COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

Date: May 1998
Subject Specialist: Cathy Zeljak

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

Materials are acquired to support the curricular and research needs relating to Russian and East European Studies (REES) at GWU. GWU offers undergraduate survey and upper-division courses in Russian and East/Central European history, politics, economics and culture through the Columbian School of Arts and Sciences. The Elliott School of International Affairs offers a Master’s degree in Russian and East European Studies. This multidisciplinary Master’s program focuses on the history, politics, economics, cultures and languages of Russia, the other successor states of the former Soviet Union, and East/Central Europe. Ph.D. level coursework is pursued through the Political Science, History, Economics and other related academic departments in the Columbian School. Faculty research interests vary widely, but focus generally on 20th century political, economic and cultural studies for the geographic regions defined above.

REES faculty have academic appointments throughout the Columbian School. Approximately 12 full-time faculty members are included in the Russian and East European Studies program.

Support for the disciplines of Slavic Languages and Literatures is not included within the scope of Russian and East European Studies. See the Slavic Languages and Literatures collection development policy.

II. AREA RESOURCES

A. National Security Archive

Located in Gelman, the Archive provide access to declassified U.S. and other government documents central to the study of Russia, the other successor states of the former Soviet Union, and East/Central Europe. All GWU students and faculty have access to the collection.

B. Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)
Faculty and students may use the resources of Consortium libraries either on-site or through the Consortium Loan Service of Gelman Library.

C. Other Area resources

The resources of the Library of Congress are of particular importance for the research of faculty and graduate students. Reference librarians can provide referrals to primary and secondary sources available at other libraries and depositories.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

Students are required to be proficient in at least one language of the geographic regions defined above. English and Russian are the primary languages of the collection, but significant amounts of material in Czech, Slovak and other Slavic and East/Central European languages are also acquired.

B. Period of Coverage

All periods of history are covered, but emphasis is placed on modern history especially the twentieth century after WWII. The History Subject Specialist has primary responsibility for purchasing materials covering earlier time periods.

C. Dates of Publication

Current scholarship is emphasized; older materials are acquired more selectively.

D. Geographical

The collection focuses on Russia, the other successor states of the former Soviet Union, and East/Central Europe.

U.S. publications are heavily purchased as well as materials published in Great Britain, Germany and other countries of Western Europe. Materials from Russia, Ukraine, the other successor state of the former Soviet Union and East/Central Europe are also actively acquired. The largest number of foreign publications originate from Russia, followed by Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

E. Treatment of Subject

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

Because the subject is interdisciplinary, regular coordination is required among the Subject Specialists with overlapping areas of coverage. These include: history, economics, political science, international relations, international development and geography. The following guidelines have been developed:

For books focusing on international relations, if 50% or more of a title concerns Russia, the former Soviet Union or East/Central Europe, the REES Subject Specialist considers the item. If less than 50%, it goes to international relations. For books not clearly divided, if the title emphasizes the U.S. perspective, the International Relations Subject Specialist considers it; if on the Russian, etc. perspective, the REES subject specialist considers the title.

For international development, economics, political science and geography books, if the focus is theory-based, the corresponding subject specialist considers the title; if practice-based, the REES Subject Specialist considers the title.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Materials are collected in several formats including: books, serials, government documents, microforms, maps, electronic sources (CDs, electronic journals, etc.), videotapes, computer tapes, etc.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Materials in the University Archives and Special Collections Dept. of the Gelman Library are of use to faculty and students in Russian and East European Studies.

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 highly circulating items are regularly accepted as gifts.

VII. SELECTION METHODS

A. Selection of new materials generally occurs through 5 sources:

1. Approval Plans.

   A. The approval plan through Blackwell North America (BNA). This plan is
monitored on a regular basis to ensure that 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.

B. The Russian/Ukrainian approval plan through East View Publications. Materials from Russia/Ukraine are regularly sent based on a pre-established subject profile. The Subject specialist for Russian and East European Studies reviews all titles.

2. Firm orders are initiated by the subject specialist. Journals in the field are scanned for relevant reviews. Firm order requests from faculty and students are reviewed and approved by the subject specialist.

3. Standing orders, memberships and serial requests are initiated by the subject specialist.

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

5. As a federal depository library, subject specialists 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 subject specialist. Final decisions on deselection are made by the subject specialist. Items are checked for general condition, availability of newer or replacement editions and the continuing value of the content.

VII. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION

Most of the materials used by faculty and students are located in the DK, HC, JN, JX, and U portions of the Library of Congress classification system.