COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

ANTHROPOLOGY AND HOMINID PALEOBIOLOGY

Date: July 2007
Collection Development Librarian: Randy Hertzler

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The collection supports teaching and research in the field of anthropology and hominid paleobiology, specifically as it relates to the curriculum and research interests of the Anthropology/Hominid Paleobiology Department of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

Undergraduate degrees include a B.A. in Anthropology or Archaeology and a B.S. in Biological Anthropology. Graduate degrees include an M.A. in Anthropology with the following concentrations: International Development, Museum Training or Folklife. An interdisciplinary program leading to the degrees of M.S. or Ph.D. in the field of Hominid Paleobiology is offered. This program is offered jointly by the departments of Anthropology, Biological Sciences, Anatomy, and Earth and Environmental Studies and provides an interdisciplinary focus on the study of human origins. The program represents the GW component of the multi-institutional Human Evolutionary Biology Doctoral Program. Hominid Paleobiology has been designated as an area of Academic Excellence by the University.

The Anthropology/Hominid Paleobiology Department is comprised of 17 full-time and 16 adjunct and visiting faculty. Faculty members from a variety of other GW departments teach courses as well. There are approximately 75 undergraduate majors and 60 graduate students in the department.

II. AREA RESOURCES

A. Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)

Students and faculty may take advantage of the resources of the other members of the Washington Research library Consortium, either though direct borrowing or through the Consortium Loan Service. Faculty and students also have access and borrowing privileges at the Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library.
B. Other area resources

Faculty and graduate students have access and borrowing privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries. Resources available at the Smithsonian Institution, Howard University, the Library of Congress and the University of Maryland will be of particular interest to faculty and graduate students. The Carnegie Institution of Washington and the National Institutes of Health Libraries will also be of interest to students and faculty.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

English is the primary language for collecting. Collecting in European languages is selective. Collecting in all other languages is very selective.

B. Period of Coverage

All time periods are considered for the collection, with an emphasis on prehistory for archaeology and hominid paleobiology.

C. Dates of Publication

The emphasis is on current scholarship. Important retrospective works are acquired selectively.

D. Geographical

There is no geographical limitation on the collection of materials. There is emphasis on the following areas: Eurasia, Africa, Australia and Latin America.

E. Treatment of Subject

Emphasis is on scholarly or practitioner-oriented material. Undergraduate, graduate, and specialist levels are included in the collection. Textbooks are collected very selectively unless they become classic works in the field. Reference material, including handbooks and encyclopedias, are acquired selectively.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Materials in several formats will be collected, including monographs and serials. DVDs and other videos are ordered upon faculty request. Electronic full text is the preferred format for journals.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
The library’s collections in support of sociology, biology, anatomy, religion, history, earth sciences, and communication are relevant to anthropology/hominid paleobiology as well.

VI. DUPLICATION

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. Added copies may also be accepted as gifts.

VII. SELECTION METHODS

A. Selection of new materials generally occurs through 4 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 United States Government Printing Office 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

Anthropology/Hominid Paleobiology is primarily covered by the Library of Congress classification GN-GT. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the subject, relevant material can be found across other science and social science classifications as well.