I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The collection supports teaching and research in the field of psychology, specifically as it relates to the curriculum and research interests of the Psychology Department of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. The undergraduate degree offered is a B.A. Students have the option of pursuing a general psychology curriculum or selecting a concentration in cognitive neuropsychology, developmental psychology or industrial/organizational psychology. A minor in psychology is also offered. The graduate degree offered is a Ph.D in psychology with an emphasis in clinical psychology, cognitive neuropsychology or applied social psychology. In addition, a five-year B.A./M.A. program in the field of Art Therapy is offered.

The faculty of the Psychology department is comprised of 23 full-time and 14 part-time faculty. Approximately 400 undergraduates declared psychology as their major and 50 students are enrolled in the department’s graduate programs.

II. AREA RESOURCES

A. Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)

Students and faculty may take advantage of the resources of the other members of the Washington Research Library Consortium either through direct borrowing or through the Consortium Loan Service. Faculty and students have access and borrowing privileges at the Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library.

B. Other area resources

Faculty and graduate students have access and borrowing privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries. Resources available at Johns Hopkins, the University of Maryland and Howard University will be of interest to graduate students and faculty. Resources available at the National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health and the Library of Congress will be of interest to the faculty, graduate and undergraduates students.
III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

English is the primary language for collecting. Collecting in European languages is selective. Collecting in all other languages is very selective. Translations are included when the author or work is of importance to the field.

B. Period of Coverage

Emphasis is on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

C. Dates of Publication

The emphasis is on current scholarship except for the history of psychology. Retrospective materials will be acquired selectively.

D. Geographical

The emphasis is on North American and European works. No region is specifically excluded. Items of narrow regional focus will be collected very selectively.

E. Treatment of Subject

Emphasis is on scholarly or practitioner-oriented material. Popular psychology is collected on a very limited basis. Undergraduate, graduate, and specialist levels are included in the collection. Textbooks are collected very selectively unless they become classic works in the field. Reference material, including handbooks and encyclopedias may be acquired selectively.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Materials in several formats will be collected including monographs and serials. DVDs and videos are ordered upon request by faculty. Electronic full text is the preferred format for journal articles.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The library’s collections in support of education, counseling, sociology and art therapy are relevant to psychology as well.

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 4 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.

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

Psychology is primarily covered by the Library of Congress classification BF, with some related coverage in the RC classification.