The Catholic University of America Libraries
Collection Development Policy

Subject

Canon Law

Mission

Canon Law materials are acquired and maintained by the Library to support the School of Canon Law in its study of canon law in service to the Catholic Church, as well as supporting students and faculty of other related schools and programs and visiting scholars.

History

The Catholic University of America has the only Ecclesiastical Faculty of Canon Law in the United States and Canon Law has always been one of the most important areas of teaching and research at the university. This is reflected in the strength of the library’s Canon Law holdings which are among the most comprehensive in the United States. Canon Law materials have always been a noteworthy part of the library collection, as highlighted on the first annual report in 1890.

Many primary texts and reference works are housed in the restricted-access Canon Law reading room on the third floor of Mullen Library. A great number of older Canon Law resources are kept in the Rare Books and Special Collections.

Our Canon Law collection has been bolstered by numerous material gifts, including regular donations from The Jurist and exchanges programs with other Canon Law faculties, as well as a significant financial gift from Rev. John Lynch.

Clientele

Clientele served by the Canon Law materials in the Library include

- Students enrolled in the School of Canon Law seeking Licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L.) and Doctor of Canon Law (J.C.D.) degrees.
- Faculty of the department.
- Students and faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Medieval and Byzantine Studies, Law.
- Other University faculty, students, and staff.
- Faculty, students, and staff of other WRLC institutions and other local consortia.
- Other researchers who need to consult specialized materials, primary sources, and other materials.
Current areas of faculty research and departmental course offerings include topics such as Matrimonial Jurisprudence, Sacramental and Liturgical Law, and Religious Liberty.

**Geographical**

Materials are collected from a variety of sources, but most items collected are published in Vatican City, Italy, North America, Spain, and Germany.

**Language**

No languages are excluded from the Canon Law collection. Most primary documents are published in Latin, but translations and secondary sources are collected in English, Italian, French, German, and Spanish. Materials in other languages are added based on appropriateness and availability.

**Publication Dates**

Materials in the Canon Law collection are collected with little regard to publication date. Reprints of manuscripts and early printed works are added as appropriate.

**Formats**

Formats collected include monographs, serials, periodicals, online databases, and CD-ROMs.

**Subjects**

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<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Classification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BQ</td>
<td>Christian Literature</td>
<td>As Appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>BX</td>
<td>Church History</td>
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<tr>
<td>BV*</td>
<td>Canon Law</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>KJA</td>
<td>Roman Civil Law</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
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CUA uses an alternative classification system for Canon Law materials. The BV call number range covers material that would be placed under KBR and KBU in the standard Library of Congress scheme. Christian Literature and Church History are more thoroughly covered under separate policies for Religion and Religious Education, Theology, and Church History.

**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.