

Collection Development Policy Statement for Persian Studies

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I. Purpose

The Persian Studies collection of the University of Maryland Libraries supports the educational mission of the School of Languages, Literature and Cultures. The collections supplement the School's curriculum, as well as serve the research needs of undergraduate students and faculty. The Smith School offers B.A. degrees or minor in Arabic. The School is a transdisciplinary teaching and research unit. The students, faculty, and staff investigate and engage with the linguistic, cultural, cinematic, and literary worlds of speakers of Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, as well as questions surrounding language learning itself.

The Roshan Institute for Persian Studies at the University of Maryland aspires to be the premier center for the learning, understanding, and appreciation of Persian culture in the United States. Toward this end, the Roshan Institute seeks to provide outstanding course offerings and programs in Persian language, literature, history, and culture; to foster communication and community ties among people of Persian heritage and those interested in Persian studies; and to serve as a model for encouraging intercultural communication among peoples of varying backgrounds.

The Persian Studies curriculum offer students a B.A. in Persian Studies or a Minor in Persian Studies. Students wishing to achieve advanced proficiency in Persian could also consider the Flagship Scholar Certificate through the University's Persian Language Flagship program. This certificate can be combined with many other majors.

- *B.A. in Persian Studies* provides a 36-credit major to students with a solid background in linguistic, literary, and cultural aspects of the study of Persian. This includes the cultures of Iran, Afghanistan, Persian-speaking Central Asia, and the Persian diaspora. Students work toward competence in speaking, reading, writing, and listening. In addition, they become conversant in the contemporary political and daily life of Persian-speaking nations.
- *Minor in Persian Studies* provides a 15-credit minor to students with a background in linguistic, literary, and cultural aspects of the study of Persian, including the cultures of Iran, Afghanistan, Persian-speaking Central Asia, and the Persian diaspora. Students will work toward linguistic competence in speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Students are also introduced to Iranian culture in its diverse perspectives, practices, and products. The minor in Persian Studies complements a range of professions, including careers in education, engineering, government, journalism, the arts, business, and communication.
- *Persian Language Flagship Program* is the only one in the United States, the University of Maryland's Undergraduate Persian Flagship offers a state of the art language curriculum that aims to educate global professionals with superior command of Persian

and a deep understanding of the life and cultures of the Persian-speaking countries of Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The Roshan Institute for Persian Studies also has embarked on an ambitious Persian Digital Humanities initiative, the Roshan Initiative in Persian Digital Humanities at the University of Maryland (PersDig@UMD). This is a collaborative effort involving Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, [Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities \(MITH\)](#), and [UMD libraries](#). Currently they are developing three projects: the Persian Digital Library (PDL) (part of the multi-institutional [Open Islamicate Texts Initiative](#)), the [Persian Manuscript Initiative \(PMI\)](#), and the Lalehzar Digital Project (LDP).

- *Beyond the Classroom* is a platform that opportunities for enriching and enhancing the classroom experience, among them:
 - *Roshangar*, the very first undergraduate journal in Persian Studies. It is fully designed and run by talented students under the guidance of Professor Ida Meftahi at Roshan Institute for Persian Studies.
 - *Language House Immersion Program*, created in 1989, was the first living-learning program established at the University of Maryland. Open to sophomores and above (second-semester freshmen can be admitted only as exceptions), it provides students, who are serious about language learning, with the opportunity for daily language and cultural immersion in an organized study environment. Students who choose this program will develop communication skills in both academic and daily life settings through diverse organized activities, informal daily contacts, annual Language House events, and supplemental coursework in the target language.
 - [IMVBox.com](#) an Education Partner. The purpose of the partnership is to give students the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom by watching Persian-language films online. Alongside their Persian classes at UMD, allowing students to improve their command of Persian language and increase their knowledge of Iranian cultures by watching films at IMVBox.com, which offers over 1,000 streaming films. IMVBox.com is the largest 'online cinemathèque' and only legal platform for Iranian films. By showcasing a large selection of award-winning Iranian films, including features, documentaries, shorts and plays, IMVBox aims to present the diversity, depth and richness of Iranian cinema. IMVBox's mission is to "paint a true picture" of the Middle East.
 - Education Abroad opportunities through the University of Maryland Education Abroad Office.

Coordination and Cooperative Information: Persian studies overlaps various subject areas including history, linguistics, women's studies, sociology, literature, religious studies, government documents, and anthropology, to name a few. There are many occasions where resource materials needed by faculty and/or students are available through the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) consortial service (UBorrow), the University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) and, on occasion, in HathiTrust.

Researchers can rely on a number of national and international library research networks, and other consortia as needed, among them:

- The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) – an international consortium of university, college, and independent research libraries. <https://www.crl.edu/about>
- The Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) – is the nation’s preeminent model for effective collaboration among research universities. <https://www.btaa.org/>
- The Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) – is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization of educational and research institutions in Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Maryland, which are members of the Association of Research Libraries and been accepted for membership. <http://www.cirla.org/>

Diversity: Recognizing that the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures 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 School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures 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 University of Maryland, Collection Development Diversity Statement at <https://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/policies/collection-development-diversitystatement>.

II. Summary of Collection Scope at Current Collecting Levels

Our current collection has grown within the last 5 years due to the libraries’ inclusion in a 3-year federal grant through the College of Arts and Humanities at UMD in 2009. Print monographs and requested periodicals housed in McKeldin Library, with a substantial collection of media works now available in the Library Media Services unit in Hornbake, were purchased at that time. Emphasis is currently directed toward works of notable authors, poets, historians, and electronic versions of reference works, eBook collections, and various databases to meet the research and instructional needs of a wider audience of library users.

III. Developing the Persian Studies Collection

1. Language(s): The emphasis is on Persian language materials in the collection. Major works covering the subject are selected, with some English translations available. Materials in other languages with references to Arabic are generally in the purview of the subject specialists responsible for those languages.

2. Geographical areas: The major focus of items in the collection surround Iran and the United States, but curricular and research interests in the discipline make works on other countries a growing focus.
3. Chronological periods/Imprint dates: Selection will emphasize current publications, with the exception of reprints and classic works that are lacking in the general collection.
4. Materials selected
 1. Included materials: Monographs, monographic series, periodicals, newspapers, databases, audio/visual materials, government documents, dissertations, and ephemera are acquired on a selective basis.
 2. Excluded materials: Photocopies, juvenile materials, textbooks.

IV. Additional Collection Information

The Persian Studies collection adheres to the University of Maryland Libraries' policies for duplication, gifts, deselection and preservation available at <http://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/collection-development-policy>.

1. Duplication: There are instances where faculty request both print and electronic copies of individual titles, though duplication of items is not a regular practice.
2. Gifts: Gift items added to the Business 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 specialists for Business are ultimately responsible for deciding whether or not a gift is added to the collection.
3. Deselection/Withdrawal: The relevance of materials in the Business 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.
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.

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: 02/23/2015 CS; ZD Rev. 11/31/18

CDC 2/5/19