French, and a variety of African languages. 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.

### III. Developing the African American Studies Collection

1. Language(s): Most materials selected for African American Studies are purchased in English. Major works in other languages are acquired, 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: Historical and current imprints are collected. 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 African American Studies. Emphasis is given to collecting in core research areas, which are educational inequalities and policy; incarceration and victimization; social inequalities and health; women and labor; and family dynamics and health in sub-Saharan Africa.  
The Reference Collection is limited to monographs, including but not restricted to such items as subject dictionaries, encyclopedias, and handbooks. The Reference Collection is limited to monographs, including such items 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.

### IV. Additional Collection Information

In terms of duplication, gifts, deselection and preservation of materials, "The African American Studies 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>.

**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.