

Collection Development Policy Statement for Geographical Sciences

Subject Specialist:

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I. Purpose

The purpose of the Geographical Sciences Collection of the UMD Libraries is to support the research, teaching, and information needs of faculty, staff, and students in the **Department of Geographical Sciences (GEOG)** in College Park, as well as interdisciplinary spatial research in other departments across campus. The collection consists of materials relevant to the department, and attempts will be made to have a balanced collection of materials that are appropriate to the mission of the UMD Libraries. This collection will pay special attention to topics specifically relevant to faculty research interests in the Department of Geographical Sciences, including a focus on physical geography, human geography, and geospatial methods.

The Department of Geographical Sciences in College Park offers a variety of courses that culminate in B.A., B.S., M.S., M.P.S., and Ph.D degrees. The Department also hosts the [Center for Geospatial Information Science \(CGIS\)](#) which offers classes and workshops on advanced GIS topics and serves as a research partner.

Coordination and Cooperative Information:

Geography is an inherently interdisciplinary field of study and the faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Geographical Sciences are engaged in interdisciplinary research and teaching overlapping with biology, plant science, landscape architecture, agricultural and natural resources, environmental science, civil and environmental engineering, computer science, economics, anthropology, urban studies, public policy, public health, criminology, sociology, and government and politics. Many of the materials collected in these related subject disciplines are relevant to the members of the geographical sciences academic community, and deliberate efforts are and will continue to be made to collaborate and coordinate large scale purchasing and deselection with the subject specialists responsible for these areas of the UMD Libraries' collection.

The UMD Libraries have developed partnerships and collaborations with state, regional and national institutions and consortiums in order to enhance access to library collections and provide necessary materials for teaching and research. The UMD Libraries' membership in the [Big Ten Academic Alliance \(BTAA\)](#) and [Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance \(CIRLA\)](#) allows patrons to obtain print materials from other participating libraries through interlibrary loan services. For digital content, UMD Libraries offer access through its collaborations with [BTAA](#), [HathiTrust](#), and [University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions \(USMAI\)](#). The [BTAA Geoportal](#) provides discovery and access to geospatial datasets.

Diversity:

Recognizing that Geographical Sciences 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 Geographical Sciences 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 the [Collection Development Diversity Statement](#).

II. Summary of Collection Scope

1. Scope: The geographical sciences collection includes materials on an array of topics, including environmental science, agriculture, deforestation, carbon cycle, climate change, climatology, ecology, economic geography, cultural geography, geospatial intelligence, geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, spatial statistics, and relevant coding languages (R, python, IDL, etc.). These materials primarily are cataloged in the G-GB and GD-GE call number ranges; however, they also may include items traditionally cataloged as part of engineering, biology, anthropology, urban studies, and related categories.
2. Location: The collection is mainly housed at McKeldin library, but interdisciplinary material is located at other library branches – Engineering and Physical Sciences Library, Hornbake Library, Architecture Library, and off-campus at Shady Grove Library. Low-use materials are located in the Severn off-site repository. The collection is enhanced by access to materials at other libraries through Interlibrary Loan Services and involving partners and collaborators (e.g. USMAI, BTAA, HathiTrust, etc.)
3. Format: The collection consists of books and journals in print and electronic formats, microforms, databases, datasets, and audio and video materials. The UMD Libraries are committed to collecting and maintaining a hybrid collection of materials where resources are collected in the most appropriate format for their intended use. Preference will be given to electronic formats for most items. Collecting in electronic format is preferred for all journal titles, although print journal volumes will not be deaccessioned unless reliable and sustainable electronic archives or backfiles have been acquired.
4. Use: Library services and collections are open to the public. Most of the Library's materials circulate for use outside the library. Materials circulate to UMD faculty, staff, and students with valid ID cards. Others who wish to borrow materials must have a current library card issued through [the Community Borrowers and Researchers Program](#).

III. Developing the Geographical Sciences Collection

1. Language(s): The emphasis is on English language materials in the collection. Major works covering the subject in other languages may be selected, although translations will be preferred.

2. Geographical areas: Items in the collection vary in scale based on topical area and range from global to local. Geographical areas vary in definition based on topical area and may refer to biomes/ecosystems, political boundaries, cultural boundaries, economic boundaries, or land use types. The major focus of items in the collection is on global systems, North America, tropical regions, developing nations, and major agricultural areas. However, the collection will also support curricular and research interests in other regions of interest.
3. Chronological periods/Imprint dates: All chronological periods are collected, although selection will emphasize current publications, with the exception of reprints and classic works when required for replacement purposes.
4. Materials selected
 - a) Included materials: Resources are acquired based on their authoritativeness, currency, comprehensiveness, ease of use, relevancy, and available format. The applicability of each of these criteria may vary by type of information, compatibility with existing infrastructure, and discipline.
 - b) Excluded materials: The collection is selective in collecting handbooks and manuals, pocket reference books, educational materials for self-assessment, exam preparation, etc. These books are not bound, and are deselected from the Library when outdated. Generally, textbooks are purchased only if requested for course reserves by an instructor, and each course reserve purchase request is evaluated individually. Any electronic materials leased or purchased must accommodate the licensing agreement restrictions placed upon the UMD Libraries, such as offsite authentication.

IV. Additional Collection Information

1. Duplication: In general, the Libraries acquire only single copies of works. Multiple copies of outdated materials may be deselected, but unique materials are retained. Duplication is allowed for print titles authored by UMD faculty. Multiple copies will be purchased or maintained when there is a high demand for teaching/learning or in cases of multi-user e-books. Whenever an electronic version is available, only one existing copy can be kept; all others must be deselected.
2. Gifts: Gift items added to the geographical sciences 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”. While the subject specialist is ultimately responsible for deciding whether or not a gift is added to the general collection, items with apparent archival value that are deemed inappropriate for the general collection will be offered for consideration to Special Collections.
3. Deselection: Due to limited shelving space, print books are periodically reviewed and considered for deselection. Criteria for deselection include lack of circulation, local availability of electronic or more current editions, duplicates, physical condition of the item, and change or elimination of an academic program.

4. **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.

V. Statement of Subject Specialist Communication

The subject specialist responsible for the geographical sciences collection will continue to communicate with the subject specialist(s) in engineering, biology, urban studies, and anthropology to maintain and build overlapping collections.

Implementation and Revision Schedule: This policy will be 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 responsible for this area 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: August 3, 2018 KO

CDC 9/25/18