Collection Development Policy Statement for Film Studies

Subject Specialist Responsible:

Patricia Herron, Liaison for English, Film Studies, Latina/o and Latin American Studies, and Linguistics  
(301) 405-9280  
herron@umd.edu

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 undergraduate 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.

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. The visual media collection of more than 60,000 items on DVD, Blu-Ray, laserdisc, VHS, 16mm film, ¾” U-Matic, and other formats are housed primarily in McKeldin Library. Additionally, there are curated digital video collections and streaming video database collections, which are important to the program.

The Film Studies librarian is responsible for overseeing collection management related to the study of film. However, because of the interdisciplinary nature of film studies, and because the faculty represent a wide swath of departments within the College of Arts and Humanities, a distributed collections management model is used. Responsibilities for the film studies collections lie primarily with the individual liaisons (American Studies, Art History, Classics, English, History, Music & Ethnomusicology, and the School of Languages Literatures, & Cultures), who select and manage materials for their faculty and students. The Film Studies librarian is responsible for overseeing the book and serials collections budget, and accepts requests and processes purchases from these subject liaisons.
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 EBSCO, through which the Libraries automatically receive new materials from most U.S. and British university presses and major academic publishers, ensuring that the Libraries acquire much of the English language scholarly materials in this area. The purchase plan is supplemented by discretionary monograph funds CP-FILM-MONO and CP-FILM-EBOOK, which are overseen and managed by the Film Studies librarian. Additionally, subject librarians in other disciplines also occasionally purchase books in this area using funds allocated to their respective disciplines. They may also request that books be purchased from the discretionary film studies monograph funds. There is also a small serials fund line from which the most important scholarly journals and trade magazines in the field are purchased. The majority of print materials in the Film Studies Collection are housed in McKeldin Library’s stacks and reference stacks. STEM library houses some materials on the technology of photography and film. The majority of the visual media collection (DVD, Blu-Ray, laserdisc, VHS, 16 mm film, ¾” U-Matic and other formats) are housed in McKeldin Library.

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. 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 serials fund code. Monographic media, regardless of subject focus, 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.

**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) 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.

**More**

More information about the Film Studies Program can be found on the Film Studies at the University of Maryland website: [https://film.umd.edu/](https://film.umd.edu/).

*Created: 5/29/15; Reviewed: 8/17/18, 8/16/19; CDC Approved: 9/5/19.*