African American Studies Collection Development Policy

Purpose of the Collection
The African American Studies collection primarily supports research and instructional activities within the African American studies major. Attention is also given to the research and instructional activities of affiliated departments, programs, and faculty.

Academic Department/Program Description
The African American Studies program has been assigned the mission of investigating the history, culture, and achievements of African Americans as members of American society via research and teaching. The Program develops and coordinates an interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses mainly on the African American experience in the United States, especially in Mississippi and the South. Its objectives are to encourage all students and faculty to examine the African American experience, to facilitate a cultural and intellectual atmosphere on campus that will be favorable to such studies, and to develop a program of research and community service.

The course of study leading to a major seeks to provide students with an interdisciplinary understanding of African American history, culture, politics, and society and to prepare them for professional careers in relevant areas. In addition to core requirements, students will concentrate in one of the following subfields: art, history, literature, music, or public policy. The curriculum integrates the methods and theories of the various behavioral/social sciences, humanities, and arts into a comprehensive analysis of the life, issues, culture, and history of African Americans.

Subject Parameters
Collection priorities are on resources that provide an academic, interdisciplinary understanding of African American history, culture, politics, and society. Emphasis is placed on the involvement of African Americans in the United States and their cultural experiences. A more specific focus has been given to African Americans in Mississippi and the southern United States. Collection areas are inclusive of intersectional issues.

Scope
Subjects
Writers and literary criticism is primarily collected by the English literature liaison.

Geographical Coverage
Geographic coverage is global; emphasis is placed on people of color in America and more specifically the American South.

Language
English is the primary language of the collection. English translations will also be acquired. Foreign language materials are collected by the Modern Languages library liaison.

Chronological Limits/Period Coverage
Emphasis is on current research and developments. No strict time limit is imposed on any materials. Retrospective materials will also be purchased.

Types of Materials Collected
University press research monographs are widely acquired. Scholarly research from trade, small and alternative presses are selectively acquired. Selected scholarly databases, journals, and media are also acquired.

**Formats**
Print and eBooks selection is made on a case-by-case basis; online access to academic journals is strongly preferred.

**Appendices**
- Library Bill of Rights: [http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill)
- Freedom to Read Statement: [http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/freedomreadstatement](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/freedomreadstatement)
- People's Right to Libraries: [http://www.njla.org/content/peoples-rights-libraries](http://www.njla.org/content/peoples-rights-libraries)
- The First Amendment: [http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/censorshipfirstamendmentissues/firstamendment](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/censorshipfirstamendmentissues/firstamendment)