COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT
STATISTICS

Date: June 2005
Collection Development Librarian: Cynthia Holt

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The Statistics Department is in the Columbian College of Arts & Sciences. Materials are acquired to support teaching and research primarily in the field of statistics. Current research emphases in the Department include statistics in law, economics, and public policy, nonparametric and robust methods, test for goodness-of-fit, probabilistic aspects of algorithms, biostatistics, statistical genetics, Bayesian inference, measures of economic and ecological diversity, foundational aspects of uncertainty quantification, and the mathematics of reliability and risk. The department supports study leading to a B.S. (Statistics), M.S. (Statistics), M.S. (Biostatistics), M.S. (Epidemiology), Ph.D. (Statistics), and Ph.D. (Biostatistics).

Undergraduate students may also earn a Minor in Statistics. Common elective concentrations are statistical computing, economic/business emphasis, or biomedical/social science emphasis.

Both thesis and non-thesis options are available in the M.S. in Statistics program. The M.S. in Biostatistics and the M.S. in Epidemiology are offered in collaboration with the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics of the School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS), and its associated research facility, The Biostatistics Center. Coursework in statistical consulting involving hands-on experience consulting is required for the M.S. in Biostatistics. The written and oral presentations resulting from the hands-on statistical consulting experience will be accepted in lieu of a formal master's thesis.

Students in the Ph.D. program must write a dissertation.

In Fall 2003 there were 21 full-time and 23 part-time faculty. In Fall 2004 there were 7 undergraduate majors and 75 graduate students in Statistics.

II. AREA RESOURCES

A. Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)

The collection at George Mason University's Fenwick Library duplicates and
complements Gelman's holdings in the statistical sciences. This collection and those of other Consortium libraries are available for use by students and faculty of GWU on-site, through direct borrowing, or through the Consortium Loan Service.

B. Other area resources

Faculty and graduate students have access and borrowing privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries. Of area universities, the University of Maryland has the strongest collection in statistics.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

The primary language of the collection is English. Multilingual publications are selected when works are not available only in English. English translations of works in other languages are acquired selectively.

B. Period of Coverage

Emphasis is on current scholarship.

C. Dates of Publication

Important retrospective works are acquired selectively.

D. Geographical

Geographical considerations are not applicable for materials acquired in theoretical statistics. For the areas of applied statistics and data analysis, U.S. materials are of most interest, followed by publications of international agencies.

E. Treatment of Subject

Emphasis is on upper undergraduate, graduate, and research level material. Undergraduate level textbooks are ordinarily not purchased, although some recent texts may be accepted as gifts. Graduate level textbooks are acquired selectively. Accompanying instructors’ manuals and students’ solutions manuals are ordinarily not purchased. Non-GWU dissertations are not normally acquired. Popular treatments are not purchased. Biography and history of statistics materials are acquired selectively. Collected works of major statisticians are acquired selectively.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT
Acquisitions include periodicals, reference books, monographs, and monographic series. Of primary importance are journals, other serials, and advanced level monographs. Proceedings and transactions of conferences and symposia are acquired selectively. Collections of previously published articles are not selected. Dissertations are not generally acquired. Publications of the American Statistical Association are of particular importance.

The bulk of the collection is still print but periodicals are being increasingly purchased as online subscriptions. Materials in other formats are not normally acquired.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Because the undergraduate curriculum for statistics requires few materials besides basic textbooks, most material acquired is at the graduate or research level. Some materials acquired for statistics also support graduate study and research in the fields of mathematics, biology, physics, chemistry, computer science, economics, law, forensic sciences, sociology, and engineering. Refer to those policy statements for details, where policies exist.

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 5 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

Much of the material relevant to statistics is in the Library of Congress classification at QA 276. Some materials of interest may also be found at RA 409 (biostatistics).