COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

Political Science

Date: May 2005
Collection Development Librarian: David Ettinger

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The Political Science collection supports the curricular and research needs of the Political Science Department, which serves undergraduate and graduate students pursuing the baccalaureate degree awarded by the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the Master of Arts degree awarded by the Elliott School of International Affairs, and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees awarded by the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. Designated as an area of academic excellence by the University, the Department currently has 50 full-time faculty members, 40 adjunct lecturers, 95 graduate students, and 400 undergraduate majors. Principal areas of faculty research interests include:

American Government: The Congress, the Presidency, bureaucracy, judicial politics, political behavior, parties and interest groups, legislative, state and urban politics

Comparative Politics: Latin America, Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, the Middle East

International Relations: American foreign policy, international security policy, comparative foreign policy, political economy, and international organization

U.S. Public Policy: health policy, education policy, space policy, environmental policy, urban policy, social policy

Research Methods: empirical political analysis, policy analysis, research design, formal modeling

Since materials on the subjects covered by political science also serve the needs of graduate and undergraduate students in various area study programs and overlapping programs and related disciplines, the Library attempts to achieve research level collections, regardless of duplication with other WRLC libraries.

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

Researchers may draw upon the individual collections of the libraries within the Washington Research Library Consortium. The collections of American, George Mason, and Georgetown Universities are particularly strong in political science.

B. Other area resources

The Washington area has an abundance of resources on political science, including the collections of other libraries, research organizations, government agencies, and private institutions.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

English is the primary and almost exclusive language of collection. Selected foreign language materials (e.g., books and serials) are also acquired.

B. Period of Coverage

There are no chronological limitations.

C. Dates of Publication

Classic and seminal works are purchased and replaced when possible, regardless of date of publication. Although acquisitions preference is given to recent publications, requests for older materials are seriously considered.

D. Geographical

The geographical foci of Political Science interests at GWU include Latin America, Southeast Asia, China, the former Soviet Union, Western and Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. Collection development in international politics includes country studies, and continental/regional studies are limited to those affording theoretical or wide-ranging comparative perspectives.

E. Treatment of Subject

In addition to scholarly materials, the collection includes works of serious journalism. For the most part, only biographies of political leaders of international or national stature are selected. Book length bibliographies are selectively collected. Other reference tools are collected at the research level.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT
Print materials include standard reference sources, circulating monographs, multi-author anthologies, monographic series, and periodicals. For older periodicals not available electronically or in paper, microform is considered. Videos are considered for purchase upon faculty request contingent on intended repeated use. Electronic databases supporting research are also acquired.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Many of the collection needs of Political Science overlap with those of other departments and programs, the collection development policies for which should be separately consulted. Data files from the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, of which GWU is a member, are accessible online at http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/.

Inasmuch as the program is a University-designated area of academic excellence, additional available funding is used to further support the specific research and curricular needs of faculty and fortify the existing general collection.

VI. DUPLICATION

The aforementioned overlap of departments and programs contributes to heavy coincidental demand for certain books. To accommodate this, additional copies of heavily used titles are occasionally acquired.

VII. SELECTION METHODS

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

1. The approval plan through Blackwell 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 title requests are initiated by the collection development librarian either independently or in consultation with faculty.

4. Gifts are accepted under the same guidelines as other acquisitions. They meet the criteria outlined in this policy.

5. The collection development librarian reviews for potential inclusion in the collection documents related to core issues of political science as these documents
become available through the U.S.G.P.O. Federal Depository Library Program, of which Gelman Library is a selective participant.

B. Deselection

The deselection process may be initiated by library staff, by the faculty, or the collection development librarian. Final decisions on deselection will be made by the collection development librarian. Items considered for deselection will be checked for general condition, current availability, and continuing value of content.

VIII. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION

Most political science materials are classified in the J range. Interdisciplinary materials are usually found in the social science classes (H range), while country studies are typically found in LC classes D, E, and F.