

Collection Development Policy, Art

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Collection Development Statement

Program: Art History
Drafted by: Ellen Patton Anderson
Date drafted: March 1, 2004
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Collection purpose

The primary purpose of the collection of art materials is to serve the learning, instructional, studio, and research needs of the students and faculty in the School of Visual Arts & Design. The SVAD consists of several programs including art, architecture, digital media, film, and photography. This policy will primarily deal with art theory and history. Secondary users of the art collection are the faculty and students from other academic disciplines including Advertising, Anthropology, Art Education, Film, Humanities, Photojournalism, and Visual Communication.

Programs

The SVAD offers 13 total majors and five minors. The ones that are of primary concern for this policy are the B.A. and the minor in art history.

Collection Description

Although there are no graduate programs in art history, the collection focus is on high level history and theory. Artist collections and exhibit catalogs are chosen selectively with an emphasis on those that include substantial essays &/or theory. Books in areas such as architecture and photography may also be purchased if they appear to be of wider appeal than just to those specific programs.

The collection is predominantly monographic. Media is chosen selectively with a focus on documentaries and art history. Of special interest are additional materials in the Special Collections Department, including art, books, and archival materials in the book arts and Bryant West Indies Collections.

Journals & Databases

We have access to a large number of scholarly journals either in print or through one of our related subject databases. Here's a *selective* list of key literature and related subject databases:

Academic Search Premier
ArtStor
Art Index Retrospective
Arts and Humanities Citation Index
Bibliography of the History of Art
Essay and General Literature Index
Grove Dictionary of Art Online
Humanities Abstracts
Index to 19th Century American Art Periodicals

JSTOR
MLA Bibliography
Project Muse
PsycInfo

Collection Guidelines

- **Chronology:** Works representing all time periods are collected with an emphasis on the 20th and 21st centuries, reflecting the time periods of the courses taught.
- **Languages:** English is the primary language of the collection. French and Spanish language materials are purchased selectively and at the request of faculty members.
- **Geography:** Emphasis is on the United States, Western Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Secondary emphasis follows curriculum offerings and includes Africa, India, East Asia, and the mid-East. Representative works on the art and art history of other geographic areas are added selectively.
- **Material:** Monographs are predominant in the collection. Videos and DVD's have become increasingly important in the last five years to meet faculty and student demand. Exhibition, artist, and museum catalogs are purchased selectively. Microfiche, slides, and prints are no longer collected. Some unusual book formats are purchased and held in the Book Arts Collection of the Special Collections Department.

Subject Treatment

Although Art History is just a small part of the School of Visual Arts, the subject is far ranging and multi-disciplinary. By and large, the focus of this program is very traditional and focuses heavily on Greek & Roman, Baroque, Italian Renaissance, 19th - 21st Century American, and Latin American art history. Other areas of art history study that are supported include African art, women in art, and southern folk art. Some monographs on performance art and visual arts administration are also selected. Materials on the decorative arts of furniture, glass, metalwork, and textiles are acquired on a selective basis.

We typically do not purchase coffee table style collections and strive for artists books that include substantial history or criticism. We also seek out high level theory on a wide range of topics within the realm of art history. The goal is to have a high quality research-level collection.

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