



Georgia State University  
University Library Collection Development Policy  
Gerontology Institute



**Purpose of the Collection Development Policy:** to serve as guide in the purchase of material for the library collection. The Gerontology Institute is an organization of Georgia State University administration, faculty, students and alumni engaged in the study of aging and charged with the responsibility of developing and coordinating instruction and service in gerontology throughout the university. The Institute supports the research endeavors of its affiliated faculty and conducts its own research in individual adaptation to chronic disease and disability, the quality of care provided in long term care, ethnicity and aging.

The Institute has offered students throughout the university the opportunity to study gerontology since 1973. Graduates serve in every area of the aging field as service providers, administrators, program planners, teachers, research clinicians, consultants and entrepreneurs.

The Institute is committed to serving not only the university but also individuals and institutions in the community. The Institute provides direct information and referral to older persons and their families who need advice about long term care and serves as a resource for people seeking information about retirement and other aging topics. Faculty and staff work cooperatively with many agencies and programs that serve older people in the Atlanta metropolitan area, providing consultation and sharing information and resources.

It is assumed that the users of the collection will include: faculty, students, and caregivers of the elderly, both family members and professionals in aging such as staff of health care and day care facilities, senior centers, mental health agencies, and the general public.

A new Master of Arts Degree in gerontology was inaugurated in the Fall of 2004. A Graduate Certificate is offered for students preparing for careers in the field of aging and for professionals already working in areas such as health care, social services, recreation and leisure and government and business. The Undergraduate Degree in Gerontology is designed to prepare students for advanced study in gerontology and for beginning careers in the aging field. And finally undergraduate students may pursue an Interdisciplinary Minor in Gerontology along with their major field of study.

Therefore, taking a broad view of aging for the selection of materials for the study of this diverse, growing segment of the population, the following will be considered:

- The biological aspect which deals with physical aging and health.
- The psychological aspect which deals with perception, motor skills, intelligence, understanding, drives, and emotions.
- The behavioral aspect which deals with the aged person's attitudes, motives, social roles, personality, and adjustment to aging.

- The sociological aspect of aging which deals with the society in which aging occurs, the health, income, work, and leisure of older people as these areas relate to their families, friends and society in general.
- The cultural, anthropological and policy aspects of aging will also be considered.

**General Collection Guidelines:**

- a. Languages: Only English language materials will be purchased.
- b. Chronological Guidelines: The emphasis is on current materials. Historical treatments are also of interest.
- c. Geographical Guidelines: The major focus is on material related to the United States, Canada, and Western Europe. Materials on other areas will be purchased selectively. Types of Materials: Monographs and periodicals as well as electronic resources are of primary importance. Materials selected will include, encyclopedias, directories, handbooks, government documents, databases, documents, selected dissertations, and reports of conferences, congresses, and societies. Some audiovisual material such as videos, compact discs and dvd's related to curricular needs will be purchased selectively.
- d. Types of Materials: Textbooks and works written on a popular level will not be selected.
- e. Date of Publication: Primarily current imprints will be ordered.
- f. Treatment of Subject: Scholarly publications are of primary interest. Some popular and non-scholarly treatment will be purchased selectively. Particular genres-poetry, fiction, drama, prose, are not usually purchased from this account unless warranted by special emphasis in the literature of gerontology,
- g. Other General Considerations: The general nature of academic disciplines challenges the arbitrary divisions defined here, therefore, there is considerable overlap with many departments. Among these are Sociology, Medicine, Psychology, Biology, Anthropology and Communications in addition to those previously named.

**Observations and Qualifications**

<b>By Subject Subdivision</b>	<b>Collecting Level</b>
Bibliographies	3C
Dictionaries	3C
Encyclopedias	3C
Handbooks and Guides	3C
Statistics	3C

\*Three (3) indicates collecting at an M.A. level.

Revised: November 14, 2006 by M. Elaine Hughes

