I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The collection in computer science supports the curricular and research activities of the Computer Science 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 B.S. Computer Science and B.A. Computer Science. The B.S. and B.A. degrees in Computer Science have the following areas of study: bioinformatics, biomedical computing, digital media, and medical preparation. In addition, the B.S. also has a Computer Security and Information Assurance area of study. Undergraduates may also minor in computer science.

The department also supports study leading to the M.S. in Computer Science and M.S. in Genomics and Bioinformatics. Graduate students specialize in one the following areas: algorithms and theory; bioinformatics; computer architecture and networks; computer security and information assurance; database and information systems; machine intelligence and cognitive science; multimedia, animation, graphics, and user interface; parallel and distributed processing; and software engineering and operating systems. Doctoral students must write a dissertation. Masters students do not have a thesis requirement. The department also offers a Graduate Certificate program in Computer Security and Information Assurance.

Current areas of faculty research include algorithms; cognitive science; computer animation, virtual reality, graphics, and user interfaces; computer security and cyberspace policy; distributed systems and computer networks; high-performance computing and embedded systems; information systems and databases, multimedia systems and applications; and software engineering.

There are 25 full-time and 15 part-time faculty in the department, with 143 undergraduate majors and 414 graduate students.
A. Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)

The collections of the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) libraries are available for use by students and faculty of GWU either on-site or through the Consortium Loan Service. The collections at George Mason University's Fenwick Library duplicate and complement Gelman's holdings in computer science. American University collects popular treatments of software used in offices and homes; Gelman does not generally collect such popular works.

B. Other area resources

Faculty and graduate students have access and borrowing privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries. Standards, which Gelman collects selectively, are readily available at the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) Library and at the Library of Congress.

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. Programming manuals and upper division and graduate textbooks
in English are purchased selectively; lower division textbooks are ordinarily not purchased. Accompanying instructors' manuals and students' solutions manuals are not acquired.

Journals are of primary importance and subscriptions constitute more than 89% of the expenditures for computer science materials. Other serials, such as proceedings and transactions of conferences, symposia, etc., are acquired selectively. Only key popular computing magazines are acquired.

Standards, technical reports, and collections of previously published articles are selectively acquired, primarily in response to individual requests.

Non-GWU dissertations, biographical works, and materials treating the history of computing are selectively acquired as are popular, non-technical treatments of computer science subjects and popular treatments of software for use in home or office. Programmed instruction materials on computer science subjects and workbooks for professional engineers' examinations are not acquired.

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 bulk of the collection is still print but periodicals are being increasingly purchased as online subscriptions. Software is acquired only as it accompanies print material. Materials in other formats are not normally acquired.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is a reliance on materials purchased for electrical engineering, mathematics, operations research and statistics and to a lesser degree on general engineering materials purchased for engineering management. Refer to those policy statements for details. NTIS reports are not collected through any standing order plans; the Interlibrary Borrowing Unit orders such reports on-demand at the time of need for individual users. NTIS reports not kept by users may be added to the collections. Archival copies of software accompanying print materials are kept in the Media Resources Department; circulating copies are kept with the print work.

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. Journals in the field are scanned for relevant reviews. 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. Due to the reliance on current information in the computer science field, older editions and texts are generally not retained in the collection.

VIII. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION

Most computer science materials are located in the Library of Congress classification QA 76. Supporting materials are found in the TK 7800’s (electrical engineering and electronics) and TK 5101-5105.9 (telecommunication) as well as in other mathematics numbers in QA.