Collection Development Policy for Social Sciences

The collection development policy for social sciences guides the development and management of the library's social sciences materials collection. This policy is for the use of the social sciences subject liaison and the library's users. The policy will be updated as needed. Faculty and students are encouraged to provide recommendations for library materials.

GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE COLLECTION

The social sciences collection supports the educational needs of teaching faculty and students at the college. The primary purpose of the collection is to support the curricula in social sciences, which includes microsocial sciences and macrosocial sciences, and marketing.

The social sciences collection is housed in the Magnolia Library and is incorporated into the circulating, reference, and periodical collections. The collection primarily reflects the interests of the social sciences department in providing thorough introductory coursework in the field of social sciences.

SCOPE OF COVERAGE

Readership level: advanced high school, undergraduate

Languages collected (primary and selective) or excluded: English, basic publications in Spanish and French as requested by the department and/or the Spanish and French departments.

Geographical areas covered by the collections in terms of intellectual content, publication sources, or both, and specific areas excluded, as appropriate: No area of the world is excluded from consideration; however, the collection focuses primarily on materials that support current course offerings.

Chronological periods covered by the collection in terms of intellectual content, movements or schools, and specific periods excluded, as appropriate: The collection emphasizes current material, with the primary purpose of supporting coursework and student research.

Chronological periods collected in terms of publication dates: All chronological areas are included.

GENERAL SUBJECT BOUNDARIES

The subject scope of this collection is determined by the Library of Congress classifications:
GF  –  Human ecology. Anthropogeography.
GN  –  Anthropology
GR  –  Folklore
GT  –  Manners and customs (general)

TYPES OF MATERIALS

Books
Books, periodicals, and reference works, including encyclopedias, biographical and subject-specific dictionaries, handbooks, and almanacs.

Serials/Series
Subscriptions primarily to English-language journals and monthly magazines in social sciences.

Reference Materials
Up-to-date English-language encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, catalogs, iconography sources, and research guides.

Electronic Resources
Selected specialized indexing, abstracting, full text, and primary resources in social sciences primarily to support the college’s curriculum.

Videos/DVDs
Acquisition is primarily curriculum-based as requested by faculty to support instruction. Some videos of wide interest (such as PBS programs) purchased to enhance the general social sciences collection. Preferred medium is now DVD (if available) over videocassette.

Exclusions
Textbooks, foreign-language dissertations, single or discrete issues of periodicals, vanity press publications, microforms, microfilm, and 16mm or 35mm films.