The Catholic University of America Libraries
Collection Development Policy

Subject
Modern History

Mission
The study of history is among the core disciplines central to the mission of the Catholic University of America and thus is given special consideration by the library. For collecting purposes, history is separated into following disciplines: Medieval and Byzantine, Church History, and Modern History. This report focuses on Modern History, usually defined as 1450-1960.

History
The Department of American History was separated from the School of Philosophy early in the 20th century when the Knights of Columbus provided funding for a Chair of American History. This enabled the university to hire its first qualified historian, Dr. Charles Hallan McCarthy, to head the newly formed department. During Dr. McCarthy’s tenure, from 1904-1939, courses were added which focused on ancient, medieval, and modern European history, English history; as well as more courses in American history and civics. Later, during the tenure of Dr. Manual Cardozo (1961-1971), who was also the Curator of the Oliveira Lima Library, the department developed an interest in Latin American history. Thus, a framework for the department’s interest today was formed.

Clientele
Clientele served by Modern History materials in the University Libraries include:

- Students enrolled in undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degree programs offered by the History department.
- History department faculty.
- Faculty, students, and staff of other WRLC institutions and other local consortia
- Other researchers who need to consult materials not available to them in the libraries which ordinarily support their study.

Current areas of faculty research and departmental course offerings include: colonial and modern Latin America, medieval Europe and Byzantine history, early modern and modern Europe, colonial America and United States history.
Geographical

Geographical focus corresponds to the faculty research interests mentioned above. Works acquired are primarily published in North America and Europe; occasionally, from Latin America.

Language

Works collected are primarily in English; although faculty request for books written in German, French and Spanish make up a small, but important part of the collection.

Publication Dates

Materials published recently are collected; older works are acquired by faculty request; and replacements for important lost or damaged items are also purchased.

Formats

Monographs are generally purchased in print. Two large electronic “packages” of old titles have been purchased: ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) Humanities E-book collection, and Eighteenth Century Collections Online (also known as ECCO). It is likely that, upon faculty request and as funds allow, more such collections will be acquired.

Electronic subscriptions to history journals are preferred. A print subscription may be cancelled for an online subscription if the library can guarantee that a full run, including the most recent issue is available. This may be achieved by combining two subscriptions: JSTOR for back issues, for example, and the University of Chicago Press journals for current coverage.

Audio-visual material is not collected.

Subjects

Materials that support historical study appear mainly in the D, E, and F sections of the Library of Congress classification. A fair number of history titles also fall in the H section, most notably HC Economic history and conditions, and HD 4801-8943 Labor (these, primarily to support collections in Archives).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LC Classification</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Collection Goal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D-DP</td>
<td>European history</td>
<td>Instructional support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 11-143</td>
<td>America (General)</td>
<td>Instructional support</td>
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<td>E 151-883</td>
<td>13 colonies; United States</td>
<td>Instructional support</td>
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<tr>
<td>F 1001-1170</td>
<td>America</td>
<td>Instructional support</td>
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<tr>
<td>F1201-3799</td>
<td>Latin America. Spanish America Research</td>
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**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.