

Collection Development Policy Statement for Anthropology

Subject Specialist responsible: Jordan S. Sly, 301-405-9290, jsly@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 culture, communities and heritage. Faculty and students have access to three archaeology labs; a teaching laboratory in biological anthropology; and a research lab for the study of ethnography. All possible efforts are made on a yearly basis to collect and maintain a collection of relevant new works as well as classics in the field. Materials are collected in both physical (traditional bound books) and electronic (e-books, journals) formats.

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 (Jordan Sly). 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. In particular, through consortial agreements for Interlibrary Loan (<https://www.lib.umd.edu/access/ill>), partnerships through our membership in the Association of Research Libraries (<http://www.arl.org/>), our University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (<http://usmai.org>), and importantly, our positioning within the Big Ten Academic Alliance (<https://www.btaa.org/library/libraries>) which allows for easy and expeditious borrowing from partnering research institutions within this network (ex. University of Michigan, Northwestern University, University of Wisconsin and others) thereby expanding our collection in vital areas enormously. For more information on this service and how to access this material please visit our information page, <https://www.lib.umd.edu/access/uborrow> or feel free to contact Jordan Sly, jsly@umd.edu for any information regarding our Anthropology collection.

Diversity: Recognizing that Anthropology incorporates individuals of all ages who represent a multiplicity of racial and ethnic backgrounds, economic and educational levels and physical and mental abilities, the subject specialists build collections that mirror and support this diversity. The Anthropology collections include materials and resources that reflect a variety of political, economic, religious, social, minority and sexual issues and 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. For more information, see Collection Development Diversity Statement - <https://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/policies/collection-development-diversity-statement>.

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

Duplication: With few exceptions (e.g., a few heavily used, specific titles), we will not purchase or maintain duplicate copies of titles. During times when deselection projects are under way, print copies will be deselected if an e-version exists for the exact same edition.

Gifts: Gift items added to the psychology collection are done so in conjunction with the [University of Maryland Libraries Gifts-In-Kind Policy](#), particularly so that they "supplement existing collections in support of the University's teaching and research programs as well as to provide the University Libraries with special materials in which there is a scholarly

interest.” The subject specialist for psychology is ultimately responsible for deciding whether or not a gift is added to the collection.

Deselection and Transfer to Storage: There are a number of variables that may make an item eligible for deselection or transfer to storage facilities. These variables are listed in the Libraries’ [Retention and Deselection Policy](#). An example of one such variable is currency or relevance; the relevance of materials in the psychology collection can and will change over time. As a social science, much of the findings in the field of psychology become outdated as new information about given topics is learned; as a result, many items with early publication dates may be eligible for withdrawal. Periodic weeding of the collection is done to identify items which no longer fit the criteria for inclusion in the collection. Eventually continuous on-going weeding may be part of the Libraries’ standard procedures.

Preservation: The subject specialist will work with the Preservation unit at the University of Maryland Libraries when individual titles are brought to their attention that need rebinding, repair or replacement.

Implementation and Revision Schedule: This policy has been reviewed by the Collection Development Council (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. 8/2/16; Rev. 8/3/18 JS

CDC 9/25/18