

Collection Development Policy Statement for Classics

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Purpose

The Classics collection of the University of Maryland (UMD) Libraries supports the educational mission of the Department of Classics first of all. The collections supplement the department's curriculum, as well as serve the research needs of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. The Classics department has six core faculty members at the assistant professor rank or above and 44 affiliate faculty. In the fall semester 2017 there were only eight undergraduate classics majors, but other students were enrolled in the minors such as classical mythology offered by the department. The department awards an M.A. degree but not a Ph.D. In the fall semester 2017 the department had nine graduate students. In addition to departmental faculty and majors, the collections also serve the numerous other UMD students and scholars studying ancient Greek and Roman civilization though not as their major subject. CLAS 170 (Greek and Roman Mythology) regularly enrolls nearly 300 undergraduates, few or none of whom are Classics majors, while numerous faculty members in other departments with an interest in the classics are affiliated with the department.

Coordination and Cooperative Information:

No single library could hope to fulfill all the research needs of students of the Classics engaged in advanced research. The UMD Libraries aim to provide a solid core collection in classics, including both a range of scholarly editions of ancient texts and important monographs, but graduate students and faculty perforce rely on access to resources available in other libraries and repositories. Through its participation in the University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions, the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance, the Center for Research Libraries, and the Big Ten Academic Alliance, the UMD Libraries provide access to many scholarly materials not on hand. In many cases, however, advanced Classics scholars will have to consult rare or unique materials such as manuscripts or early printed editions owned by other libraries or repositories that are not available through loan arrangements and have to be consulted onsite.

Diversity

Recognizing that the UMD community includes individuals of all ages who represent a multiplicity of racial and ethnic backgrounds, economic and educational levels and physical and mental abilities, the subject specialist/s build collections that mirror and support this diversity. The Classics 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. (Text adapted from: <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/about/policies/collection-development-and-management/>)

Summary of Collection Scope at Current Collecting Levels

Classicists mainly study a relatively circumscribed collection of surviving ancient texts. Editions of these texts are their essential primary sources. They also study surviving visual, epigraphical, artifactual, architectural, and archeological materials. Although it is mainly a literary discipline, the study of the classics is often interdisciplinary. In particular the study of classical literature and the study of ancient history are closely related. Although the surviving sources may seem somewhat limited, the scholarship created from these materials, in the form of editions of ancient texts and literary and historical analyses of these texts (and surviving artefacts) is voluminous and continues to be produced at a healthy rate. The Classics collection in the UMD Libraries is fairly compact compared to some disciplines. The core of the collection resides in McKeldin Library in the PA Library of Congress (LC) subclass for Greek and Roman Languages and Literatures, occupying some three and a half ranges on the sixth floor. (Note that PA also includes modern Greek literature though not modern Italian literature.) The history LC subclass DE covers the ancient Greco-Roman world and is the responsibility of the history subject specialist (though in practice the classics specialist also selects materials in this subclass). The UMD Libraries have a small epigraphy collection (CN). Ancient Greek and Roman art and architecture can be found in the LC N class in the Art and Architecture Libraries and are handled by the specialists there.

Developing the Classics Collection

Language(s):

Primary texts in the original Greek and Latin are selected. In addition, English translations of these texts are also acquired. The secondary literature on classics is written in all the major European languages and others as well. Secondary materials in all languages are acquired but in practice English-language materials predominate.

Geographical areas:

The major focus is ancient Greece and Italy but since both were expansive civilizations, the focus extends more broadly to the ancient Mediterranean and Near East, all areas included in the areas colonized by the Greeks or part of the Alexandrian or Roman Empires. Further, since the Classics have exercised considerable influence over many subsequent civilizations, especially in Europe and the Americas, and Classics scholars (including some members of the UMD Classics department) are interested in such influences, the geographical parameters can extend accordingly.

Chronological periods/Imprint dates:

Selection will emphasize current publications, but out-of-print materials are added by faculty or student request or to replace losses.

Materials selected

1. Included materials:

Reading and scholarly editions of ancient texts and scholarly monographs are the core materials acquired for the Classics collection. These can take either electronic or print form though for the present print is preferred. The UMD Libraries also subscribe to many scholarly journals devoted to the Classics and related subjects. Increasingly these are in electronic form. The UMD Libraries also subscribe to *L'Année Philologique*, the major Classics database.

2. Excluded materials:

No class of materials is excluded categorically, but textbooks are rarely acquired and self-published books are considered for inclusion only in exceptional circumstances.

3. Levels of Collection Intensity:

PA and DE materials are collected to Conspectus level 4. Epigraphy and archeology are minimally collected.

Additional Collection Information

Duplication

Only single copies of printed books published after 1900 will be retained (unless the book is exceedingly rare or the copies have unique or especially interesting features). However, a print copy of a book will be retained even if there is access to an electronic version of the book since print is still widely preferred by scholars.

Gifts

Gift items and other materials are added to the Classics collection in accordance with the *University of Maryland Libraries Gifts-In-Kind Policy*, which states that they are to “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” (<http://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/gifts/for-donors>). The subject specialist for Classics is ultimately responsible for deciding whether or not a gift is added to the collection.

Deselection/Withdrawal

Since primary source materials rarely become obsolete, and secondary sources in Classics tend to have some value no matter how old, withdrawals of single copies from the collection will be exceptional. (Duplicates may be withdrawn.)

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 23, 2015 (ENL); Rev. 5/19/15; 8/11/16; 8/21/18

CDC 9/25/18