

To: Members of the Divinity School Community
From: Beth Bidlack, Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy
Date: March 26, 2007
Re: What's happening in the Library (Spring 2007)

In my newsletter from last quarter, I mentioned that I am drafting **collection development policy statements** for philosophy and religion. I would like to continue the conversation this quarter. I have written a brief statement for religion which can be found on the Library's religion subject page under "what's new" (<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/rel/>). I have also included a copy at the end of this newsletter.

First, let me give a little background on the Library's efforts to revise the current collection development policy, which was written in 1979 and partially updated in the early 1990s. In May 2005, a task group comprised of library staff wrote guidelines and an outline for bibliographers and selectors to use when writing their subject-specific statements. In February, the Library's Assistant Director for Humanities and Social Sciences began drafting some general policies which will serve as an introduction to the larger set of subject-specific statements, including topics such as levels and methods of selection, gift book policies, and purchase requests. After a conversation with the Assistant Director, I drafted a statement for religion, which I then presented to the Committee on Collection Development for discussion at our February meeting.

Second, let me describe the purpose of the collection development policy statements. In the most general terms, the University of Chicago Library builds collections and provides services to support the University's research and teaching missions. Collection development policy statements are meant to describe the philosophy and process of the Library's collection building efforts. As noted by the Assistant Director for the Humanities and Social Sciences in his introductory statement to the policy statements, "The collection development policies here are intended to document the scope and extent of current collection building and to create a basis for ongoing conversations between librarians, faculty, and students regarding the selection and retention of library materials. They articulate a set of collecting priorities which must remain dynamic to ensure that the Library continues to meet the current and future needs of this scholarly community."¹ I have included a draft of the levels of selection below. You may need to refer to it when reading the policy statement for religion.

Finally, I have scheduled two times to talk with you not only about the statement, but also about collection development in general. I invite you to attend either time:

**Tuesday, April 10 from 4:00-5:00 PM or Wednesday, April 11 from 4:00-5:00 PM
Swift Hall Common Room**

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings and would like to talk about collection development, please let me know. I can be reached by email bbidlack@uchicago.edu, by phone 773-702-8442, or in person in JRL (Joseph Regenstein Library) room 461.

Best wishes for the Spring!

¹Please note that this introduction statement is a very rough draft at this point.

D-R-A-F-T

Levels of selection²

The policy statements for individual disciplines use a common set of terms to characterize depth of collecting activity. These descriptors, adapted from work by the Association of Research Libraries, are:

Comprehensive Level

Collections in a field that strive to be exhaustive as far as is reasonably possible (i.e., “special collections”), in all applicable languages include:

- Exhaustive collections of published materials
- Very extensive manuscript collections
- Very extensive collections in all other pertinent formats

A comprehensive level collection may serve as a national or international resource.

Research Level

Collections that contain the major published source materials required for doctoral study and independent research include:

- A very extensive collection of general and specialized monographs and reference works
- A very extensive collection of general and specialized periodicals
- Extensive collections of appropriate materials in languages other than the primary language of the country and collection
- Extensive collections of the works of both well-known and lesser-known authors
- Access to a very extensive collection of owned or remotely accessed electronic resources, including bibliographic tools, texts, data sets, journals, etc.

Instructional Support Level

Collections that provide information about a subject in a systematic way, but at a level of less than research intensity and support the needs of general library users through college and beginning graduate instruction include:

- An extensive collection of general monographs and reference works and selected specialized monographs and reference works
- An extensive collection of general periodicals and a representative collection of specialized periodicals
- Limited collections of appropriate materials in languages other than the primary language of the collection and the country, for example, materials to aid in learning a language for nonnative speakers or literature in the original language, such as German poetry in German or Spanish history in Spanish

²These levels of selection, adapted from terminology used the Association of Research Libraries, are in draft form and are being reviewed by the Committee on Collection Development.

- Extensive collections of the works of well-known authors and selections from the works of lesser-known authors
- Access to a broad collection of owned or remotely accessed electronic resources, including bibliographic tools, texts, data sets, journals, etc.

Basic Information Level

Collections that introduce and define a subject, indicate the varieties of information available elsewhere, and support the basic needs of general library users include:

- A limited collection of general monographs and reference tools
- A limited collection of representative general periodicals
- Access to a limited collection of owned or remotely accessed electronic bibliographic tools, texts, data sets, journals, etc.

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Collection Policy Statement

Religion

Beth Bidlack, Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy

December 2006//rev March 2007

Brief overview of the collection

- **History:** Religious studies was a core component of the original library of the University of Chicago, which included the [Berlin Collection](#) (57,630 volumes and 39,020 dissertations, or 96,650 volumes in all) and the Ernst Wilhelm Hengstenberg Collection, as well as the library of the Baptist Union Theological Seminary (40,000 volumes) and American Bible Union. After Swift Hall was built and became home to the Divinity School, the religion collection was located there until the [Joseph Regenstein Library](#) opened in 1970. At that time, the collection was moved to Regenstein as part of the graduate library for humanities and social sciences.
- **Broad subject areas emphasized or de-emphasized:** The collection focuses on the academic study of religion rather than a confessional study with a focus on religious practice. Historic strengths of collection include German scholarship in systematic theology, biblical studies, and the history of Christianity (due in part to the Berlin and Hengstenberg collections). Current strengths of the collection match those of the Divinity School (e.g., history of religions, especially Christianity and Judaism; biblical studies, especially New Testament textual and historical criticism). The private libraries of Joachim Wach, Mircea Eliade, and Joseph Kitagawa were incorporated into the collections, thereby strengthening its focus on the history of religions. The private library of Marvin Fox strengthened the Library's collection in Jewish studies, and specifically in Maimonides studies.
- **Description of academic program:** Within the [Divinity School](#) there are three Committees, each with three areas of emphasis, and one additional area of study: the Committee on Constructive Studies in Religion (Philosophy of Religion; Religious Ethics; Theology); the Committee on Historical Studies (Biblical Studies; History of Christianity; History of Judaism); the Committee on Religion and the Human Sciences (Anthropology and Sociology of Religion; History of Religions; Religion and Literature); and Islamic Studies. Degrees offered include the MA, PhD, and MDiv. In addition, there is an [undergraduate major in religion](#). Within the graduate Humanities Division, there are two departments, which rely heavily upon the religion collection—the [Department of New Testament and Early Christian Literature](#) and the [Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations](#), which relies upon Hebrew Bible materials.
- **Audience/Purpose:** The collection supports the research and teaching of [Divinity School](#) faculty and students, including the small [ministry program](#) (MDiv). It also supports the work of undergraduate majors in religion, especially those writing BA theses (approx. 8-12 per year). In addition, it supports the interdisciplinary research of the University of Chicago (e.g., faculty and students in the [Art History](#), [Music](#), and [History](#) Departments). While primary focus of the collection is to support current research, there is also a need

to anticipate new, emerging fields of study within religion (e.g., new religious movements, and religion and brain science).

Collecting guidelines

- o *Levels of selection* (comprehensive, research, instructional support, basic information; for a description of these levels, see the general policy statements)

There is much overlap among the Library of Congress classification scheme for religion ([BL-BX](#)) and other areas (e.g., history, languages and literature). Often among a specific classification, there are a great variety of subdivisions. While the Library cannot collect in every subdivision, it does try to create a fairly comprehensive collection overall. At times, the B classification table may seem arbitrary and counter-intuitive. It is used here as one way of outlining the expanse of materials in religious studies. Please note, that Philosophy ([B](#)) and Ethics ([BJ](#)) are discussed within the Collection Policy Statement for Philosophy.

Religions. Mythology. Rationalism ([BL](#)): The materials found within the BL classification are quite varied, including the history, philosophy, and sociology of religions. The level for history of religions is comprehensive; the level for other areas, including philosophy of religion and natural theology, is research. The collection in BL is augmented by the Library's collections in South Asian, East Asian, and the social sciences.

Judaism ([BM](#)): Research level in Western languages and Hebrew (through a separate fund). In building the Judaism collection, there is a great deal of collaboration among bibliographers. For example, many works on Semitic languages and archaeology are selected by the Bibliographer for the Ancient Near East. Works on Jewish history are selected by the Bibliographer for History; works on Judaism in Eastern Europe are selected by the Bibliographer for Slavic and Eastern European Studies; works in Yiddish are selected by the Selector for Judaica.

Islam, Bahaism, Theosophy, etc. ([BP](#)): Research level for Islam; instructional support level for Bahaism, research level for Theosophy thanks to the support of the Kern Foundation Fund. The BP collection is augmented by the collections in Middle Eastern Studies and South Asian Studies.

Buddhism ([BQ](#)): Research level. The BQ collection is augmented by the collections in East Asian Studies and South Asian Studies.

Christianity ([BR](#)): Research level in Western languages. The BR collection is augmented by the collections in Protestantism (BX), History, and Slavic and Eastern European Studies.

Bible ([BS](#)): Comprehensive level, especially for critical editions, textual criticism, and the history of interpretation. The collection is augmented by the Ancient Near East collection in areas such as the Dead Sea Scrolls and Nag Hammadi texts.

Doctrinal Theology ([BT](#)): Research level for systematic, historical, and philosophical theology. There is some overlap with the BX classification which includes individual theologians by denomination and/or location.

Practical Theology ([BV](#)): Most areas of practical theology are at an instructional support level in order to support the MDiv (ministry studies) program. The sermons of historically important people are collected at a research level. Due to the historical strength of the Divinity School faculty in the area of psychology of religion, the level in that area is research. For devotional materials and professional guides, the Library coordinates collection efforts with the libraries of local seminaries. The collection is also augmented by the [School of Social Administration](#) and [Psychology](#) collections.

Eastern Christian Churches, Ecumenism ([BX1-765](#)): Instructional-research level. This area is augmented by the Slavic and Eastern European Studies collection.

Roman Catholic Church ([BX800-4795](#)): Research level for history and theology of the Roman Catholic Church. The Divinity School has an Andrew Thomas Greeley and Grace McNichols Greeley Professorship in Catholic Studies. The Library relies on Roman Catholic institutions (e.g., [Catholic Theological Union](#) and [Loyola University Chicago](#)) for practical and professional materials. The collection is also augmented by the [D'Angelo Law Library's](#) collection in canon law.

Protestantism ([BX4800-9999](#)): Research level for histories of denominations and Protestantism in general. We rely on area seminaries for most denominationally specific materials (conference proceedings, doctrinal works); however, due to the heritage of the University, there is a focus on the history of Baptist denominations.

- ***Type of materials included & excluded:*** The following types of material are usually excluded: introductory textbooks, anthologies of previously published materials, professional handbooks and devotional materials, denominational materials (e.g., hymnals, conference proceedings), popular works in spirituality and practical theology, and unrevised dissertations available via [Proquest](#) online.
- ***Physical formats included & excluded:*** All formats are included. Among the notable full-text electronic resources are [Acta Sanctorum](#), [Library of Christian Latin Texts](#), [Digital Library of Classic Protestant Texts](#), [Digital Library of the Catholic Reformation](#), [Patrologia Latina Database](#), and [Thesaurus Linguae Graecae](#). For a more complete list see [Database Finder/Religion](#). Online indexes include [ATLA Religion Database](#).
- ***Publication dates collected:*** The focus is on currently-published materials, with some retrospective purchasing (e.g., the appointment of new faculty members, the development

of new academic programs, patron requests, areas of particular strength such as the “Chicago School” within the history of religions approach to religious studies).

- **Languages:** Primarily English, German, French, and Italian, with more limited representation in Spanish. The Bibliographer for Religion relies on area studies selectors for materials in other languages (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Russian). Hebrew materials of a religious nature are selected under a separate Hebraica (HEB) fund.
- **Geographical range:** The focus is on materials published in North America and Western Europe. The Bibliographer for Religion relies on area studies collections for materials focused on and/or published in the Middle East, East Asia, South Asia, and Eastern Europe.
- **Chronological span:** Comprehensive, from materials focusing on the history and literature of ancient Israel, early Judaism and Christianity to the Reformation to the present (e.g., constructive theology).

Areas of distinction

Thanks to the generosity of the Kern Foundation Endowed Theosophical Book Fund, the Library has a strong collection of Theosophical materials. Other important collections include the [Berlin Collection](#), the Hengstenberg Collection, the [Ludwig Rosenberger Collection of Judaica](#), the Emma B. Hodge Collection of Reformation Imprints, the [Edgar J. Goodspeed New Testament Manuscript Collection](#), the Maurice T. Grant Collection of English Bibles, materials on the religious history of Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley from the [Reuben T. Durrett Collection](#) on Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley. Important [manuscript and archival collections](#) include materials relating to Baptist Union Theological Seminary, the Divinity School, and the founding of University.

Related University of Chicago collections

The religion collection is complemented by the following collections: [Middle Eastern Studies](#) (Islam), [Slavic and Eastern European Studies](#) (Judaism, Orthodox Christianity), [East Asian Studies](#) (Buddhism, Christianity), [South Asian Studies](#) (Hinduism, Buddhism), [Classics](#), the [Ancient Near East](#) and the library at the [Oriental Institute](#), [Medieval and Byzantine Studies](#), [Philosophy](#), [Jewish Studies](#), and [General Humanities](#).

Cooperative arrangements and related collections

The University of Chicago Library has established borrowing agreements with the [JKM Library of McCormick Theological Seminary](#) (Presbyterian Church, USA) and [Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago](#) (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America), the [Hammond Library at Chicago Theological Seminary](#) (United Church of Christ), and the [United Library of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary](#) (Episcopalian) and [Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary](#) (United Methodist), located near [Northwestern University](#).

There are complementary collections at other denominational seminaries within Hyde Park, including [Catholic Theological Union](#) (Roman Catholic), [Meadville Lombard Theological School](#) (Unitarian Universalist), as well as the greater Chicago area, including the [Asher Library at Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies](#). In addition, the [Archdiocese of Chicago's Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives and Records Center](#) is located in downtown Chicago.

There are additional libraries which are part of the [Chicago Area Theological Library Association](#), including the [Moody Bible Institute](#) (Independent Baptist), [North Park University](#) (Evangelical Covenant), [Trinity International University](#) (Evangelical Church), [Wheaton College](#) (non-denominational Evangelical) and its [Billy Graham Center Archives](#) and [Marion E. Wade Center](#) (with books and papers of Owen Barfield, G.K. Chesterton, C.S. Lewis, George MacDonald, Dorothy L. Sayers, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams).