



Georgia State University
University Library Collection Development Policy
Department of African American Studies



Purpose: The African American Studies Department offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of African people nationally and globally. This approach facilitates a non-traditional examination of issues and factors, in addition to race that affect Black life anywhere in the world. Although there is considerable overlap with other disciplines, the Africa-centered viewpoint of scholarly and popular Africana materials has earned African American Studies a place in higher education and its libraries. Therefore, support of present and anticipated needs in Africa-centered scholarship is emphasized in collection building by purchasing materials to support faculty research, as well as instruction at the lower and upper undergraduate levels.

The Department of African American Studies provides an examination of Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora by using departmental resources, along with faculty and courses drawn from other departments, such as History, Anthropology, Sociology, and Political Science. By definition, African American Studies tends to be highly interdisciplinary; therefore, many materials purchased for African American Studies may be classified within the Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Communication Arts or Education. Generally, African American histories and cultural analyses are classified in E185--the LC subject class for materials on African Americans.

Presently, the department offers a bachelors' degree program and has made efforts to seek additional degree programs at the next level.

General Collection Guidelines:

a. **Languages:** English is the primary language of the collection, however, some materials in French, Spanish, Portuguese and selected African languages may be added.

b. **Chronological Guidelines:** Most acquisitions focus on the life, culture and history of Africans in the Americas during the European colonial period to the present. However, scholarly works about Africans in the Americas before European settlers are also sought after and acquired.

c. **Geographical Guidelines:** Materials concerning African people in the Americas, the Caribbean, Africa and to a lesser degree in Europe.

d. **Treatment of Subject:** Historical and contemporary analytical treatments of the African experience in North America are collected. Scholarly works on various aspects of African life or culture in the Americas, Caribbean, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. Biographies, autobiographies, textbooks and works at the popular and introductory level are selectively acquired.

e. **Types of Materials:** Monographs, periodicals, audiovisual media and databases as well as material in electronic format form the nucleus of the collection.

f. **Date of Publication:** Emphasis is on current materials. Although replacement of older classic works in the field is a constant task.

Qualifications By Subject Subdivision:

Collecting Level

African History	2A
Peoples and Cultures of Africa	2A
Colonial Africa	2A
Pan-Africanism	3
Caribbean History and Culture	2A
African American Political Thought	3A
African American Philosophy	3B
African American Culture and Religion	3C
African American Family	3A
African American Psychology	3A
African American /Literature/Music/Theater/Film	3C
African American Women's Issues	3
African Americans In Georgia	3A
African American Popular Culture	3A

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