Collection Development Policy Statement for Film Studies

Subject Specialist Responsible:

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Purpose

Film studies is a cooperative effort by film faculty across the College of Arts and Humanities to promote the study of cinema at the University of Maryland. The program is dedicated to studying what is arguably the most influential global art form of the twentieth century in its aesthetic, cultural, economic, historical, and technological dimensions. The 39-credit film studies major at the University of Maryland was established in 2011, and is based on a critical, textual approach to film, emphasizing scholarly viewing, interpreting, and writing about moving images. Departments represented include the School of Languages, Literature and Culture, English, History, Comparative Literature, Art History, American Studies, Classics, Music and Ethnomusicology.

It provides students with a solid background in theoretical, critical, and aesthetic aspects of the study of film, including the history of the medium and the analysis of national cinemas throughout the world, always keeping in view questions of how new media have changed both cinema itself and the study of cinema. In addition to a B.A. in Film Studies, the University of Maryland also offers academic support and official recognition to graduate (MA and PhD) students with an interest in the field through the Graduate Field Committee in Film Studies (GFC). The GFC is a cooperative effort by film faculty across the College of Arts and Humanities to promote the study of cinema at the University of Maryland.

The Film Studies faculty currently teach many of their classes directly in Library Media to take advantage of the proximity to media collections and the physical, technological and virtual learning services, as well as the media information and production specialist staff. The Media Resources Librarian serves as Film Studies subject specialist and The Head serves as Film Studies Graduate Field Committee member and departmental liaison.

This policy describes the criteria which govern the selection of materials for the University of Maryland Libraries’ Film Studies Collection. The community served by this collection includes faculty and students in the Film Studies Program and the MA and PhD students supported by the Graduate Field Committee in Film Studies, as well as faculty and students in related disciplines: as a program which emerged from various departments and programs on campus, film studies at the University of Maryland is naturally and organically inter- and cross-disciplinary, and interdepartmental.

Coordination and Cooperative Information

Film studies is based on a critical, textual approach to film, emphasizing scholarly viewing, interpreting, and writing about moving images. As such, the visual media collection of more than 60,000 items on DVD, Blu-Ray, laserdisc, VHS, 16mm film, ¾” U-Matic, and other formats housed in the Library Media Services. Located on the ground floor of Hornbake Library, LMS is as crucial to supporting the needs of the film studies community at the University of Maryland as the Film Studies Collection itself. Additionally there are curated digital video collections and components of The Libraries’ visual resources
databases that are considered essential to the program. For this reason, the same individual is responsible for collection development across these resources.

Cooperative collection development relationships exist between Library Media Services and both the Performing Arts Library, Special Collections in Mass Media & Culture and Collection Services and Strategies (specifically with electronic resources), which can be regarded as extending to the Film Studies Collection as well. Additional resources are available to them via USMAI, ILL, and through the Big Ten Academic Alliance’s UBorrow service.

Diversity

Recognizing that film studies incorporates individuals of all ages who represent a multiplicity of racial and ethnic backgrounds, economic and educational levels and physical and mental abilities, the Film Studies Subject Librarian strives to build a collection that mirrors and supports this diversity. The Film Studies Collection includes 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/)

Scope of Collection

The Film Studies Collection was established in 2014 in recognition of the Film Studies Program’s new status as a degree-granting academic unit. The primary means of collection development is a book purchase plan with the vendor Yankee Book Peddler, through which the Libraries automatically receive new materials from most U.S. and British university presses and major academic publishers, ensures that the Libraries acquire much of the English language scholarly materials in this area. The purchase plan is supplemented by a discretionary monograph fund. Additionally, subject librarians in other disciplines also occasionally purchase materials in this area using funds allocated to their respective disciplines and accept purchase recommendations from the Film Studies Subject Librarian. The majority of print materials in the Film Studies Collection are housed in McKeldin Library’s stacks and reference stacks. EPSL houses some materials on the technology of photography and film.

Developing the Film Studies Collection

Language(s)

The emphasis is on English language materials in the collection. Major works covering the subject outside the U.S. in the vernacular may be selected, although translations will be preferred. Materials in the vernacular are generally the purview of the librarians responsible for that particular language.

Geographical Areas

The University of Maryland has an unusually large number of faculty who work on cinema from within cultural and language traditions outside of the Anglo-American sphere. Currently, the strength of the program (and collection) is American, European and world (survey) cinema. The Film Studies Program continues to expand in the direction of broader and deeper global coverage and broader coverage of media studies. The Film Studies faculty already includes scholars of Arab, Brazilian, Chinese, Cuban,
Egyptian, Iranian, Israeli, Japanese, Moroccan and Russian cinemas; they hope to expand eventually with additional hires in Indian, Sub-Saharan African, Latin American digital production and documentary cinemas, as well as at least one *new media* specialist. The Film Studies Collection will evolve to keep pace.

*Chronological Periods/Imprint Dates*

Selection will emphasize current publications, with the exception of reprints and classic works when required for replacement purposes.

*Included Materials*

Materials selected for the Film Studies Collection are primarily books, and e-books. Serials are paid for on the CP-FILM serials fund, some are currently paid for using the CP-ENGL fund code. Monographic media is primarily paid for using the CP-NPRT fund code; related text and media databases are considered pending funding availability.

*Excluded Materials*

No materials are explicitly excluded from consideration for addition to the Film Studies Collection, but audiovisual materials are routinely acquired by and for Library Media Services collections. See: [Collection Development Policy Statement for Library Media](http://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/collection-development-policy).

*Additional Collection Information*


As of fall 2015, the Film Studies Collection met or exceeded ACRL’S *Resources for College Libraries* criteria for essential titles for academic libraries and colleges.

*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** May 29, 2015, revised 8/17/18

**CDC 9/25/18**

*More*

More information about the Film Studies Program can be found on the Film Studies at the University of Maryland website:

Additional information can be found under the individual departments:

http://www.english.umd.edu/people/areagroups/filmcultural,

https://www.arhu.umd.edu/news/film-studies,

http://sllc.umd.edu/department/film-studies,