COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

ECONOMICS

Date: October 2007
Collection Development Librarian: Shmuel Ben-Gad

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The collection supports current and anticipated teaching and research of the Department of Economics. The Department offers four degrees: the B.A., B.S., M.A., and PhD. There are 29 full time faculty members, 200 undergraduate majors, 20 M.A. students and 80 PhD students. In addition to those in the Department of Economics, materials may also be of interest to those in the School of Business, the Engineering Management and Systems Engineering Department, the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, and the Elliott School of International Affairs.

II. OTHER AREA RESOURCES

A. Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)

The other member libraries of the WRLC have economics collections, but George Mason University’s collection in particular, has significant depth and scope.

B. Other Area Resources

The Library of Congress and the World Bank library both have important collections. Certain governmental, trade association, international organization, and embassy libraries also have items of relevance, as do non-WRLC academic libraries and public libraries.

Faculty and graduate students have access and borrowing privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language
English is the primary language of the collection. Works in other languages are rarely acquired.

B. Period of Coverage

While there are no chronological limitations to the coverage, the emphasis is on materials dealing with the time period 1900 to the present.

C. Dates of Publication

The emphasis is on purchasing contemporary material.

D. Geographical

The focus is upon the United States, Europe, and East Asia.

E. Treatment

Scholarly and statistical materials are acquired. There is an emphasis on materials concerning, or employing, econometric methodologies and techniques. Some textbooks are acquired. Popular treatments are not acquired.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Materials may be acquired in a variety of formats: paper, microform, compact disc, access to on-line data bases, computer tapes, etc. Of particular interest are monographs, serials, working papers, and electronic statistical databases.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The School of Business subscribes to some relevant statistical databases. The Jacob Burns Law Library has some material on law and economics.

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. SUBJECT AREAS

Most of the material relevant to this subject can be found in the HB, HC, HG, and HJ9-9695 areas of the Library of Congress classification system.