



Purpose: To support research and teaching of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in English and American literature and language, Rhetoric and Composition, Creative Writing, and Secondary Education. Library support emphasizes the acquisition of criticism and major literary works in standard modern editions and in important early editions to serve as models and objects of study; support may also be included in other subject areas such as the study of structure of prose and verse. The English Department offers courses in English and American literature from the period preceding Beowulf to the present day in creative writing which includes contemporary writing in prose and poetry, in folklore, in the theory of grammar, in the history of the English language, and in specialized fields such as Children's Literature, Jewish Literature, and Postcolonial Literature. The aim of this policy is to strike a balance of materials from all periods of American and British study to support the graduate and undergraduate programs. Retrospective material should be bought as available and as the budget allows.

General Collection Guidelines:

a. Languages: English will be the primary language, but other languages, especially for critical and historical treatments, will be widely acquired both in the original and in English translation. Of these other languages, French, German, and Spanish are most important, with other European languages purchased on a more selective basis.

b. Chronological Guidelines: All literatures are studied from their beginnings to the present time; emphasis on specific periods may vary from one literature to another.

c. Geographical Guidelines: Literatures in English from the following: primarily England, America, and Europe, the British Commonwealth (India, Caribbean, South Africa) with less emphasis on Australia and Canada.

d. Treatment: Historical and critical treatments of the various literatures considered will be purchased at the same level as the literatures themselves. Biographies of all major writers, critics, etc., will be sought; in addition biographies of lesser figures will be obtained according to emphasis in chronology or geography. Particular genres, poetry, fiction, drama, prose, are not singled out for special discussion unless warranted by special emphasis; instead it is assumed that all genres will be collected for each period discussed. Stylistic handbooks will be acquired selectively as will guides to the marketing of literary production.

Non-scholarly treatments of literary subjects will be acquired on a limited basis. Anthologies and readers will be acquired when they fill a void not already covered by material in the library; rhetoric handbooks intended for introductory undergraduate instruction will be purchased very selectively.

e. Types of Materials: Monographs and periodicals form the nucleus for the collection but audiovisual material will be acquired selectively as it relates to curricular needs. Bibliographies will generally be widely purchased; most bibliographies and concordances of individual writers will be acquired.

f. Date of Publication: Books published during any period will be acquired. In many instances, it is not important to have the original edition; reprints are acceptable when in good condition. In areas of antiquarian interest the original is much preferred. Current periodicals of a creative character and current poetry and fiction are acquired carefully and judiciously keeping in mind that forty percent of the English Department courses are in creative writing.

Subject Subdivisions:

For coverage of American and British authors thorough 1970 consult Bateson, F.W. and Harrison T. Meserole A Guide to English and American Literature. New York: Gordian Press, 1976.

American Literature

Collecting Level

Colonial Period (1606-1820), PS700-893

3B

Nineteenth Century, Early Twentieth 1820-1920
PS991-3390

4

Emphasis on Transcendentalist movement and American Renaissance ; Twain, Emerson, Thoreau, Melville, Dickinson, Poe, Hawthorne, and Whitman. Moderate coverage of Early American Literature especially Sparks, C.B. Brown, S. Sewall. The Oxford Companion to American Literature can be consulted for author coverage. We should moderately purchase criticism of minor authors and purchase as comprehensively as possible the primary and secondary works of major authors.

Nineteen twenty to present PS3500-3576

4

Emphasis on Agee, Faulkner, Hemingway, Merton, O'Neil , Stein, Fitzgerald, Eliot, William Carlos Williams, Frost, and Wallace Stevens. Modern drama is also emphasized.

African-American Literature

4

British Literature

Anglo Saxon Period (ca. 600-1100), PR1490-1799

3C

Emphasis on poetry, no language exclusion:
works in Old English and all modern European
languages.

Middle English(1100-1100), PR1803-2165 3C
Emphasis on poetry, romances, and drama,
coverage thorough.

Chaucer - coverage as comprehensive as possible. 4

Renaissance Prose and Poetry, PR2199-2405 4

Milton 4

Renaissance Drama, PR2411-2749,3135-3198 4
Representative authors are Marlowe and Jonson.

Shakespeare, PR2750-3112 4

Seventeenth to Eighteenth Centuries ,PR3291-3785 4
Inclusion of Irish writers begins in this time
period. Essayists of the period- Johnson, Swift,
Addison,and Steele. Major dramatists such as
Sheridan and Goldsmith. Major poets such as
Pope and Dryden.

Early Novels and foundations of the novel. 4
Representative authors include Fielding, Richardson,
Defoe, Smollett, and Sterne.

Nineteenth Century, PR3991-5990 4
Includes authors of the Romantic period, Victorian
period and turn of the century or "fin de siecle" .
Writers emphasized in the early part of the century
are Austen, Blake, Wordsworth, Byron, Shelley,
Coleridge, and Keats. The middle part of the century
is dominated by poetry and prose writers such as
Arnold, Dickens, Newman, Ruskin, Tennyson, and Browning.
Some writers at the end of the century include Hardy,
Yeats, Conrad, and James. The Irish Renaissance begins
at the end of this century and continues into the next.

Nineteen hundred to nineteen-sixty, PR6000-6049 4
The Irish Renaissance; modernist poetry; and the
period since 1945.

Nineteen-sixty to present, PR6050-6076 3C

Interdisciplinary Areas:

Caribbean Literature	3C
Children's Literature	3C
Scotland: Literature in Scots, beginning ca. 1100,	3A
Irish Studies	4
Folklore: American and British, PS451-478 PR951-978 Includes folklore materials, ballads, folk crafts, folklore in literature. Material can be found in all areas of the LC classification but especially in the B's,G's,M's, and N's.	3B
Jewish Literature	3C
Language and Linguistics, P and PE Topics include linguistic analysis, language structure, linguistics and the teaching of English, and psycho linguistics.	3C
Literary Theory- wide coverage in European languages such as French, Spanish, and German.	3C
Postcolonial Literature in English	3C

Revised 01/2007
Rebecca Drummond