Western Libraries
Collections Management Policy for Languages and Cultures

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Revised: June 2011

Purpose of the Collection:

The Modern Languages and Literatures (ML&L) collection of Western Libraries is intended to support the research activities of faculty, students, and staff and for 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 Theory & Criticism and Visual Arts.

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

Program Information:

The Department of Modern Languages and Literature offers undergraduate degree programs in Comparative Literature and Culture; Spanish and Spanish American Language, Literature, Culture and Linguistics; German Language and Literature; and Italian Studies. MA and PhD programs are offered in both Comparative Literature and Hispanic Studies. The department also participates in interdisciplinary programs, including Gender Studies and Latin American Studies.

Subject Areas Covered:

Comparative Literature and Culture
The library acquires notable primary literary works in German, Spanish literatures in the original language, available English translations and accompanying secondary and reference materials. Selectively, notable literary works in Italian are acquired. The collection includes Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment, Romanticism, and Nineteenth, Twentieth, and Twenty First century studies.

Selective acquisitions also include English translations for important authors writing in non-European languages, along with corresponding English language criticism, and literary theory materials. Resources are selected to ensure the breadth and depth of holdings required to support Comparative Literature study, teaching, and research to the PhD level. The Comparative
Literature collections are further supported by Classical Studies, English, Film Studies, French, History, Music, Philosophy, Theory and Criticism, and Visual Arts collections.

**Spanish and Spanish American Language and Literature**
The Librarian actively seeks primary and secondary materials in Spanish and English at levels of intensity conforming to the teaching and research needs of Spanish program. The emphasis of the collection is in the following areas: Medieval Spanish; Spanish Golden Age; Hispanic Baroque; Hispanic Theatre (Golden Age and Modern); Spanish and Spanish American literature and culture (emphasis on Argentina, Bolivia, Central America, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Cuba, and Peru); Transatlantic Studies and Digital Humanities.

Materials supporting Spanish language and linguistics are acquired for both the ML&L and Linguistics collections. Interdisciplinary works in digital humanities and transatlantic studies are acquired in conjunction with the librarians who purchase material to support these areas. The Spanish and Spanish American language and literature collections are further supplemented by Linguistics, English, Film Studies, History, Philosophy, Theory & Criticism, Visual Arts, and Media, Information & Technoculture, collections.

**Linguistics**
Undergraduate and graduate programs in Linguistics are offered jointly by the Departments of Anthropology, French Studies and the Hispanic Studies section of Modern Languages & Literatures. See the Linguistics Collections Policy for subject areas covered by Linguistics.

**German Language and Literature**
The Library maintains collections representative of German language and literature, with emphasis on influential or established literary figures, and a sampling of emerging authors. Secondary materials are acquired in English and selectively in German. Primary works available in English translation are selectively acquired. The ML&L collections supporting German studies are supplemented by collections supporting Film Studies, History, Philosophy, Theory & Criticism, and Visual Arts.

**Italian Studies**
In the past, the Library developed a core collection of Italian language and literature materials. Currently, acquisition of Italian dictionaries, grammar books, modern literature in Italian, and accompanying secondary material is highly selective. The Librarian continues to develop holdings of materials on Dante (with an emphasis on English language publications) to support undergraduate- through PhD-level research.

**Gender and Sexuality Studies**
The minor program of Gender, Sexuality and Culture and major program of Sexuality Studies are supported by the ML&L collections, and collections supporting Women’s Studies, Sociology, English, French, Anthropology and Sociology.
Latin American Studies
The minor program of Latin American Studies available to Social Science students is supported by the ML&L collections, and collections supporting Anthropology, Geography, History, Political Science, and Sociology.

Other languages: Arabic, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Russian
Acquisition of material to support language acquisition for Arabic, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Russian, such as dictionaries and grammar books, is conservative and is based on consultation with the Department. World literature in English translation is selectively acquired, with an emphasis on major historical and emerging authors.

Overall priorities for the collection

1. Writings of recognized and established world literature writers in English or English translation, except for children’s’ literature
2. Spanish language authors, in the original language and in English translation, except for children’s’ literature which is acquired upon request
3. Scholarly literary criticism and biographical writings in English and Spanish.
4. Studies in Spanish language and linguistics
5. Maintenance of existing journal subscriptions
6. Faculty requests, especially for ‘first works’
7. Important electronic resources
8. Literature and language reference works

The following material is acquired selectively

1. Proceedings of conferences, symposia, etc.
2. Writings of recognized and established writers and key emerging authors in German in the original language, except for children’s’ literature
3. Writings of recognized and established writers in Italian in the original language, except for children’s’ literature
4. Scholarly literary criticism and biographical writings in Italian
5. Works of less than 50 pages in the above categories
6. Practical guides to grammar, lexicology, etc.
7. Reprints
8. Private Printings
9. Anthologies

Format:
Acquisitions include monographs, book series, and journals. Resources, particularly journals and reference works, 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.

Languages:

English, Spanish, and German are the primary languages of collection. Materials in other languages, especially Italian, 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 Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Western Europe, and Hispanic Latin America. Material published in other regions is considered upon request.

Date of publication:

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

Exclusions:

With the exception of individual requests and some selective acquisitions, the following types of material are not acquired:

1. Translations into languages other than English
2. Historical, mystery, science fiction, and other popular creative writings (unless specifically requested by faculty to support teaching and research)
3. ‘Vanity press’ publications
4. ‘First works’ by emerging authors unless recognized by major awards, or by faculty request
5. Theses from other institutions, except by faculty request
6. Rare books, except by faculty request
7. Textbooks, except by faculty request

Gifts:

The Library gratefully accepts gifts of materials which are appropriate for its collection and which it does not already own. However, considerable expense is incurred by Western Libraries in the receipt and processing of all materials, including donations. As a result, the Library cannot
accept gifts of materials which are not needed to support current teaching and research needs, or which are already 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 active 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.

Fragile material and 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:**

English language and peninsular Spanish materials for Modern Languages & Literature are received as a result of the implementation of vendor approval profiles that are regularly reviewed by the Modern Languages & Literature Librarian. Spanish American books are acquired through a slip profile with a vendor that specializes in Latin American imprints. German and Italian imprints are selectively acquired through specialized European vendors. Discretionary purchases are made for material requested by faculty and students and for items identified through regular review of publications such as *Times Literary Supplement*, *World Literature Today*, *Insula*, and *Choice*. 