COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

WOMEN’S STUDIES

Date: June 2006
Collection Development Librarian: Cathy Eisenhower

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The collection supports teaching and research in the field of women’s studies, specifically as they relate to the curriculum and research interests of the Women’s Studies Program of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. Undergraduate degrees include: a five-year B.A. in Women's Studies/M.A. in Public Policy with a Concentration in Women's Studies; a five-year B.A./M.A. Degree in Women's Studies; a B.A. in Women’s Studies; and a minor in Women’s Studies. Graduate degrees include: an M.A. in Women’s Studies; an M.A. in Public Policy with a Concentration in Women’s Studies; a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies; a J.D./M.A. in Women's Studies; a J.D./M.A. in Public Policy with a Concentration in Women’s Studies; an LL.M./M.A. in Women's Studies; and an LL.M./M.A. in Public Policy with a Concentration in Women's Studies. The Women’s Studies Department offers courses in both public policy and liberal arts, and most courses are cross-listed in other departments.

As of 2005, the Women’s Studies Program was comprised of two full-time, five part-time, and 20 affiliated faculty. In 2004, approximately 17 undergraduates had declared Women’s Studies their major and 12 students had enrolled in the graduate programs.

II. AREA RESOURCES

A. Washington Research Library Consortium

Students and faculty may take advantage of the resources of the other members of the WRLC either 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. McKeldin Library at the University of Maryland, College Park, develops
especially deep collections in women’s studies to support their Ph.D. program and
the National Women’s Studies Association located on campus.

Along with the Library of Congress collections, the Washington area also offers
the National Archives; the Smithsonian Institution; the National Museum of
Women in the Arts; as well as a number of public policy organizations, such as
the Institute for Women's Policy Research, Women's Legal Defense Fund,
National Organization for Women, American Association of University Women,
Women's Research and Education Institute, National Women's Law Center,
American Council on Education's Office of Women in Higher Education,
Business and Professional Women's Foundation, Center for Policy Alternative's
Women's Policy and Programs, Center for Women's Policy Studies, Feminist
Majority, General Federation of Women's Clubs International's Women's History
and Resources Center, International Center for Research on Women, National
Association for Women in Education, Program on the Studies and Education on
Women of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, and the Union
Institute Center for Women.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

English is the primary language of materials selected. Translations into English are
acquired selectively.

B. Period of Coverage

Emphasis is on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, especially for public policy.
Classic works of feminist thought and historical works are acquired to offer context.

C. Dates of Publication

There is no limitation on publication dates for these materials, though emphasis is
placed on current publications.

D. Geographical

There is no geographical limitation on the collection of materials, though emphasis is
placed on the United States and developing nations.

E. Treatment of Subject

The library acquires scholarly materials, although relevant popular trade English-
language titles may be acquired. Textbooks are generally not acquired.
Bibliographies, indexes, subject-specific dictionaries and encyclopedias, and
other reference materials are acquired selectively.
IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Materials in several formats are collected, including monographs and serials. Video and sound recordings are ordered upon request by faculty. If available and complete, electronic full text is the preferred format for serials.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Relevant gender studies materials may also be acquired under other collection policies across the spectrum of subjects, particularly for the Women in Leadership Program at the Mount Vernon campus.

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., for reserve readings or to provide an item at both Eckles Library for the Women in Leadership Program and Gelman Library), 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. Journals in the field are scanned for relevant reviews. 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

While HQ1101-HQ2030 is specifically designated for women’s studies, materials fall into many Library of Congress classification areas.