The Catholic University of America Libraries
Collection Development Policy

Subject
Theology

Mission
Theology materials are acquired and maintained by the Library to support mission of excellence by the Historical and Systematic Theology, Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, Moral Theology and Ethics, Religion and Culture, and Pastoral Studies Academic Areas of the School of Theology and Religious Studies, as well as the other Areas and Schools whose work includes the study of Theology. In addition the materials support the library’s mission to serve the Catholic Church and the scholarly community.

History
The study of Theology is integral to the mission of the university, and the library has had a role in supporting this mission from its beginning. As the School of Sacred Sciences evolved the focus of the collection has shifted in order to align with the teaching and research interests of the school.

Clientele
Clientele served by the Theology materials in the Library include

- Students enrolled in the School of Theology and Religious Studies and School of Arts and Sciences, seeking bachelors (BA), or masters (MA) degree in Theology and Religious Studies, and Pastoral Ministry.
- Students seeking licentiate (STL) or doctorate (STD) degrees in Sacred Theology and Pastoral Ministry.
- Students seeking doctorate (PhD) degrees in Systematic Theology, Sacramental Theology, Moral Theology, and Pastoral Studies.
- Students enrolled in other academic areas of the School of Theology and Religious Studies.
- Faculty of the in the School of Theology and Religious Studies and School of Arts and Sciences.
- Students and Faculty of Theological College.
- Other University faculty, students, and staff.
- Faculty, students, and staff of other WRLC institutions and other local consortia.
Current areas of faculty research and departmental course offerings include topics such as Fundamental Moral theology, Bioethics, Theological Anthropology, Religion & Psychology, Christian Spirituality, Ecumenism, John Henry Newman, Vatican II, and others.

**Geographical**

Materials are collected from a variety of sources, but most items are published in North America, Germany, UK, and France.

**Language**

Much of the Theology material is collected in English, but many German and French and other modern language items are added as appropriate.

**Publication Dates**

Theology Materials are collected and retained with little regard to publication date.

**Formats**

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

**Subjects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BQ</td>
<td>Christian Literature</td>
<td>As Appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS543</td>
<td>Biblical Theology</td>
<td>As Appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT2-190</td>
<td>Theology (General Works)</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT202-445</td>
<td>Fundamental Theology; Apologetics</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT506-1220</td>
<td>Dogmatic/Doctrinal Theology</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT1233-1447</td>
<td>Sacraments</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT1453-1589</td>
<td>Eschatology</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT1573-1589</td>
<td>The Saints; Hagiography</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT1703-2073</td>
<td>Moral Theology; Christian Ethics</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT2130-2396</td>
<td>Ascetical Theology</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT2403-2497</td>
<td>Mystical Theology</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT2503-2831</td>
<td>Devotional Literature</td>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT2903-3699</td>
<td>Pastoral theology</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BX</td>
<td>Church History</td>
<td>As Appropriate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Christian Literature, Biblical Theology, and Church History are more thoroughly covered under separate policies for Religion and Religious Education, Biblical Studies, 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

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.