The Catholic University of America Libraries  
Collection Development Policy

Subject

Art

Mission

Art and Art History materials are acquired and maintained by the library to support the Department of Art as they study, research, teach and practice the language, literature, and culture of art. From the departmental web site: The degrees offered “are devoted to nurturing the production and understanding of artistic expression with the belief that art and culture are one, and that exposure to the visual arts is an essential component of every liberal education.”

History

Programs in art were established in the 1920’s. Distinguished past faculty of the Department of Art includes Clare Fontanini (chairman of the department of art from 1947 to 1968 and sculptor of wood, stone, and metal work) and Alexander Giampietro (a sculptor and ceramicist). The permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Smithsonian, and the Vatican contain Giampietro’s works. Today’s art programs highlight artistic expression (production and understanding) “with the belief that art and culture are one” and the importance of visual arts in all aspects of liberal education.

Clientele

Clientele served by the Art materials in the library include:

- Students enrolled in undergraduate programs offered by the department.
- Faculty of the department.
- Other university faculty, students, and staff, notably the School of Architecture.
- Faculty, students, and staff of other WRLC institutions and other local consortia.

The art history program offers survey courses in the history of art and architecture, ancient and medieval art, Renaissance and baroque art, modern art, and contemporary art. Beyond the study of art history, current areas of faculty research and departmental course offerings include sculpture, ceramics, drawing and composition, digital arts, painting, photography, and Islamic Art and Architecture.

Undergraduate degrees programs offered:

- B.A. in Art History
- B.A. in Studio Art
- The Double Major
- B.A. in Studio Art and Secondary Education
- Subconcentration in Studio Art and Art History

An interdisciplinary B.A. in Studio Art for Secondary Education is also offered in cooperation with the Department of Education.

**Geographical**

Current publications are collected primarily from Europe and North America.

**Language**

Works collected are primarily in English; some are in Italian, French, and German.

**Publication Dates**

Material published in the last five years is collected. Retrospective material is regularly purchased to fill out the collection or replace a lost or damaged title.

**Formats**

Monographs, periodicals, serials, abstracts and indexes, electronic resources, and conference proceedings are part of the collection. New subscriptions for journals are occasionally purchased with an emphasis on acquiring them in electronic format only. Textbooks are not collected.

**Subjects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CALL NUMBER RANGE</th>
<th>BRIEF DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>COLLECTION LEVEL*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N 1 - 9211</td>
<td>Visual arts</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 1 - 9428</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NB 1 - 1952</td>
<td>Sculpture</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC 1 - 1940</td>
<td>Drawing, design, and illustration.</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND 25 - 3416</td>
<td>Painting</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE 1 - 3002</td>
<td>Print media</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NK 1 - 9990</td>
<td>Decorative arts</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NX 1 - 820</td>
<td>Arts in general</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*Definition of Collecting Levels*

In developing guidelines for specific subject areas for levels of collection acquisition appropriate for the Libraries, the following categories should be used by subject selectors (as partially adapted from *Guidelines for Collection Development*, David L. Perkins, ed. Chicago: American Library Association, 1979).

Minimal: only a few items purchased beyond very basic works.

Basic: highly selective collection that introduces and defines the subject and indicates the varieties of information available elsewhere.

Instructional support: collection supports undergraduate or graduate-level coursework and sustained independent study.

Research: collection contains materials necessary for dissertations and independent research.

Comprehensive: collection is exhaustive.

As appropriate: interdisciplinary collecting that is carried out in areas not primarily dedicated to subject-specific research as it is usually conducted at The Catholic University of America, but which is important for the instructional and research requirements of users.

*Prepared by Kevin Gunn with the assistance of Samantha Saporito*