I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The civil and environmental engineering collection supports the curricular and research activities of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Material is acquired to support teaching at the undergraduate level, teaching and research for graduate study, and faculty research interests. The department supports study leading to the degrees of B.S., M.S., and PhD. The post-masters Professional Degree Program leads to degrees of Applied Scientist or Engineer.

Current faculty research areas include hydraulics, water resources engineering, sedimentation engineering, transportation engineering, automotive and aviation safety, structural dynamics, robotics, neural networks, soil mechanics, earthquake engineering, wastewater treatment, nuclear engineering, and hybrid-electric vehicles.

Faculty carry out multidisciplinary basic and applied research through the GW Transportation Research Institute, National Crash Analysis Center, Center for Intelligent Systems Research, Federal Highway Administration, David Taylor Naval Model Basin, and GW’s Aviation Institute.

Areas of concentration for graduate students include engineering mechanics, environmental engineering, geotechnical engineering, structural engineering, transportation engineering, and water resources engineering.

Undergraduate students may specialize in one of the following areas: environmental engineering, geotechnical engineering, infrastructure engineering, solid mechanics and materials engineering, structural engineering, transportation engineering, or water resources engineering.

There are 9 full-time and 14 part-time faculty in the department, with 47 undergraduate majors and 81 graduate students.

II. AREA RESOURCES
A. Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)

The collection at George Mason University's Fenwick Library duplicates and complements Gelman's holdings in civil and environmental engineering. This collection and those of other Consortium libraries are available for use by students and faculty of GW on-site, through direct borrowing, or through the Consortium Loan Service.

B. Other area resources

Faculty and graduate students have access and borrowing privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries. CIRLA libraries, such as the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University, have research level collections in engineering and are accessible to GWU students and faculty. Some faculty have affiliations with local research agencies such as NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA Langley Research Center, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), David Taylor Naval Model Basin, and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, and use library collections at these facilities.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

The primary language of the collection is English. Translations and major works in key research areas not available in English are acquired selectively.

B. Period of Coverage

Emphasis is on current scholarship.

C. Dates of Publication

Materials are considered as they are published. There is no systematic retrospective purchasing activity. Most items in the collection have been published within the last 40 years.

D. Geographical

Although no areas are excluded, the emphasis is on research and projects in industrialized nations.

E. Treatment of Subject

Emphasis is on upper undergraduate, graduate and research level materials.
Monographs supporting study and research in broad topics as well as narrow subjects are selected for the collection. Lower division textbooks are ordinarily not purchased.

Journals are of primary importance and subscriptions constitute more than 95% of the expenditures for civil and environmental engineering materials. Other serials, such as proceedings and transactions of conferences, symposia, etc., are acquired selectively.

Non-GW dissertations, biographical works, and popular works are acquired selectively.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Materials may be acquired in several formats: print, machine-readable files, videotapes, Internet subscriptions, microforms, CD-ROM, etc. The book collection is in print but increasingly the journals are available in both print and electronic formats. Software is acquired only as it accompanies print material.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

No special considerations.

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 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 civil engineering materials are classified in TA by the Library of Congress classification, while environmental engineering falls into the TD classification area. Supporting materials are found within other technical areas, such as TH (building construction), TJ (mechanical engineering), TK (electrical engineering), and TL (transportation engineering).