I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The History collection supports the curricular and research needs of the History Department, which offers undergraduate and graduate degrees through the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

For undergraduates, the Department offers the BA degree with a major in history, as well as the minor in history. For graduates, the Department offers the MA degree in history and MA degrees in history with concentrations in historic preservation, imperial and colonial studies, public policy, and U.S. legal history (in cooperation with the Law School). PhD degrees are awarded in the fields of both history and American religious history (in cooperation with the Department of Religion).

Ph.D. and M.A. students can specialize in these fields of study: American, European, Asian, Russian, Latin American, Middle Eastern, military, imperial and colonial, or American religious history. Within these broad areas the Department has particular strength in these concentrations: the history of the Cold War, twentieth-century American politics and public policy, modern Asia, British history, the social history of nineteenth-century America, modern military history, and the history of imperialism and colonialism.

A senior thesis, usually written in the junior year, is required of history majors. The thesis is prepared using primary sources and is done under the guidance of a faculty mentor. By enrolling in an advanced research course and completing a Senior Honors Thesis, students may achieve Special Honors in History.

University research centers providing materials that may be utilized pursuant to historical study include: the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project, the Cold War International History Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the First Federal Congress Project.
GWU is a member of the Folger Shakespeare Library Consortium, which offers a variety of seminars on the early modern period. These colloquia may be taken for credit by GWU history graduate students.

Student internships are available at the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of American History, the National Archives, and the State Department’s Historian’s Office, among other places.

The History Department has 38 full time faculty members and 10 adjunct faculty members and researchers. This past year there were 287 undergraduate majors, 40 master’s students, and 65 doctoral students.

Subjects of research interest to the faculty are wide-ranging; the Academic Excellence areas discussed below generally capture the areas of strongest Departmental interest.

### Academic Excellence

History is designated as an Academic Excellence area at GWU. Research strengths of the Department are emphasized in such a way as to enhance the undergraduate experience and to gain recognition for the graduate programs. The intention is to “integrate first-tier research into top-level education.” Toward this end, the Department has identified five programmatic Academic Excellence areas that particularly reflect the research interests of most faculty members in the Department. One Academic Excellence area is at the undergraduate level; the other four are at the graduate level.

At the undergraduate level, the World History Initiative of Academic Excellence in History has resulted in the establishment of an introductory course in world history. This course stresses the themes of exchange and integration among the world’s great civilizations. The time period covered is from 1500 to the present.

At the graduate level, the Department has identified the following four Academic Excellence areas:

- **The Politics and Policy of Twentieth-Century America.** Interest in this grouping pertains particularly to the following: American politics, America’s foreign relations, public policy toward women, social welfare policy, military history, and business history.

- **The International History of the Cold War.** The emphasis in this area is on the experience of the Cold War in America, Europe and Asia.

- **Imperial and Colonial Studies.** Areas of interest within this grouping are British Empire, imperial Germany, colonialism in Africa, imperial Japan, China, French colonialism in Vietnam, Chinese colonialism in Korea, colonial America, and the
Spanish empire. Also of interest are the Russian, Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and American Empires.

_Early Modern Europe and the Atlantic World_. This Academic Excellence area pertains to early modern Europe, particularly early modern England (especially the Tudor and Stuart periods), Spain and France. Also of interest is the early modern Atlantic World, which includes the Americas and Africa. “Early modern” is defined as the period roughly from 1500 to 1800.

II. AREA RESOURCES

A. Washington Research Libraries Consortium (WRLC)

Faculty and students may utilize the collections of the member libraries of the Consortium either on-site or through the Consortium Loan Service.

B. Other area resources

The National Security Archive, residing in Gelman Library, and the State Department’s Historians Office offer access to primary-source materials that are useful particularly for students researching the Cold War.

The National Archives and the Library of Congress are valuable repositories of primary and secondary source materials for historical researchers.

GWU students and faculty may enter the main libraries of area Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) institutions, including Howard University, University of Maryland (College Park), and Johns Hopkins University. Graduate students and faculty have borrowing privileges at those facilities.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

   English is the preferred language of the collection, but materials in Western European languages may selectively be acquired.

B. Period of Coverage

   Virtually all historical periods are covered by the curriculum. Periods relevant to Academic Excellence areas receive particular consideration.

C. Dates of Publication
Current scholarship is emphasized; older materials are acquired more selectively.

D. Geographical

There are no specific geographical limitations on the collection of materials. Emphasis is given, however, to those items that directly support teaching and research, particularly those related to Academic Excellence areas. Materials concerned with geographical areas not covered by teaching or research interests are collected highly selectively.

E. Treatment of Subject

Scholarly materials, both current and retrospective are preferred. Popular materials are acquired on a selective basis. Textbooks are not normally purchased unless they are at the graduate level or survey historical periods or geographical areas in which the library has limited coverage.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Materials are collected in various formats, including: monographs, serials, microforms, videocassettes and DVDs, and digitized textual sources, such as electronic books and online article databases. The online databases provide both secondary and primary source materials, the latter of which are available in both newspaper and periodical article archival collections.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Special Collections Department at the Gelman Library provides researchers access to unique collections of historical materials. Collections in the Department include the Africana Research Center, the Washingtoniana Collection, the I. Edward Kiev Judaica Collection, and the University Archives. Video recordings available in Gelman Media Resources are used in History classes.

VI. DUPLICATION/REFERRAL POLICY

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 five 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

The D, E and F sections of the Library of Congress Classification System cover most of the titles used by faculty and students in History. Some titles on subjects with an historical dimension may appear in other LC classes, such as HD for business history and JF for constitutional history.