

## AMERICAN LITERATURE GUIDELINES

### I. Purpose and Program Description

#### **A. Library's Collection Development Objectives**

The primary purpose of the collection is to support teaching and research at the Core Curriculum Baccalaureate and Master levels.

#### **B. Curricular Program Description**

Undergraduate degrees offered affecting this are include the Bachelor of Arts in English, the Bachelor of Science in Education for those majoring in the teaching field of English. The curriculum strives to provide students with a firm foundation preparatory to graduate studies in English and related fields.

A graduate degree (Master of Liberal Arts) is also offered. The MLA degree utilizes an interdisciplinary approach involving students in the areas of art, communication, English, history, music, philosophy, and sociology. Students are provided with a broad background to the culture and society of the western world and from there selects a specific topic which will result in a theses.

#### **C. New and Expanding Areas of Interest**

The graphic novel and humor are growing areas of interest for the department.

#### **D. Areas of Specialization**

The areas of specialization for the collection includes American Literature, 1850-1980; British Literature, Renaissance through early 20th Century; Holocaust Literature; Travel Writing; Southern Literature; and Women's Literature. Notable areas of weakness include latter 20<sup>th</sup> Century American and British Literature along with 3<sup>rd</sup> World Literature.

#### **E. Overlap with Other Academic Disciplines and Library Collections**

Communication, Education, History, International Studies, Journalism, Philosophy, Sociology, Speech and Theatre. Literature outside of the United States and UK are rarely selected by the department faculty, and most of the selection requests come from either the library or other departments on campus. There exists an overlap with Special Collections in that area also selects materials relating to Southern Women's literature.

### II. General Selection Guidelines

**A. Languages:** English is the primary language collected. Works in other languages may be acquired selectively and usually in English translation.

**B. Chronological Coverage:** No limitations.

**C. Geographical Coverage:** Primarily United States and Great Britain, though authors born in these countries and living abroad will be considered.

**D. Types of Materials:** Includes encyclopedias, handbooks, directories, yearbooks, periodicals, bibliographies, biographies, monographs, and journals. Theses from the MLA program are also added.

**E. Imprint Date:** Current-imprint publications receive priority. Selective retrospective publications are purchased in available formats as funding permits.

**F. Physical Format:** Hardback, paperback, manuscript, or electronic formats.

**G. Treatment of Subject:** All literary genres are collected. Juvenile literature is collected as well for the Education curriculum. Publications of major authors and authors emphasized in the curriculum are given priority. Supplementary materials of biographical, critical, historical or textual nature are collected in so far as is possible given budget constraints.

**H. Place of Publication:** Primarily the United States. Imprints from other countries will be considered, however, primary emphasis will be placed on English language publications.

**I. Acquisition Plans Affecting English / English Literature:**

**1.) Standing Orders:** Due to budget reductions in the mid-1990s, all standing orders for literature were cancelled. The library has moved 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and Contemporary Literary Criticisms to an online format.

**2.) Approval Plans:** None.

**J. Major Assessment / Selection Tools:** *Books for College Libraries*; *MLA*; Sheehy, Eugene P. *Guide to Reference Books*; Katz, Bill *Magazines for College Libraries*; *Choice Magazine*; *Booklist*; GOBI New Title Announcement Slips.

Assessments are conducted doing a comparison of the library holdings with those of the following peer institutions: Austin Peay State University (TPA), Columbus State University (GCO), Jacksonville State University (AJB), McNeese State University (LHA), University of Houston-Clear Lake, University of Louisiana-Monroe (LNE), University of North Alabama (ANO).

**K. Weeding / Replacement:** A major weeding was conducted in 2011 to remove damaged, superseded, out of date items, and those items which did not reflect the institutional curriculum. Following this, weeding has been kept to a minimum except to replace superseded or damaged items. For damaged items, efforts will be made to replace those materials. Discussions between the library liaison for the area and the department will take place to determine if an electronic copy of the title will be an acceptable replacement.

**L. Classifications That Define the Scope of the Collection:**

PN 1-44	Literature: Periodicals, Yearbooks, Societies.
PN 45-75	Literature: Theory, Philosophy, etc.

PN 80-99	Literary Criticism
PN 101-249	Authorship
PN 441-1009	Literary History
PN 1010-1590	Poetry, Performing Arts
PN 3311-3503	Prose, Prose Fiction, Short Story
PN 6010-6078	Literature: General Collections
PN 6080-6095	Collections of Quotations
PN 6099-6120	Collections of Poetry and Drama
PN 6121-6146	Collections of Orations, Letters, Essays
PN 6147-6231	Wit, Humor, Satire
PS 1-478	American Literature: General, Criticism, History
PS 501-690	American Literature: Collections
PS 700-893	American Literature: Colonial Period
PS 991-3390	American Literature: 19 <sup>th</sup> Century
PS 3500-3549	American Literature: 1900-1960
PS 3550-3576	American Literature: 1961-present

**Library Liaison:** Best

**Subject:** American Literature

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT: CLASSIFIED ANALYSIS

LC Class	Descriptor	Existing Strength	Desired Strength
P	Philology, Linguistics	2a	2a
PE	English Philology & Language	2a	2b
PN 1-44	Literature: Periodicals, Yearbooks, Societies	3a	3a
PN 45-75	Literature: Theory, Philosophy, etc.	3a	3a
PN 80-99	Literary Criticism	3a	3b
PN 101-249	Authorship	3a	3a
PN 441-1009	Literary History	3b	3b
PN 1010-1590	Poetry, Performing Arts	3b	3b
PN 3311-3503	Prose, Prose Fiction, Short Story	3a	3b
PN 6010-6078	Literature: General Collections	3a	3a
PN 6080-6095	Collections of Quotations	2b	3a
PN 6099-6120	Collections of Poetry	3a	3b

	& Drama		
PN 6121-6146	Collections of Orations, Letters, Essays	3b	3b
PN 6147-6231	Wit, Humor, Satire	3b	3b
PS 1-478	American Literature: General, Criticism, History	3a	3b
PS 501-690	American Literature: Collections	3a	3b
PS 700-893	American Literature: Colonial Period	3a	3a
PS 991-3390	American Literature: 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	3a	3b
PS 3500-3549	American Literature: 1900-1960	3a	3b
PS 3550-3576	American Literature, 1961-Present	3a	3b