

## Collection Development Policy Statement for Sociology

**Subject Specialist responsible:** Patricia Kosco Cossard, Art/Sociology Librarian, 301-405-9068, [pcossard@umd.edu](mailto:pcossard@umd.edu)

### I. Purpose

Sociology materials are selected and made available in the University Libraries that support the research and curriculum needs of the sociology faculty and its students. The Department of Sociology offers academic programs leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, a Master of Arts degree, and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Sociology. A variety of research centers and projects are supported by the Department of Sociology, including The Center for Research on Military Organization; The Maryland Population Research Center; The Center for Innovation; The Culture Lab; The Maryland Time Use Lab; The Critical Race Initiative; The Joint Program in Survey Method; The India Human Development Survey; and The Program for Society and Environment.

**Coordination and Cooperative Information:** Library collections that support research in sociology and the curriculum are drawn primarily from the collection development efforts of the Sociology Librarian. As a social science, sociology is interdisciplinary and addresses all subject areas in the context of humans, societies, and institutions. Therefore, the discipline reflects the collection acquisitions of all subject librarians employed by the University of Maryland Libraries at College Park.

Onsite and interlibrary loan access to additional resources in sociology are made available through partnerships and collaborations with national, state, and local organizations, such as through the Association of Research Libraries that include 126 top research libraries in North America; Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), that is comprised of fifteen research universities in the United States; University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI), that has sixteen research institutions located across Maryland; and the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA), that is a regional organization of libraries located in Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

**Diversity:** Recognizing that sociology incorporates individuals of all ages who represent a broad spectrum of racial and ethnic backgrounds, economic and educational levels and physical and mental abilities, the subject specialist/s develop collections that are reflective and supportive of this diversity. For example, the sociology collections include resources that reflect a variety of political, economic, religious, social, minority and sexual issues. The objective is to 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.

### II. Summary of Collection Scope at Current Collecting Levels

Since 1919, sociology courses have been taught at the University of Maryland. Acquisition of library materials over the years continue to support the changing curriculum and faculty research needs. Both, print and electronic materials supporting all areas of sociology are found within the collections of the Libraries. Emphasis is given to collecting scholarly resources that focuses on social institutions,

organizations and groups, including how society functions. Special emphasis is given to acquiring materials that support key fields of research by the Department of Sociology. Infrequently used library materials and multiple copies of titles are deselected from the collections or relocated to Maryland Off-Site Storage (MOSS). Such materials are retrieved upon request.

### **Developing the Sociology Collection**

1. Language(s): Most materials selected for the sociology collection are purchased in English. Major works in other languages are acquired, with a preference given to English translations of significant works produced outside of the United States.
2. Geographical areas: Much of the collection consist of American imprints. However, items that support the academic department's research and teaching on a global scale are also acquired.
3. Chronological periods/Imprint dates: Emphasis is on collecting current imprints. Reprints and classic works are acquired as needed, or as replacements for lost or damaged items.
4. Materials selected
  1. Included materials: Resources are selected in a variety of print and electronic formats, including books, periodicals, newspapers and databases for the study of sociology. Emphasis is given to collecting in core areas, which are demography; development of societies; environmental sociology; gender, work, and family; globalization theories; military sociology; social psychology; and social inequality and mobility. The Reference Collection is limited to monographs, including but not restricted to resources such as subject dictionaries, encyclopedias, and handbooks.
  2. Excluded materials: Textbooks are not collected, unless requested by a faculty member. Reprints are acquired as needed for lost or damaged items.

### **III. Additional Collection Information**

In terms of duplication, gifts, deselection and preservation of materials, the Sociology 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>.

**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:** February 22, 2015 OC, Rev. 8/2/16, Rev. 8/30/18

CDC 9/25/18