

**Western Libraries
Collections Management Policy
Sociology**

Date created: September 2000

Revised: July 2011

Subject librarian: Marg Sloan

Purpose of the Collection:

The Sociology collection of Western Libraries is intended to support the research activities of faculty, students and staff and the instructional requirements of the department's undergraduate and graduate programs. The D.B. Weldon Library is the primary location for material supporting the research and instructional needs of the Sociology department. Weldon Library serves the faculties of Arts & Humanities, Information & Media Studies and Social Science and is the largest of the eight physical locations of Western Libraries.

Program Information:

The Sociology department at Western offers degrees at the undergraduate, Masters and Doctoral levels. There are 8 different modules of study offered by the Department of Sociology. Areas of specialization are: Sociology, Criminology and Health and Aging.

Areas of specialization for graduate research are:

- Diversity and Inequality: Integration, Conflict and Social Change
- Health, Aging and Life-Course Transitions
- Population Studies
- Collaborative Graduate Program in Migration & Ethnic Relations
- Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism – offering courses in feminist studies, postmodernism and social theory

Subject Areas Covered:

The Western Libraries collection supports all aspects of the Sociology program. The emphasis of the Sociology collection is in the areas of Criminology, Demography, Gender Studies, Immigration and Emigration, Social Theory, and Work. Materials specifically dealing with another subject area, such as Geography, Politics or Health, are primarily selected and acquired by other librarians. Social Work is collected by an affiliated college, King's University College. For more information about what is

collected in another subject area, please see the appropriate [Collections Policy](#). Appendix A, on page 5, shows the Library of Congress classification areas that are the focus of the Western Libraries Sociology collection.

The Sociology librarian works to ensure that Sociology is well supported and therefore addresses any collections gaps in collaboration with other Subject librarians.

Physical format:

Acquisitions will include monographs, book series, and journals. Print and electronic resources are selected. Alternate formats, such as DVD, CD-ROM, video 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 may also be acquired upon request.

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.

Exclusions:

The following types of material are not acquired: popular literature, conference proceedings, theses or dissertations from other institutions, and course textbooks.

Related collections and cooperation:

The Western Libraries collection for Sociology is supported by collections in related fields, such as Anthropology, Business, Communications, Economics, Education, Geography, Health, History, Linguistics, Literature, Law, Medicine, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religion, Science and Technology, Social Work, Women's Studies & Feminist Research and by access to materials in Western's affiliated University College Libraries.

Western Libraries also participates in cooperative agreements for interlibrary loans and offers a subsidized interlibrary loan service through the Ontario Council of University Libraries [OCUL] RACER system.

In addition Western libraries participates in consortial buying agreements with OCUL and other university consortia that allow us to take advantage of group discounts for a wide range of information resources and services.

For students and researchers in Sociology, access to current government information and socioeconomic data may be crucial. Western Libraries provides, in partnership with CREPUQ (Quebec's governing body for universities), access to the Equinox Data Delivery System. Equinox allows researchers to access data made available through Statistics Canada's Data Liberation Initiative (DLI), to selected data from the *Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research* (ICPSR), to DMTI Spatial files and to files from the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) files. It also provides pointers to other sources of data (e.g., the "Official Statistics" web site) and includes documentation about data files. In addition, the Centre also provides access to print and/or online documentation about data sets, and to certain software manuals.

Staff at the Centre offer research assistance and consultation regarding the use of maps, data and geospatial information.

Access to and support for using government information is provided through The D.B. Weldon Library. Western Libraries is an official Depository for Canadian federal government documents and also provides access to government information from the United States, United Nations agencies and selected materials from other jurisdictions.

Gifts:

The library gratefully accepts gifts of materials in good condition which are within the scope of coverage for its collection and which the library either does not already own or does not own in sufficient depth to support teaching and research needs.

Receipts for tax purposes are issued in accordance with the Western Libraries policy "Guidelines for Gifts-in-Kind". Those wishing to make donations should contact the Subject Librarian for Sociology.

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. 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 controlled environment.

Consult the Sociology Librarian for further details about these criteria.

Resources to aid in acquisition of material:

The majority of material for Sociology is received as a result of the implementation of a vendor approval profile that is regularly reviewed by the Sociology Librarian.

Discretionary purchases are made for material requested by faculty and students and for items identified through regular review of publications such Choice Reviews for Academic Libraries and Sociological Review.

APPENDIX A

Areas of Focus for Sociology By Library of Congress Classification Number

Description	LC Call Number
Demography. Vital events	HB848-3697
Industrial sociology. Social conditions of labor	HD6951-6957
Sociology (General)	HM
Social history and conditions. Social problems. Social reform	HN
The family. Marriage. Women	HQ
Classes	HT601-1445
Races [Including race as a social group, race relations in general)	HT1501-1595
Social pathology. Social and public welfare. Criminology	HV1-9960