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Libraries' Documents

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5-12-2020

## Collection Development Policy, Africana Studies

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More details are covered by [Collection Policies for the UCF Libraries](#)  
University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

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### Recommended Citation

Venecek, John, "Collection Development Policy, Africana Studies" (2020). *Libraries' Documents*. 6.  
<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/lib-docs/6>

# Collection Development Statement

Program: Africana Studies  
Subject Librarian: John Venecek  
Date Revised: May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Collection Purpose

Although Africana Studies consist solely of an undergraduate minor, the program is housed within the History Department where there is strong interest in African American, Caribbean, and Atlantic Studies. Several history faculty members specialize in local African American history such as Eatonville, Zora Neal Hurston, migration, early American, digital, and public history. Special Collections and University Archives is home to African American Legacy: The Carol Mundy Collection, which consists of 1500+ items that relate to the black experience in central Florida and beyond. We also have a large collection of Africana primary source databases that support the instructional and research needs of the students and faculty throughout the humanities and social sciences.

## Degrees:

Africana Studies undergraduate minor.

## Selection Guidelines

### Key Subject Areas:

The Africana studies collection is far-ranging and multidisciplinary with an emphasis on the current curriculum and research interests of faculty. Key subject areas include history, literature, politics, economics, sociology, psychology, cultural anthropology and folklore, religion, education, music, and film. The regional focus is on African, African American, and the Caribbean with a primary emphasis on Anglophone countries and English language titles.

### Formats:

**Monographs:** The primary focus is on monographs that support the curriculum and research interests of faculty and students. With the stated goal of building a research-level collection, we focus primarily on scholarly monographs that demonstrate a high level of currency and comprehensiveness and, more generally, books that show promise of becoming a standard in their field. We also target established classics in the fields of Africana, African American, and Caribbean studies as they pertain to the African experience. We also seek out books that fill a niche in Africana studies as we value faculty and student requests for unique titles.

**Media:** Documentaries are purchased selectively and often to support a specific class. Formats range from streaming video to DVD and Blu-Ray. VHS is no longer supported.

**Journals & Databases:** The Libraries maintains access to many scholarly journals both in print and through one of our subject databases. Here's a *selective* list of key Africana Studies databases:

### **Primary Sources**

- African American Biographical Database (Chadwyck-Healey / ProQuest)
- African American Communities (Adam Matthew)
- America: History & Life (EBSCOhost)
- Apartheid South Africa 1948-1980 (Adam Matthew)
- Black Abolitionist Papers (Chadwyck Healey / ProQuest)
- Black Drama (Alexander Street)
- Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century (ProQuest) Description of this database.
- Black Thought and Culture (Alexander Street)
- Confidential Print: Africa, 1834-1966 (Adam Matthew)
- Race Relations in America (Adam Matthew)
- Slavery & Anti-slavery: A Transnational Archive (Gale)
- Slavery and the Law (ProQuest) (1775-1867)
- Slavery in America (Gale)

### **Secondary Sources**

- Academic Search Premier
- Essay and General Literature Index
- Ethnic NewsWatch
- Historical Abstracts
- Humanities Abstracts
- JSTOR
- MLA Bibliography
- Project Muse
- Sociological Abstracts

**Distinctive and Special Collections:** Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) holds significant collections supporting research in Africana studies. The centerpiece of the collection is African American Legacy: The Carol Mundy Collection, which consists of more than 1500 items including books, documents, newspapers, broadsides, photographs, and other ephemera. Acquisitions of rare and collectible materials in this area or directed to Special Collections.

## **Languages**

Most of the Africana studies collection is English, although we do purchase foreign language materials, primarily in French and Spanish, to support the Francophone, Caribbean, and Latin American portions of the collection. Other languages are not collected systematically but may be considered.

## **Geography**

Africana studies is geographically diverse. The primary focus of our collection supports the current curriculum and research interests of faculty and students at UCF. For that reason, there is a heavy emphasis on African American, early American, and Atlantic studies as well as Florida and southern history. Other geographic areas are collected more selectively.

## **Chronology**

Works representing all time-periods are collected beginning with the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

## **Collection Management Issues**

- **Replacement**
  - Any book lost or stolen, which appears on the Missing titles sheets distributed by the Circulation Department to the library liaison, 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 the Collection Development Librarian for Finance 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 filling out 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.
- 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 Collection Development Librarian will consult with the Special Collections Department on all matters relating to the care, repair, and safekeeping of all circulating library materials regardless of format type. Preservation issues of importance to the Collection Development Librarian include:
    - Collection maintenance of existing materials – rehousing, rebinding, repair, conservation, media transfer
    - Deacidification projects - selected titles, whole collections, or partial collections
    - Reformatting materials to microfilm or digital images
    - Questions related to gifts-in-kind that may require preservation attention before materials are added to the collection

## Research Guides

We have four research guides to support Africana Studies:

[Africana Studies](#)

[Atlantic Studies](#)

[Brown v. Board of Education](#)

[Pride & Passion: The African American Baseball Experience](#)