COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

GERMAN

Date: October, 2007
Collection Development Librarian: Liz Harter

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

German coursework is offered through the Department of Romance, German, and Slavic Languages and Literatures in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. The German major offers a B.A. in German language and literature. Although there were only four students with this major in the 2006 academic year, German coursework also fulfills general education requirements for the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences in the categories of Literature or Foreign Language. Classes in the study of German language and civilization also fulfill requirements for degree programs such as a B.A. in International Affairs in the Elliott School. Therefore, a high number of non-major students take coursework in German language and literature, and there are five full-time and five part-time faculty.

II. AREA RESOURCES

A. Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)

Of the WRLC libraries, Georgetown University holds the strongest collection of German material by far in both the German and English languages, since Georgetown offers both M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in German.

B. Other area resources

Faculty and graduate students have access and borrowing privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries. Of these libraries, Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland have the strongest collections. In Washington, D.C., the Goethe Institut provides an active series of programs for studying the culture, language, and social and political aspects of Germany.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language
The primary language of the collection is German. English translations of important literary texts are acquired. Critical works are acquired in German and English, and in other languages if the work is significant. Works on the political and social aspects of the German culture are collected both in English and German.

B. Period of Coverage

Basic literary sources and current critical scholarship covering all periods, from Medieval times to the present, are collected. The curriculum underwent significant changes in 2003, resulting in an increased emphasis on English translations of works related to the Holocaust era and later in the 20th and 21st centuries.

C. Dates of Publication

All dates of publication are considered when acquiring works for the collection; however, the emphasis is on current scholarship. New editions of important works are purchased when new explanatory or critical material is included.

D. Geographical

The major emphasis is literature produced in Germany, including both East and West Germany, during the period of 1949-1990.

E. Treatment of Subject

German language:
The library acquires German language and bilingual dictionaries, and German encyclopedias. Histories of the language and studies of grammar and vocabulary are collected on a selective basis. Materials on Germanic dialects, past and present, are collected very selectively. Textbooks, elementary grammars, and readers are acquired very selectively.

German literature:
The Library acquires literature texts for all periods, especially multi-volume complete or collected works. These works include both scholarly and good popular editions for major writers, who are identified by faculty and the collection development librarian. The Library acquires works by secondary writers selectively. Translations into English are acquired. The Library acquires general critical works and those concerning particular literary periods, genres, movements, authors or individual works, as well as biographies of literary figures and studies of backgrounds and influences. Abridgements and extracts are normally not collected.

German culture:
The Library also acquires materials on German culture, with an emphasis on Germany, but also including other countries.
IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Print materials include standard reference sources, circulating monographs, multi-author anthologies, and monographic series. Periodicals are acquired in electronic format. Print periodicals are acquired when electronic is not available. Videos are considered for purchase upon faculty request, contingent on intended repeated use. Electronic databases supporting research are also acquired.

Periodicals include both scholarly journals and a selection of German newspapers to provide examples of the contemporary language and supply a background of German culture. Festschriften are collected very selectively. Dissertations, theses, pamphlets, and ephemera are normally not acquired.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Materials on German history, politics, and culture are also considered for purchase under other policies such as History, Political Science, Art, or Music.

VI. DUPLICATION

In general, duplicate copies of a title are not purchased, since the operating principle is 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. Different editions of the same literary work are selected, especially if they contain different critical material. Additional copies of titles may be accepted as gifts.

VII. SELECTION METHODS

A. Selection of new materials generally occurs through 4 sources:

1. 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.

2. Standing orders, memberships, and serial requests are initiated by the collection development librarian.

3. Gifts are accepted under the same guidelines as other acquisitions. They must fit the criteria spelled out in this collection development policy.

4. 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 titles selected fall into the Library of Congress classification numbers for German language and literature, PT 1-4897.