

1-6-2010

English Collection Development Policy

Kathleen Johnson

University of Nebraska at Lincoln, kjohnson6@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/librarycolldev>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Johnson, Kathleen, "English Collection Development Policy" (2010). *Collection Development Policies -- UNL Libraries*. 29.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/librarycolldev/29>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Collection Development Policies -- UNL Libraries by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

English Collection Development Policy

University Libraries, University of Nebraska- Lincoln

Kathy Johnson, Liaison Librarian, December 2009

Approved: CDC, January 6, 2010

I. GENERAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

Background

The English language and Literatures in English collection supports the teaching, research, and service activities of the entire university community. Its primary audience is the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of English in the College of Arts & Sciences and its primary focus is support for the undergraduate and graduate curricula for English and related programs. Specific and transient research needs of English faculty and graduate students are supplemented through Interlibrary Loan. Materials are not purchased for the general public though others may benefit from the collection. While the collection focuses on works classified in the Library of Congress P, PB, PE, PN, PR, and PS classifications, curriculum and research support is also provided by works classified as history, anthropology, archeology, psychology, aesthetics, classics, art, architecture, philosophy, religious studies, and other areas.

The department offers four areas of study: both undergraduates and graduate students can focus on **Literary and Cultural Studies** or **Composition and Rhetoric** or **Creative Writing** or **Film Studies**. Degrees awarded are B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. The department also provides a very large number of service writing courses for first year students from throughout the university. A significant portion of faculty members and graduate students actively engage in digital scholarship through the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities.

As of 2009-2010, forty-two professors and around eighty instructors and graduate teaching assistants provide instruction in the English Department. Approximately 150 graduate students and 500 undergraduate majors currently study in the four areas offered by the department.

Literary and Cultural Studies

Undergraduate students with interests in literary and cultural studies have a variety of opportunities to develop their interests in:

British Literature

American Literature

Ethnic Literatures (including African American, Chicana(o) American, Asian, Native American, and Jewish American)

World Literatures (including Canadian, African, Caribbean, and European)

Literary History

Literary Criticism and Theory

Literary Genres (such as poetry, drama, fiction, life-writing, and environmental literature)

Graduate students with interests in literary and cultural studies work with graduate Faculty members in Literature Studies engaging in varied scholarly projects, sharing a commitment to the analysis of literature within larger cultural, social and political contexts, and utilizing a wide range of critical methodologies, such as textual recovery, archival work, digital scholarship, and theoretical analyses. [The department offers] graduate degree emphases in the following areas of Literature Studies:

Ethnic Literatures (including African American, U.S. Latina/o and Chicana/o, Native American, African and Afro-Caribbean literatures)

Women's Literature

Medieval and Renaissance Literatures

Nineteenth-Century Literatures (including American literatures and eighteenth-century, Romantic, and Victorian British literatures)

Twentieth-Century Literatures (including American literatures and British modernism)

Place-Based Writing (including literatures of the Great Plains and the American West)

This section was adapted from <http://english.unl.edu/programs/literary.html>

Composition and Rhetoric

Composition and Rhetoric is a field of study that focuses on the role of literacy (reading and writing) in peoples' lives and communities. An identified area of strength within the English department, UNL's Composition and Rhetoric program is committed to:

extending students' capacities to read and write purposefully and effectively,
studying how people use reading and writing in the world,
researching and advocating for community and classroom practices that best support literacy learners at any stage of life or learning.

Students engage in this kind of writing and research via the department's first-year writing courses, the undergraduate concentration in writing and rhetoric, coursework specific to English/language-arts education, and the Composition and Rhetoric Graduate program.

Undergraduate and graduate students pursuing programs of study in composition and rhetoric are prepared for a wide array of professional and personal opportunities including writing intensive careers, community and workplace literacy work and activism, teaching, research and administration in postsecondary and secondary education, and further graduate study.

This section was adapted from <http://english.unl.edu/comprhet/index.html>

Creative Writing

Undergraduates interested in the writing of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction have a number of opportunities to develop those interests. Genre specific workshop courses focus on creative composition, the development of craft and technique, and rigorous revision practices based on group feedback.

The department regularly offers a sequence of 200, 300, and 400 level workshops in Creative Writing. The workshops, along with a variety of literature courses – especially courses on contemporary writers, help students to expand their own perceptions and skills as writers.

Undergraduate English Majors may also pursue a Creative Writing concentration within the major. The Creative Writing Concentration is designed as an undergraduate course of study for students seriously considering careers as writers of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

Graduate Program: The Graduate Program in English at the University of Nebraska offers an MA and a PhD in Creative Writing, one of the few such advanced degree programs in the country to offer a creative dissertation option. Of the forty-two faculty members in English, ten are in creative writing.

The above section was adapted from <http://english.unl.edu/programs/creative.html>

Film Studies

In addition to the three main areas described above, the Department of English also actively participates in **Film Studies**. For the Libraries, the separate **Collection Development Policy for Film Studies** should be consulted.

A brief note about Film Studies from the Department of English: The film studies major and minor are interdisciplinary programs with courses in English, art, broadcasting, philosophy, communication studies and music which focus directly or implicitly on the critical, historical and theoretical discipline of the cinema. These programs are designed for students who wish to ultimately work in academic film studies, and also for those students who wish to understand film better as an art form, as popular culture, and a major medium of communication.

Information in this section is from <http://english.unl.edu/programs/filmstudies.html>

II. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Nebraska and Great Plains literature are high priorities in collection building, with selected authors collected at the comprehensive level (see Special Factors below). Other literature that is state-specific or region-specific is acquired selectively.

Literatures in English from England and from the United States are high priorities. Also important are literatures in English from Canada, the Caribbean, the rest of the British Isles, and from the Commonwealth nations.

III. CHRONOLOGICAL COVERAGE

All literary periods in English and American literature are represented in the collection. A strong and broad selection of the best in 21st century writing (fiction, poetry, drama, literary essays, creative non-fiction) is a high priority, supported by the current book vendor in conjunction with the Author List.

IV. IMPRINT DATE

Although current imprints for primary and secondary literature are important, retrospective primary literature is equally important. For that reason, electronic databases providing original source materials, such as Early English Books Online, Eighteenth Century Collections Online, and American Periodicals Series Online are vital, as are major microform sets such as the *Edition Corvey. English Language Literature, 18th & 19th Centuries*. Addition of new online primary resources to the Libraries is top priority. Examples of needed resources: both modules of ProQuest's British Periodicals (I and II), Gale-Cengage's Eighteenth Century Collections Online II, and Gale-Cengage's State Papers Online [all parts].

V. FORMAT/TYPE AND LEVEL OF MATERIALS

Collection emphasis is on monographs, reference sources, primary resources such as those described in the preceding section, periodicals, and serials. Indexing is crucial for older newspapers and periodicals. Newspapers, proceedings, and symposia also are important sources of information. Textbooks are collected very selectively. If unavailable online, microfilm and microfiche are still important formats for acquiring expensive research collections and older materials, but the preferred format is online. The library is building its collections of plays and readings by contemporary writers of their own works in DVD and is open to acquiring resources such as these online; Alexander Street Press products are examples of the latter. In addition to collecting polished commercial or academically produced products with good user interfaces, the Libraries also may be requested to acquire a large corpus of electronic texts that will be used for digital data mining; Professor Stephen Ramsay's work is one such example of "computational text analysis and visualization." <http://cdrh.unl.edu/about/faculty/ramsay.php>

VI. LANGUAGES

The primary language for collected titles is English. Languages of secondary importance are German and French, and to a much lesser extent, Italian and Spanish. Medieval and Renaissance documents that are relevant to literary research, and which are written in Latin or Greek, are also acquired. Translations of major writers are acquired selectively.

VII. SPECIAL FACTORS

Faculty and students in English are extensively engaged in digital scholarship, primarily through the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities.

A joint initiative of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Libraries and the UNL College of Arts and Sciences, the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities is advancing collaborative, interdisciplinary research by creating unique digital content, developing text analysis and visualization tools, and encouraging the use (and refinement) of international standards. <http://cdrh.unl.edu/>

Examples of major projects include The Walt Whitman Archive <http://www.whitmanarchive.org/> and The Willa Cather Archive <http://cather.unl.edu/> Other projects, drawing on the research interests of individual faculty members and/or on locally available special collections resources include: The Good Person: Excerpts from the Yoruba Proverb Treasury and [selected letters of] Thomas Wentworth Higginson.

In addition to digital scholarship hosted by UNL, contributions include commercial digital projects such as Irish Women Poets of the Romantic Period and Scottish Women Poets of the Romantic Period, both edited by Professor Stephen Behrendt, UNL English Department, and produced by the Alexander Street Press.

The availability of the microfiche collection Edition Corvey. English language literature, 18th & 19th centuries has enabled the University to host two National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminars, which drew in faculty from colleges and universities throughout the United States. A third Summer Seminar, “The Aesthetics of British Romanticism, Then and Today” is scheduled for June 7–July 9, 2010 (5 weeks). <http://www.neh.gov/projects/si-university.html> Professor Stephen Behrendt is the “leading scholar” of this seminar.

The library collects at the comprehensive level the works of Willa Cather, Mari Sandoz, John Neihardt, Wright Morris, Ted Kooser, Greg Kuzma, and William Kloefkorn. The Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors, housed at Bennett Martin Public Library, collects and makes available works by a wide range of Nebraska Authors; this collection is housed about six blocks from Love Library and is open to the public.

The following categories of materials which are judged to have significant research value for faculty or students are located in the print or online Reference Collection: (1) attribution tools for anonymous and pseudonymous literature; (2) archival and manuscript finding aids; (3) author bibliographies; (4) biographical encyclopedias; (5) dictionaries; (6) grammar/style/term paper manuals (very selectively); (7) indexes to anthologies and reprint collections; (8) indexes to dissertations; (9) literary gazetteers; (10) literary handbooks; (13) plot summaries (very selectively); (14) quotation and proverb books (selectively) ; (15) retrospective bibliographies, and (16) serial literary indexes and abstracts.

The Libraries maintain a selective, high quality collection of little magazines, which are needed for the creative writing students and faculty. These are generally classed either in the AP call numbers (e.g., *Prairie Schooner*) or in the PN, PR, or PS classifications.

Standard, critical editions are important for English; the Libraries endeavor to collect all volumes of all of the projects approved by the Modern Language Association's Committee on Scholarly Editions, as well as all standard, critical editions of works by writers in English located outside of the United States.

Different editions of the same title by an author may be important; therefore, the Libraries will often have several versions of a work.

VIII. CLASSIFICATION AND INTENSITY LISTING

(The following are listed by LC Class, Subject, and then by Intensity Level)

AC Collections of monographs, essays, etc.

AC 1-8 American and English STUDY

AE Encyclopedias

AE2 Encyclopedic works. Early works. To the end Middle Ages (1450/1515) STUDY

AE3 Encyclopedic works. Early works. End of Middle Ages through 16th century STUDY

AE4 Encyclopedic works. Early works. 17th and 18th centuries STUDY

AE5 Modern encyclopedias. By language. General STUDY

AG Dictionary and Other General Reference Works

AG5 American and English STUDY

AG103 General works, pocket books, receipts, etc. Early works through 1600 BASIC

AC104 General works, pocket books, receipts, etc. 17th and 18th centuries BASIC

AC105 General works, pocket books, receipts, etc. Later. American and English BASIC

AG305 Notes and Queries. American and English STUDY

AI Indexes

AI3 By language of index. English RESEARCH

AI21 Indexes to individual newspapers, A-Z

[Note: indexes to newspapers have largely been rendered obsolete by the advent of full text online databases of newspapers. However, for newspapers that are not online, indexes are still an important research tool for English and should be collected very selectively at RESEARCH level for desired titles.]

AM Museums. Collectors and Collecting

[The kinds of information needed by most researchers in English can generally be found via a Google search on the internet.]

AP Periodicals

AP2.A2 English. United States. Through 1800 RESEARCH

AP2.A3-Z7 English. United States. 1801- RESEARCH for 19th Century;
STUDY for 20th and 21st Century

AP3 English. Great Britain. Early through 1800 RESEARCH

AP4 English. Great Britain. 1801- RESEARCH for 19th Century;
STUDY for 20th and 21st Century

AP201 Juvenile periodicals. Early through 1880. STUDY

AP201.A-Z Juvenile periodicals. American and English, A-Z STUDY

AS Academies and Learned Societies

STUDY or BASIC except

AS30 Dissertations RESEARCH

[Much of what English is interested in can be located via the internet, although selectively certain titles should be collected at Research level. For example, it would be ideal to provide access to the full text of doctoral dissertations from all over, not just to the full text of UNL dissertations.]

AY Annuals: Keepsakes, etc.; Almanacs;

AY10 American. History and criticism RESEARCH

AY11 American. Through 1860 RESEARCH

AY12 American. 1861- [to ca. 1900] RESEARCH

AY13.A2 English language annuals other than American. History and criticism. STUDY

AY13.A3-Z Through 1860 STUDY

AY14 1861-

AY30 Almanacs. History of almanacs. General. BASIC

AY31.A1 Almanacs. United States. English BASIC

AY51-71 Almanacs. United States BASIC

AZ History of scholarship and learning: the humanities STUDY

NX Arts in general STUDY

P1-1091 Philology. Linguistics

P1-85 General STUDY

P87-96 Communication. Mass media OUT OF SCOPE

P94.7 Interpersonal communication OUT OF SCOPE

P95-95.6 Oral communication. Speech OUT OF SCOPE

P98-98.5 Computational linguistics. Natural language processing MINIMAL

P99-99.4 Semiotics. Signs and symbols STUDY

P99.5-99.6 Nonverbal communication OUT OF SCOPE

P101-410 Language. Linguistic theory. Comparative grammar STUDY

P118-118.75 Language acquisition STUDY

P121-149 Science of language (Linguistics) STUDY

P201-299 Comparative grammar STUDY

P301-301.5 Style. Composition. Rhetoric RESEARCH

P302-302.87 Discourse analysis RESEARCH

P306-310 Translating and interpreting STUDY

P321-324.5 Etymology STUDY

P325-325.5 Semantics STUDY

P326-326.5 Lexicology BASIC

P327-327.5 Lexicography BASIC

P375-381 Linguistic geography BASIC

P501-769 Indo-European (Indo-Germanic) philology BASIC

P901-1091 Extinct ancient or medieval languages MINIMAL

PB1-3029 Modern languages. Celtic languages

PB1-431 Modern languages RESEARCH for indexes and research guides, BASIC for all other

PB1001-3029 Celtic languages and literature BASIC

PB1101-1200 Goidelic. Gaelic MINIMAL

PB1201-1449 Irish MINIMAL

PB1501-1709 Gaelic (Scottish Gaelic, Erse) MINIMAL

PB1801-1867 Manx MINIMAL

PB1950 Pict MINIMAL

PB2001-3029 Brittanic group MINIMAL

PB2101-2499 Welsh. Cymric MINIMAL

PB2501-2621 Cornish MINIMAL

PB2801-2932 Breton. Armorican MINIMAL

PB3001-3029 Gaulish MINIMAL

PE1-3729 English

PE101-(458) Anglo-Saxon. Old English STUDY

PE501-(693) Middle English STUDY

PE(814)-896 Early Modern English STUDY

PE1001-1693 Modern English RESEARCH [This includes English as a second language, works on composition and pedagogy, literacies, etc.]

PE1700-3602 Dialects. Provincialisms, etc. STUDY

PE3701-3729 Slang, Argot, etc. STUDY

PN Literature (General)

PN 1-44 Literature: Periodicals, Yearbooks, Societies RESEARCH

PN 45-75 Literature: Theory, Philosophy, Aesthetics RESEARCH

PN 80-99 Literary Criticism RESEARCH

PN 101-249 Authorship RESEARCH

PN 441-1009 Literary History RESEARCH

PN 1010-1590 Poetry, the Performing Arts STUDY

PN 1660-1864 Technique of Dramatic Composition, History of Drama RESEARCH

PN 1865-1989 Historical and Religious Plays, Tragedy, etc. RESEARCH

PN 1993-1999 Motion Pictures *See Film Studies Collection Development Policy*

PN 3311-3503 Prose, Prose Fiction, Short Story STUDY

PN 4390-4500 Diaries, Letters, and Essays RESEARCH

PN 6010-6078 Literature: General Collections BASIC

PN 6099-6120 Collections of Poetry and Drama BASIC

PN 6121-6146 Collections of Orations, Letters, Essays BASIC

PN 6147-6231 Wit and Humor, Satire BASIC

PR English Literature

PR 1-78 English Literature: Literary History and Criticism RESEARCH

PR 81-151 History of English Literature, General RESEARCH

PR 161-479 History of English Literature, Period RESEARCH

PR 500-978 History of English Literature, by Form RESEARCH

PR 1098-1395 English Literature: Collections RESEARCH

PR 1490-1799 Anglo-Saxon Literature RESEARCH

PR 1803-2165 Anglo-Norman Literature and Early Middle English Literature RESEARCH

PR 2199-2405 English Renaissance Literature, Prose and Poetry RESEARCH

PR 2411-2416 English Renaissance Drama: Anonymous Plays RESEARCH

PR 2417-2749 English Renaissance Drama: Plays by Playwrights A-Shaj RESEARCH

PR 3135-3198 Shakespeare English Renaissance Drama: Plays by Playwrights Shar-Z
RESEARCH

PR 3291-3785 English Literature, 17th and 18th Centuries RESEARCH

PR 3991-5990 English Literature, 19th century RESEARCH

PR 6000-6049 English Literature, 1900-1960 RESEARCH

PR 6050-6076 English Literature, 1961-2000 RESEARCH

PR6100-6126 English Literature, 2001- RESEARCH

PR 8309-9899 English Literature: Provincial, Colonial, etc. STUDY

PS American Literature

PS 1-478 American Literature: General Criticism, History RESEARCH

PS 501-609 American Literature: Collections RESEARCH

PS 700-893 American Literature: Colonial Period RESEARCH

PS 991-3390 American Literature: 19th Century RESEARCH

PS 3500-3549 American Literature: 1900-1960 RESEARCH

PS 3550-3576 American Literature: 1961-2000 RESEARCH

PS3600-3626 American Literature: 2001- RESEARCH

[PZ 1-4 Fiction in English RESEARCH. These books are classed in the PR and PS ranges.]

Z881 Union catalogs, United States RESEARCH

Z921 [British books and manuscripts – bibliography] RESEARCH

Z 1001-1121 Bibliography, General RESEARCH

Z 1201-1212 National Bibliography: America RESEARCH

Z 1215- 1361 National Bibliography: United States RESEARCH

Z 1365-1401 National Bibliography: Canada STUDY

Z2001-2081 British national bibliography RESEARCH

Z 2100-2959 National Bibliography: Europe STUDY

Z 3001-4980 National Bibliography: Asia, Africa, Australia, Oceania STUDY

This version of the collection development policy for English was edited by Kathy Johnson, Professor of Libraries and Librarian for English and includes information from the book chair for English, Dr. Stephen Behrendt, George Holmes Distinguished Professor of English.