COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

JUDAIC STUDIES

Date: February 2008

Collection Development Librarian: Shmuel Ben-Gad

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The collection supports the Judaic Studies Program in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. Materials are acquired to support current and anticipated teaching and research at the undergraduate level. The program is an interdisciplinary one offering a minor or a Bachelor of Arts major. The program deals with the following topics concerning the Jewish people from ancient times to the present: Culture, history, language, literature, religion, philosophy, and the political and social experience. Courses leading to a major or minor in Judaic Studies are offered by the Anthropology, Classical and Semitic Languages and Literatures, English, History, Political Science, and Religion Departments. There are 17 full-time faculty members, six part-time faculty members, six majors and 17 minors.

II. AREA RESOURCES

A. Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)

The member libraries have a significant amount of relevant material.

B. Other area resources

The Library of Congress, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the University of Maryland library collections have large collections of relevant material.

Faculty and graduate students have access and borrowing privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language

The principal language of the collection is English but much is acquired in Hebrew
and, to a lesser extent, in Yiddish. Materials in Aramaic and German are acquired very selectively.

B. Period of Coverage

No periods are excluded.

C. Dates of Publication

Current scholarship is emphasized but classical works and older materials are also acquired.

D. Geographical

Emphasis is upon Israel, Europe, and the United States. Materials covering other areas are acquired selectively.

E. Treatment of Subject

The emphasis is upon scholarly materials and classic works. Popular works are acquired selectively. Hebrew and Yiddish textbooks are acquired very selectively.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Monographs, serials, statistical compilations, and data bases are acquired. Materials may be acquired in paper, microform, and electronic formats.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Special Collections Department houses the Kiev Collection, which has its own, separately administered collections budget and includes a variety of books and serials (including some that are rare). Also in Special Collections are records of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington, and Jordan is Palestine, Inc., as well as other collections and also papers of individuals.

Judaic Studies is an interdisciplinary field. Relevant materials are acquired on the Classics, English, History, Middle Eastern Studies, Philosophy, and Religion fund codes.

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. 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.

VIII. 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

Most of the material relevant to the Judaic Studies Program is classified in the following LC Classification System class marks: BM 1-990, D804., DS 101-151, E185.J5, PJ 4501-4937, and PJ 5001-5192.