THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
THE GELMAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

AFRICANA STUDIES

Date: July 2007

Collection Development Librarian: David Killian

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The collection supports the curricular and research needs of Africana Studies, an interdisciplinary program offered through the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. Courses in this program are available for credit through various academic departments, including History, English, Anthropology, Political Science, and American Studies. Africana Studies offers an undergraduate minor consisting of 21 credit hours that includes a four-course core, plus three additional courses.

In all, twenty-three courses are designated as Africana Studies courses (for a list, see Appendix A). Special Topics or 700 level courses that pertain to Africana Studies may also qualify for Africana Studies credit.

In Spring 2007, there were 9 undergraduate minors in the program.

Students have the opportunity to major in Africana Studies through the Special Interdisciplinary Program, in consultation with appropriate academic advisors, and with proper approval.

There are currently fifteen faculty members from the various departments who teach the regularly scheduled Africana Studies courses.

II. AREA RESOURCES

A. Washington Research Libraries Consortium (WRLC)

Faculty and students may utilize the collections of the member libraries of the Consortium, either on-site or through the Consortium Loan Service.

B. Other area resources
The Library of Congress and Howard University’s Moorland Springarn Research Center have significant collections of materials pertinent to Africana Studies. Other area facilities with holdings related to this subject are the National Museum of African Art (with its African Art Library) and the Anacostia Community Museum.

Students and faculty have access privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries. Graduate students and faculty have borrowing privileges.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

   English is the preferred language of the collection. Materials written in Western European languages may be acquired selectively.

B. Period of Coverage

   Coverage extends from the beginnings of African history to the present day. Greater collection emphasis is placed on works pertaining to events of the 18th – 21st centuries.

C. Dates of Publication

   Current scholarship is emphasized; older materials may be acquired selectively.

D. Geographical

   The focus of the collection is on sub-Saharan Africa and the regions of the African Diaspora in the Atlantic world, especially including the United States.

E. Treatment of Subject

   Scholarly materials, both current and retrospective, are preferred. Popular materials may be acquired selectively. Dictionaries, handbooks, and other reference materials are acquired. Textbooks are not normally purchased unless they address topical areas in which the library has limited coverage.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT
Monographs are mainly collected, though materials may be acquired in other formats, including serials, CDs, microforms, videocassettes and DVDs, and digitized textual sources, such as electronic books and online article databases.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Both the African-Americana Research Center and the Washingtoniana Collection of Gelman Library’s Special Collections Department include primary and secondary source materials valuable for research in aspects of Africana Studies.

VI. DUPLICATION/REFERRAL POLICY

In general, duplicate copies of a title are not purchased, the operating principle being to purchase more titles rather than extra copies of individual titles. However, if demand warrants, e.g. reserve readings, duplicate copies are bought on a case by case basis. Additional copies of titles may be accepted as gifts.

VII SELECTION METHODS

A. Selection of new materials generally occurs through 5 sources:

1. The approval plan through Blackwell’s Book Services is monitored on a regular basis to ensure the profile meets our needs. Any changes in the curriculum, as indicated through library impact statements, are examined against possible changes in the approval profile.

2. Firm orders are initiated by the collection development librarian. Firm order requests from faculty and students are reviewed and approved by the collection development librarian.

3. Standing orders, memberships and serial requests are initiated by the collection development librarian.

4. Gifts are accepted under the same guidelines as other acquisitions. They must fit the criteria spelled out in this collection development policy.

5. The Library participates in the Federal Depository Library Program; collection development librarians review documents available through the U.S.G.P.O. for access or inclusion in the collection.

B. Deselection

The deselection process can be initiated by Gelman staff, by faculty, or by the collection development librarian. Final decisions on deselection are made by the collection development librarian. Items are checked for general condition,
availability of newer or replacement editions and the continuing value of the content.

VIII. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION

Most Africana Studies materials will be found in the following Library of Congress Classification areas:

- **DT** History. Africa
- **E 184.5 – 185.98** History. Afro-Americans
- **E 441 – 453** History. Slavery in the United States
- **GN 537-674** Anthropology. Ethnic groups and races
- **JQ 1870 – 3981** Political Institutions and Public Administration. Africa
- **PS 1 – 3576** American Literature

As Africana Studies is interdisciplinary in nature, relevant titles may be found in other LC classification areas, e.g., works on African women may appear in “HQ 1101 – 2030.7 Women. Feminism.”

APPENDIX A

The regularly scheduled courses that students may select for credit in Africana Studies are:

- **AmSt 173/Hist 173** African American History
- **AmSt 174** Special Topics in African American History
- **Anth 170** Cultures of the Caribbean
- **Anth 178** Cultures of Africa
- **Anth 181** African Roots from Australopithecus to Zimbabwe
- **Engl 169** Ethnicity and Place in American Literature
- **Engl 183** Literature of Black America I
- **Engl 184** Literature of Black America II
- **Engl 185** Topics in African American Literary Studies
- **Engl 186** Cultural Theory and Black Studies
- **Geog 164** Geography of Africa
- **Hist 103** African History to 1880
- **Hist 104** Topics in African History since 1880
- **Hist 105** Africans in the Making of the Modern World
- **Hist 106/WStu 106** Women in Africa
- **Hist 116** Themes in the History of Modern Africa
- **Hist 184** Civil War and Reconstruction
- **Hmn 7** African Humanities
- **IAff 93** Africa: Problems and Prospects
- **Phil 125** Philosophy of Race and Gender
- **PSc 182** African International Politics
- **PSc 186** U.S. Policies Toward Sub-Saharan Africa