THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
THE GELMAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

ART

Date: June 2005
Collection Development Librarian: Liz Harter

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The collection supports curricular and research needs of the Art Department in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, which offers over 100 courses in the Fine Arts (studio) and 50 courses in Art History. There are currently 10 full-time faculty members in the Fine Arts and 9 in Art History. Approximately 30 part-time faculty also teach courses. There are currently 97 graduate students and 139 undergraduate majors in the Art Department, including both fine arts and art history. Interior design, for which the majority of classes are held at Mount Vernon Campus, became a new area of concentration for the Art Department in 1998. Both Eckles Library and Gelman Library collect in the area of interior design.

The M.F.A. is the highest level of study in the fine arts, with the following specializations: ceramics, design, interior design, painting, and photography. Undergraduate coursework is offered in all the M.F.A. specialization areas, as well as additional coursework in drawing.

The M.A. is the highest level of study in art history, with courses in historiography and classical, medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, modern, and American art. An M.A. with a concentration in museum training is also available. With the exception of historiography, all of the subject areas offered at the graduate level are included in the undergraduate coursework. Undergraduate coursework also includes the art of Asia, the history of photography, and decorative arts.

A portion of the collection also supports the Historic Preservation concentration for the M.A. and Ph.D. within the American Studies Department. One faculty member within that Department oversees the Historic Preservation concentration. Currently, 10 students are enrolled in the M.A. program and 2 in the Ph.D.

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 through direct borrowing or through the Consortium Loan Service. Collections of American, George Mason, and Georgetown Universities are particularly strong in art history. Catholic University has a particular strength in architecture.

B. Other area resources

Faculty and graduate students have access and borrowing privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries. Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland are members with particularly strong holdings in art. Other Washington, D.C. libraries, particularly the Library of Congress, the National Gallery of Art Library, the National Museum of American Art and other Smithsonian Institution libraries are strong in art and historic preservation and provide access to faculty and students.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

Materials in English are preferred, and translations into English are acquired whenever possible, although the Library may also acquire significant historical works in their original languages of publication. Works published in French and German are purchased when English translations are not available. Books published in Spanish and Italian are purchased selectively, and other languages are considered only when an English summary is included.

B. Period of Coverage

No limitations

C. Dates of Publication

Both current and retrospective works are acquired.

D. Geographical

*Fine Arts* - No limitations

*Art History* - Primarily Western Europe, the United States, and Latin America. The Gelman collection includes works on the following areas at the undergraduate level: Asia, India, Eastern Europe, and countries of the former Soviet Union. Collection is minimal/basic for other geographical areas.

*Historic Preservation* – Primarily the United States with some inclusion of western
Europe

E. Treatment of Subject

The Gelman collection supports academic works on the media of painting, sculpture, architecture, drawing, graphic arts, photography and decorative arts. Both historical and contemporary art are included. Art history survey books are collected selectively. Reference material, including dictionaries and encyclopedias, is collected selectively. Contemporary architecture is included minimally, for only the most prominent architects. Purchase of technique books, including manuals for computer graphics, is highly selective.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

The collection consists mostly of print materials including circulating monographs, monographic series, and periodicals. Exhibition catalogs from non-profit institutions are acquired, but the Library acquires only very selectively catalogs from commercial galleries or auction houses. Videos are considered for purchase upon faculty request contingent upon intended repeated use. Bibliographic and full-text electronic databases supporting research are also acquired. Original art works, collected by the Brady Art Gallery; art slides, housed in the Art Department Slide Library; and unbound study photographs or works of art are excluded from Gelman Library. There is no pamphlet file.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Other related policies include Museum Studies, Education (for Museum Education), American Studies (for Historic Preservation), and Art Therapy. The policies for Classics, Anthropology, and Judaic Studies are related to Classical art. The Art Department’s Ebling endowment fund provides significant funds to enhance the collection.

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. 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 that 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 NUMBERS

Most of the material used by the faculty and students falls into the Library of Congress classifications for Art and Photography, N-NX and TR. Selected special areas are included in portions of the Classics and History classifications, C,D,E, and F.