
Libraries' Documents

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Collection Development Policy, Film

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FILM COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT

Subject Librarian: Richard H. Harrison II

Date: April 2015

Collection Purpose

The Film collection primarily supports the instructional and research needs of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the research endeavors of faculty. Materials for Film also are used by students and faculty in other disciplines, not only for research needs, but also for recreational and performance purposes.

The Film program is part of the School of Visual Arts and Design (SVAD), a unit of the College of Arts and Humanities. The program offers the following degrees:

Graduate Programs

M.F.A.: Emerging Media: Entrepreneurial Digital Cinema

Undergraduate Programs

B.F.A.: Film

B.A., Minor: Cinema Studies

The M.F.A. is a terminal degree, the highest degree awarded to filmmakers or film artists. It is a highly selective, rigorous, three-year professional film production program for visual artists and film practitioners who demonstrate exceptional artistic and intellectual prowess, evidence of significant professional promise and a commitment to the expressive potential of digital filmmaking and the exploration of non-traditional modes of distribution.

The B.F.A. in Film focuses on film production and provides students with a grounding in the history, theory and aesthetics of film while developing their individual production skills, style and voice as entrepreneurial cinematic storytellers. The program involves the student in the technical, economic and artistic processes of film and encourages creative exploration of the medium and its potential. The B.A. and minor in Cinema Studies offers courses in film theory, history and criticism. The aim of the program is to give students a broad and in-depth knowledge of these areas. The emphasis is on the aesthetics, styles and forms of film. The first two years of the program provide students with a general background and introduction. In the second two years, the program concentrates on the analysis of specific film practices such as editing, color, sound, staging, cinematography, narrative form theoretical and historical perspectives.

Collection Description

Monographs

The collection strongly emphasizes film making and filmmakers from all periods and regions, with emphasis on the American film industry. Biographies of prominent directors and actors are included. Of particular importance are film scripts, both in print and through the online resource, *American Film Scripts Online*.

Media

The media collections include materials primarily in two formats: DVDs (both conventional and Blu-Ray) and streaming videos. In 2009, UCF's Office of Instructional Resources announced that it would no longer support ½" VHS cassettes; videocassette players were removed from all classrooms. Consequently, the Libraries identified videocassettes in its collection for which a DVD could be purchased and withdrew the duplicate videocassettes. However, there are still in the collection several hundred VHS cassettes from which no DVD is available and which faculty have requested that the Libraries retain.

Streaming videos are available through several vendors. The Libraries' own the Alexander Street Press *Filmmakers Library Online*, a collection of award-winning documentaries addressing topics such as race and gender studies, human rights, globalization and global studies, multiculturalism, international relations, criminal justice, the environment, bioethics, health, political science and current events, psychology, arts, and literature. Selected videos also are available for lease via FMG Films on Demand and Kanopy, both of which specialize in educational and documentary films.

Both feature films and documentaries are purchased to support Cinematography, Cinema Studies, and World Cinema. The collection is used for classroom instruction within the discipline and in various other disciplines as well.

Journals and Databases

The UCF Libraries subscribe to many scholarly journals either in print or through a number of online databases. Core Film journals and periodicals held include *American Cinematographer*, *Cinema Journal*, *Convergence: The Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*, *Digital Creativity*, *Film Comment*, *Film Criticism*, *Film Culture*, *Film History*, *Film Journal International*, *Film Quarterly*, *Film Review*, *Filmmaker Magazine*, *Journal of Film and Video*, *Journal of Popular Film and Television*, *Literature Film Quarterly*, *New Media and Society*, *Sight and Sound*, *Variety*, *Visual Communication*, and *Wide Angle*.

The major databases that support Film are *Communication and Mass Media Complete*, *Film and Television Literature Index*, *JSTOR*, and *Project MUSE*. Other pertinent databases include *ABI/Inform*, *Academic Search Premier*, *Art Full Text*, *Business Source Premier*, *Essay and General Literature Index*, *Humanities Full Text*, *LexisNexis Academic*, *MLA International Bibliography*, *The New York Times* and *New York Times: Historical*, *Readers' Guide Full Text*, and *Sociological Abstracts*.

Collection Guidelines

Chronology: Emphasis/Restrictions

There are no chronological restrictions for the purchase of feature films. Documentary programs produced within the past ten years are given priority. Older programs will be purchased only when they are classic titles or if it can be determined that no other recent productions offer the same level of coverage with regard to the content and quality.

Languages: Emphasis/Restrictions

English is the language of first choice for monographs. For DVDs, English and any other language with English subtitles. Foreign language productions without subtitles generally will not be purchased. Dubbed versions will only be purchased if a subtitled version cannot be obtained.

Geography: Emphasis/Restrictions

Although the collection includes materials produced throughout the world, most media should be obtained through United States distributors due to compatibility problems.

Material Formats: Emphasis/Restrictions

DVD, either conventional or Blu-Ray, is the format for films. DVDs being purchased at this time are encoded for North America (Region 1) only. If the demand for international films on DVD cannot be met with North American releases, a change will be considered in future. Streaming videos leased through FMG: Films on Demand or Kanopy are very selectively chosen.

Publication Dates

Current monographs are preferred. Retrospective materials are purchased based on faculty recommendations.

Subject Treatment

Feature films are acquired based on director, genre, and under specific circumstances, content. Documentary films are purchased based on the reputation of the director, the style employed, or subject of the work.

Newer areas of current interest include: Middle East, Asian, African and East European cinema, Black cinema, gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender studies, video art, and digital media.

Works by directors who have been consistently judged by cinema scholars to be of lasting significance will be comprehensively collected. Other directors are collected selectively, based on the merit of the individual work. An effort will also be made to collect work of graduates and faculty of the UCF Film program.

Genre films (e.g., film noir) will be collected selectively, based on the work's ability to illustrate the elements of the genre it represents, and also, its potential for curriculum support.

Film Studies, as a discipline, includes not only the works of recognized directors and significant films, but also popular culture and includes the study of film as cultural artifact. Because of this broader focus, a title may be more interesting because it is indicative of a certain time, place, event, or social condition, rather than for its cinematic or artistic qualities. In order to support the use of video, not only in Film Studies, but also in American Studies, History, and other disciplines, feature films beyond the canon of great films and directors may also be acquired. Many of the foreign films in the collection are used by beginning and advanced language students as well. The feature film collection reflects these various uses. These types of popular titles will be acquired selectively, based on faculty recommendation, reviews, and in support of specific courses. An effort is also made to acquire the recorded versions of titles in the Libraries' script and screenplay collections.

Subjects Collected and Collecting Levels

Key: 0= Libraries do not collect; 1= Minimal level; 2=Basic information level; 3=Instructional support level; 4=Research level; 5=Comprehensive

Library of Congress Classification and Subject	Existing Level	Desired Level
PN 1993-1999: Motion Pictures	3	4
TR 845-999: Cinematography. Motion Pictures.	3	4

Subjects Excluded

None.

Cooperative Arrangements and Related Collections

The UCF Libraries have resource sharing agreements with several state, regional, and national consortia: the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC), the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL), and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL). The primary resource sharing service is Interlibrary Loan.

Collection Management Issues

Replacement

Any book or CD lost or stolen will be considered for replacement. The title may be ordered directly from the Collection Development replacement budget fund at the discretion of the Head of Acquisitions and Collection Management if the title is essential to the collection. Outdated or superseded editions will not be reordered unless there is a specific need.

Retention/Deselection

The decision to dispose of certain items takes into account such factors as past circulation, date of publication, nature of the material, and the judgment of interested faculty members as to the continued usefulness of the material to their subject areas. Outdated, unused, and no longer reliable materials are removed from the collection. Deteriorated materials can be repaired, replaced or discarded. Periodicals or electronic resources will be weeded when the Libraries have only fragments of a title, which do not justify the cost of completing the run with an alternative format; a title has not been subscribed to for more than ten years and its value is not apparent; a title has not been currently subscribed to for at least five years and the related programs have been discontinued; or a title has been replaced by electronic access (or a different form of electronic access) and its retention is no longer necessary or advisable.

Out-of-Print Acquisition

As with other acquisitions, out-of-print titles will be acquired if there is a clear need to have the specific item in the collection and the price is reasonable.

Preservation

The Subject Librarian will consult with Technical Services on all matters relating to the care, repair, and safekeeping of all circulating library materials regardless of format type. Preservation issues of importance include maintaining existing materials (e.g., rehousing, rebinding, repair, conservation, media transfer); deacidification of selected titles, whole collections, or partial collections; reformatting materials to microfilm or digital images; and questions related to gifts-in-kind that may require preservation attention before materials are added to the collection.