Western Libraries
Collections Management Policy
Geography

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Purpose of the Collection:

The Geography collection of Western Libraries is intended to support the research activities of faculty, students and staff and the instructional requirements of undergraduate and graduate programs. The collection also provides support for teaching and research in a wide variety of related fields such as Anthropology, Archaeology, Biology, Economics, Engineering, Environmental Science, Geology, Geophysics, History, Medicine, Political Science and Sociology.

The D.B. Weldon Library is the primary location for material supporting the research and instructional needs of the Geography department.

Program Information:

The Geography undergraduate programs include: Honors Specialization Modules (BA) in Geography, Geographic Information Science and Urban Development; Honors Specialization Modules (BSc) in Geography and Geographic Science; Majors in Geography, Geographic Information Science and Physical Geography; and a Minor in Geography.

The Geography graduate programs include: MA or MSc in Geography; PhD in Geography; MA or MSc in Geography (Environment and Sustainability); PhD in Geography (Environment and Sustainability); MA in Geography (Migration and Ethnic Relations); and PhD in Geography (Migration and Ethnic Relations).

Subject Areas Covered:

Subject areas covered in support of research and teaching, as described on the Department of Geography website http://geography.uwo.ca/research/ (accessed June 22, 2011), or (in the case of Physical Geography) as described by faculty, include:

**Physical Geography**

Physical Geography at Western characterises and integrates the environmental aspects of the human condition. We focus on the characteristics and dynamics of human occupied, impacted and 'designed' landscapes and environments. Our research addresses land surface and river system dynamics, hydrological
processes, water quality and environmental change, the relationships between human activities and the ecological condition of aquatic ecosystems and urban climates. We seek to apply our understanding of Earth’s surface environments to planning, design and anticipation of landscape change. We use field observation and monitoring, remote sensing, computational models, laboratory experimentation and geo-spatial analysis as tools in our research. Work focuses in Southwestern Ontario, and across Canada and around the world.

**Geographic Information Science (GIS)**

Theoretical and applied studies of geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing and cartography. Interests in GIS include: spatial modelling and visualization, database structures and pattern recognition. Application of GIS to: urban land use, locational analysis, wildlife habitat, wetlands, arctic soils and vegetation, glacier dynamics, and landscape. Planetary cartography and mapping of asteroids. Applications of remote sensing to resource management, cartography, and earth surface processes (including vegetation patterns, river channel form, and urban surface temperatures).

**Urban Studies**

Urban Studies research focuses on phenomenon and societal issues in the context of cities. The research topics include urban development, urban land and real estate economics, urban morphology, planning, housing, health, history, culture and geomatics. Current projects by members of the Department of Geography include research on: recent decline in the downtown quaternary functions in North American cities; spatial demographics of educational demand; urban opportunities for youth gambling; urban environmental influences on childhood obesity; geographic studies of paediatric trauma; urban forms for seniors' independence and mobility; property acquisition and social mobility; spatial patterning of urban crime; geographies of personal networks; urban demographics and housing choices; uncertainty and household mobility; and the Imag(in)ing London historical GIS project.

**Environment, Development and Health**

A new and growing focus in the department is on the linked themes of environment, development and health. Within this cluster, “environment” is defined in the broadest sense, including aspects of both physical and social environments. Research on the health geography of Canada includes work on environmental hazards and risk perception, environmental inequity, health effects of air pollution, and childhood obesity and urban form. Research in international contexts, with regional specialization in Africa and the Caribbean, is examining peasant agriculture, food security and nutrition, HIV-AIDS, and the connections between gender, migration and development. Faculty members in this cluster are
also involved in research on water resources, climate change, and other aspects of environmental policy and management. The EDH cluster has collaborative links with the physical geography, urban studies and Geographical Information Science clusters within the department, as well as with researchers in other departments and faculties across the university and at other universities inside and outside of Canada. Several of its members work closely with government, private sector and community-based organizations.

Appendix A: Library of Congress Subject Classification Ranges attempts, in part, to match faculty and graduate student research and teaching interests to LC ranges.

Format:

Acquisitions will include monographs, book series, and journals. Resources, particularly journals, in digital format are preferentially selected over their print counterparts. Alternate formats, such as CD-ROM, video, DVD, and microform, are considered on an individual request basis.

Language:

English is the primary language of collection. Materials in other languages may be acquired to support the curriculum. English translations of major works in other languages are also acquired.

Source of Publication:

Sources of publication are primarily Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Western Europe. Material published in other regions may be considered on request and will be evaluated for quality and relevance.

Date of publication:

Materials with a recent imprint date are preferred. Older material will be considered upon request.

Geographic scope:

See Subject Areas Covered. Other areas are collected selectively or considered upon request.

Exclusions:
With the exception of individual requests and some selective acquisitions, the following types of material are not acquired: popular literature, conference proceedings, theses or dissertations from other institutions, course textbooks.

**Related collections and cooperation:**

The Western Libraries collection for Geography is supplemented by collections in related fields, such as Anthropology, Archaeology, Biology, Economics, Engineering, Environmental Science, Geology, Geophysics, History, Medicine, Political Science and Sociology.

The Map and Data Centre has an extensive paper and digital cartographic collection. It includes sheet maps, atlases, aerial photographs, digital orthoimagery, satellite imagery, and extensive digital resources (e.g., Canadian National Topographic Data, access to the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE), DMTI data, digital elevation data). Print coverage is worldwide, with an emphasis on Southwestern Ontario. Digitally there is selective worldwide coverage.

**Gifts:**

The library gratefully accepts gifts of materials in good condition. As considerable expense is incurred by Western Libraries in the receipt and processing, the library only accepts gifts of materials which support current teaching and research needs, or which are not adequately represented in the collection.

**Managing the Collection:**

In order to ensure that collections remain optimally useful for our patrons, it is necessary to analyze collection usage and available space regularly. Items will need to be selectively removed from the onsite collection from time to time.

Duplicate items that are no longer required to support the curriculum, and damaged items that can no longer be replaced may be removed from the collection at the discretion of the Subject Librarian.

Items that are unique to Western may be transferred to a storage facility. Material housed in these storage facilities is available on request through the Library Catalogue.

Criteria for transfer selection include, but are not limited to, the following:

1) Outdated or previous editions of titles  
2) Medium- to low-use items  
3) Material that is available in alternate formats, i.e., online
4) Materials that would benefit from storage in a more controlled environment.

Consult the Subject Librarian for further details about these criteria.

**Resources to aid in acquisition of material:**

Subject profiles have been set up in Coutt’s OASIS to facilitate the discovery of new publications. OASIS also enables the ordering of items.

Book reviews and other libraries’ holdings (via WorldCat) are used to gauge the suitability of titles for the library collection.

**Appendix A: Library of Congress Subject Classification Ranges**

Faculty and graduate students were surveyed in 2011 regarding library monograph purchases vis a vis their research and teaching interests. That survey attempted, in part, to match faculty and graduate student research and teaching interests to Library of Congress call number ranges related to Geography. Note that only higher level headings were included for the sake of brevity. The following call number ranges were of interest to researchers, and will be collected for:

- G200-336 - History of discoveries, explorations, and travel
- G369-503 - Special voyages and travels
- G516 - Adventure travel
- GA1-87 - Mathematical geography
- GA101-1776 - Cartography
- GB - Physical geography
- GB400-649 - Geomorphology. Landforms. Terrain
- GB5000-5030 - Natural disasters
- GC - Oceanography
- GC63 - Oceanographic expeditions
- GC65-78 - Underwater exploration
- GC83-87.6 - Submarine topography
- GC96-97.8 - Estuarine oceanography
- GC100-103 - Seawater
- GC109-149 - Chemical oceanography
- GC150-182 - Physical oceanography
- GC190-190.5 - Ocean-atmosphere interaction
- GC200-376 - Dynamics of the ocean
- GC377-399 - Marine sediments
- GC401-881 - Oceanography. By region
- GC1000-1023 - Marine resources. Applied oceanography
Survey respondents were also invited to submit topics that they felt were not well represented by the listed ranges. The following topics were submitted, and will be collected for:

Geography of Canada
Canadian issues
Remote sensing
Spatial statistics and visualization
Modelling
Geographic Information System (GIS)
Historical GIS
Spatial history
Spatial humanities
Health GIS
Medical/health geography
Disease ecology
Epidemiology
Human geography
Cultural geography
Social geography
Economic geography
Emotional geography
Sense of place
Geography of development
Geography of under-development
Migration related materials
Indigenous populations
Geography of gender
Wetlands
Glaciology and glacial geomorphology
Environmental restoration and conservation

This list does not include Geography-related subjects for which material is collected by the Taylor Library, including the following:

- Atmospheric Science
- Meteorology
- Climatology
- Engineering: radiation heat transfer, wind tunnels

Specific book requests from such subjects, sent to the Subject Librarian will be forwarded to the appropriate Taylor Collections Librarian.