

Collection Development Policy Statement for English

Subject Specialist responsible: Patricia Herron, 301-405-9280, herron@umd.edu

Purpose

The English Department offers a B.A. in English and a B.A. in English-Education, a dual degree program. The Department has an Honors program for undergraduates and the option for a Creative Writing minor and a Rhetoric minor. The Department offers an M.A. in English with a concentration in Literature, an M.A. with a concentration in Writing Studies and Rhetoric, an M.F.A. in Creative Writing, a Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory, as well as a PhD program in English and a PhD program in Comparative Literature. There are currently 15 members of the faculty with 60 tenure track professors and 115 professional track professors (lecturers and senior lecturers.) Many of the professional track professors are adjunct professors and are involved in the University's Professional Writing Program and the English 101 program. While administered through the English Department, these programs serve students from all disciplines and departments. Its courses prepare students to write in upper-level undergraduate courses and throughout their careers.

Major Research Interests

- African American/African diaspora
- American
- Caribbean and postcolonial
- Comparative literature
- Creative writing
- Film studies and cultural studies
- Language, writing, and rhetoric
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender studies
- Literary theory
- Literature and science
- Medieval and renaissance
- Modernist
- Mythology and folklore
- Poetics
- Post-1900 British and Irish
- Postmodern and contemporary
- Professional Writing
- Restoration and 18th Century
- Romantic
- Textual and digital studies
- Transatlantic Studies
- Victorian
- Women's literature and feminist theory

Coordination and Cooperative Information:

The English subject specialist coordinates purchases, withdrawals, and reassignment of materials, with librarians and curators in various departments and subject disciplines, including the literature & rare books collections in Hornbake Special Collections; Library Media Services (films and film studies), communications, linguistics, theatre, journalism and other literature and language librarians in the School of Languages Literatures and Cultures. This is generally done via one-on-one communications as the need arises. Certain policies and/or understandings have been articulated; for example, play scripts, although often classed in the PR and PS call number areas, which are typically shelved in McKeldin, are placed in the Performing Arts Library because they are predominantly used by theatre faculty and students.

Diversity:

Recognizing that students and faculty in English represent a multiplicity of racial and ethnic backgrounds, economic and educational levels and physical and mental abilities, the English subject specialist builds collections that mirror and support this diversity. The English 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>.

Summary of Collection Scope at Current Collecting Levels

Works of interest to the English Department are found primarily in the P call number areas (see below.) Some of these call number areas are the responsibility of other subject specialists. The English subject specialist coordinates purchases, withdrawals, and reassignment of materials with these librarians and curators as the need arises.

Additional areas of interest to faculty that do not fall under the call numbers below include: other literatures in English (EX: some African, Indian, and Caribbean literatures), History, and Byzantium studies. Materials in these areas are ordered selectively, upon request from faculty and students, by the English subject specialist or recommended for purchase to other subject specialists.

P1-86	Philosophy subject specialist	Philosophy
P87-96	Communications subject specialist	Communication
P101-1081	Linguistics subject specialist	Linguistics

PA	Classics subject specialist	Classical literature and language
P1000-1013	English subject specialist	Celtic Languages
PE	English subject specialist	English Language

PN call number range is divided into sub-categories for which numerous subject specialists are responsible. The following is the breakdown:

PN1-1551	English subject specialist	General Literature
PN1560-1992	Theatre subject specialist	Performing Arts
PN1993-PN1999	Film studies subject specialist	Film
PN2000-3307	Theatre subject specialist	Performing Arts
PN3311-3503	English subject specialist	Prose
PN4001-4355	Communications subject specialist	Public speaking
PN4390-4500	English subject specialist	Diaries, Letters
PN4699-5650	Journalism subject specialist	Journalism
PN6010-6790	English subject specialist	Literature Collections
PR	English subject specialist	English literature
PS	English subject specialist	American Literature

PZ – Adult Fiction in English (except for English translations of works originally written in other languages for which the other language subject specialists are responsible.)

PZ – Children’s literature is purchased by the subject specialist for the iSchool and the College of Education

Developing the English Collection

Language(s):

The emphasis is on English language materials in the collection. Since the English Department includes a PhD program in comparative literature, occasionally literary texts in other languages are purchased, or recommended for purchase.

Geographical areas:

The major focus of items in the collection is on the United States and Great Britain. Works from other countries in the British Commonwealth are purchased selectively. Also purchased selectively, are literary and critical works from and about African, Indian, and Caribbean writers, who publish in English.

Chronological periods/Imprint dates:

Selection will emphasize current publications, with the exception of reprints and classic works when required for replacement purposes. In terms of historical time periods covered, the collections focus on medieval to contemporary times.

Materials selected

The collection consists of monographs, books of literary essays and collections, and strong serial holdings. It is our policy to acquire significant new critical editions or primary works of literature and both new and revised versions of literary history and criticism. Biographies are purchased selectively. All genres (poetry, short stories, essay collections, fiction, science fiction, etc.) are collected. Literary works by established contemporary writers are purchased for the permanent collection. Best-selling novels and short stories, along with mysteries and science fiction are purchased for the browsing collection by the librarian for the School of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures Librarian.

Included materials:

Books:

Monographs and books of literary essays and collections are purchased from academic and scholarly trade publishers. The default is to acquire most PR and PS call numbers in print, unless requested as an ebook. The predominant number of English faculty prefer print books over ebooks, so until this changes, the default to purchase print will continue.

Reference Books:

Because of how they are used, the preference for reference books is online, so when available, this is the format purchased.

Journals

Online only journal subscriptions are preferred; print subscription exist for those journal that are not available online.

Primary Sources:

Microform:

The Libraries have an extensive collection of primary sources on microform. As these collections become available electronically and as the budget permits, the digital versions are purchased and the microform is considered for either withdrawal or transfer to off-site storage.

Digital primary source collections:

The Libraries have invested, and continue to invest heavily in historical primary source digital collections (EEBO, ECCO, British Periodicals, American Periodical Series, American Antiquarian Society Historical Magazines, Early American Imprints, America's Historical Newspapers, etc.) This will continue to be a focus of collection development for the foreseeable future.

Excluded materials:

Reprints, textbooks, and dissertations are generally not purchased. However, dissertations that have been reworked and subsequently published by scholarly publishers are ordered selectively.

Even though the Professional Writing and the English 101 programs are administered through the English Department, these programs serve students from all disciplines and departments. The English subject specialist does not order materials for the faculty and students in these programs, unless the materials intersect with the areas described in this collection development policy.

Additional Collection Information

Duplication: Unless specifically requested by a faculty member the English subject specialist will not purchase or maintain duplicate copies of print titles. Deselection/withdrawal of duplicate print titles will have high priority and will occur as need for space develops. Occasionally duplicate titles may be offered to the Performing Arts Library, for their theatre collection, or the Literature and Rare Books division in Hornbake Special Collections rather than be withdrawn.

Gifts: Gift items added to the English 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 (<http://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/gifts/for-donors>). The subject specialist for English is ultimately responsible for deciding whether or not a gift is added to the collection.

Deselection/Withdrawal: The relevance of materials in the English collection can and will change over time. Periodic weeding of the collection is done to identify items which no longer fit the criteria for inclusion in the collection.

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: 6/5/2018 PJH.

CDC 9/25/18