



**Georgia State University Library
Collection Development Policy
Department of English**

Purpose of the Collection: To support the curricular and research needs of faculty and students in the Department of English. The Department offers courses of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, and Ph.D. Concentrations at the bachelor level includes advanced composition and rhetoric, creative writing, literature, pre-education/secondary English, and a British-American joint studies program. Concentrations at the master's and doctoral levels include literary studies, creative writing, and rhetoric and composition. Students enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts program may concentrate in either fiction or poetry.

General Collection Guidelines:

- a. **Languages:** English is the primary language; other languages, especially for critical and historical treatments, are 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. **Date of Publication:** Monographs published during any period are acquired. In many instances, it is not important to have the original edition; reprints are acceptable when in good condition. 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.
- e. **Types of Materials:** Monographs and periodicals form the nucleus of the collection; audiovisual material is acquired as it relates to curricular needs. Bibliographies are widely purchased; most bibliographies and concordances of individual writers are acquired. Stylistic handbooks are selectively acquired as are guides to the marketing of literary production. Non-scholarly treatments of literary subjects are acquired on a limited basis. Anthologies and readers are acquired when they fill a void not already covered by

material in the library; rhetoric handbooks intended for introductory undergraduate instruction are purchased very selectively.

f. **Treatment of the Subject:** The 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. Historical and critical treatments of the various literatures considered are purchased at the same level as the literatures themselves. Biographies of all major writers, critics, etc., are purchased. Biographies of lesser figures are 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.

Related Collection Development Policies:

- Applied Linguistics and English as a Second Language
- Middle School and Secondary Education

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