

Collection Development Policy Statement for Literary Manuscripts

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Purpose

The Literary Manuscripts collections serve to document the literary output (especially poetry) of the Maryland region while at the same time featuring several distinguished research collections of national and even international significance.

The mission of collecting in this area is to support the teaching and research mission of the University of Maryland (primarily English and Women's Studies) while at the same time providing resources that meet the research needs of regional, national and international scholarly communities. It plays a particular role in being the definitive location for the study of short story novelist and writer Katherine Anne Porter (1890-1980), and avant-garde feminist author and illustrator Djuna Barnes (1892-1982).

Coordination and Cooperative Information

Literary Manuscripts holdings at the University of Maryland include a wide variety of genres of literature (primarily 20th century) that relate directly to the holdings of other special collections repositories in the United States and beyond. Coordination and cooperation with other repositories occurs when materials are offered for purchase or donation. Several distinguished University of Maryland professors, several of whom played a role in assisting UMD curators in developing the collection, have left their own papers within the Faculty Papers collection of the UMD University Archives.

Diversity

Recognizing that literary subjects 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 literary manuscripts 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

Twentieth-Century American Literature

- **Katherine Anne Porter.** Primary archive of the personal papers of this important American author; included are correspondence files, drafts, notes, published material, photographs, and memorabilia. Related collections include the papers of Cyrilly Abels, Mary Doherty, Donald Elder, Ann Heintze, Seymour Lawrence, Glenway Wescott, and others. *Any research materials that serve to complement this in-depth archive are acquired.*
- **Djuna Barnes.** Largest and most important collection of personal papers of the avant-garde novelist, poet, playwright, journalist, and artist. Includes correspondence, drafts, notes, proofs, published material, photographs, memorabilia and original art work. Related collections include the papers of Elsa von Freytag-Lorinoven, James Stern, Saxon Barnes, and Barnes Family papers. *Any research materials that serve to complement this in-depth archive are acquired.*
- **Other Figures and Organizations in American Literature.** Includes the papers of Laura Riding Jackson, Ferdinand Reyher, Karl Shapiro, and Gertrude Stein and her circle. The Authors and Poets Collection contains material by or relating to important literary figures such as Conrad Aiken, Amiri Baraka, James M. Cain, Robert Creeley, Ernest Hemingway, Robert Penn Warren, and William Carlos Wilson. In addition, Literary Manuscripts include small collections pertaining to the literary careers of John Dos Passos, William Faulkner, Thom Gunn, and T. S. Eliot.

With few exceptions, collecting in this area (Other Figures and Organizations in American Literature) is no longer active. Although holdings related to Hemingway and Frost are large, far more significant collections for these writers have been established at other institutions. One possible exception would be to build on existing Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) strengths in the field of women's studies and to acquire additional papers of American women writers with national reputations.

Twentieth-Century British Literature

Included are the papers of Edward Lucie-Smith, Lady Ottoline Morrell, Hope Mirrlees, the Poetry Book Society, and the Turret Books collection. The Authors and Poets collection includes literary figures such as John Betjeman, Thomas Blackburn, Ted Hughes, Edith Sitwell, and others. *No new collecting initiatives are anticipated in this area, unless they complement in some way existing strengths in SCUA's rare book collections.*

Maryland Literary Figures and Publishing

Includes papers of Maryland authors, poets and publishing figures, particularly Maryland poet laureates. Individuals represented in this collection group include Maurice Annenberg, Marion Buchman, Vincent Godfrey Burns, Harold Dudley, Roland Flint, Jack Hoffenberg, Mollee Coppel Kruger, Louise Malloy, Naomi Duff Smith, and the records of Dryad Press.

This is an active collecting area. The papers of former Maryland Poet laureates are being solicited; other authors, poets, or literary organizations that provide a window into the literary world of the Maryland region are also being solicited.

Miscellaneous

Collections in this group include the European Heritage Documents collection, the German Expressionism collection, the records of the International Brecht Society, and the papers of George Margoulies. *With few exceptions, collecting in this area is no longer active.*

Developing the Literary Manuscripts Collection

Language(s)

An emphasis will be on English-language materials.

Geographical areas

An emphasis is placed on literary figures and activities centered in the Maryland region. Exceptions will include any research resources pertaining to the careers of Katherine Anne Porter and Djuna Barnes, and potentially to women writers of national stature.

Chronological periods/Imprint dates

Predominantly twentieth-century writers, but contemporary writers and publishing houses in the Maryland region are being solicited.

Materials selected

1. Included materials

All formats of materials related to the active subject areas listed above are included.

2. Excluded materials

No class of materials is excluded categorically, but materials to which access is restricted beyond a reasonable period of time will not be acquired. In addition, materials requiring immediate or expensive preservation treatment will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Also candidates for exclusion are large personal papers collections or the archives or an organization that require significant financial resources to process or conserve and do not include financial support from the

donor. The UMD Libraries, with very few exceptions, will not accept any collection on deposit.

3. *Levels of Collection Intensity*

See commentary under “Summary of Collection Scope at Current Collecting Levels” above.

Additional Collection Information

Duplication

Generally speaking, duplication of acquisitions will not present themselves, because the acquisition of personal papers and archives are intrinsically unique in nature. However, long runs of periodicals or other materials that are known to duplicate existing holdings in the Libraries will not be sought unless those print materials are personally annotated by a given literary figure.

Gifts

Gift items and other materials are added to the Literary Manuscripts 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 Literary Manuscripts, in coordination with supervisory staff, is ultimately responsible for deciding whether or not a gift is added to the collection.

Purchases

Occasional, prudent purchases will be carried out to add unique materials to the Porter and Barnes papers, and possibly to the papers of Maryland Poet Laureates or a major figure in Maryland literature. Purchases from private individuals will be considered, following the same guidelines for prudent expenditure, but such individuals will be encouraged to donate their materials to the UMD Libraries instead.

Deselection/Withdrawal

Since primary source manuscripts are generally unique and cannot be replaced, it is unlikely that any holdings would be withdrawn as duplicative material. However, on occasion a decision might be reached to withdraw a particular collection in order to have it repositioned in another repository that represents a better setting for that research resource. Any such decision for withdrawal and transfer will require careful review and vetting by the leadership of the UMD Libraries.

Preservation

The Literary Manuscripts staff will work with the Preservation unit to address any preservation concerns that arise in the collections, particularly at the time of accessioning. Since items from these holdings are also frequently placed on exhibit, Preservation staff will also be involved in mitigating preservation concerns, either for in-house exhibiting or during loans for exhibiting at other institutions.

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: April 30, 2015, created by Lauren Brown; Rev. 7/20/18 AMK

CDC 9/25/18