Programmatic Data

The purpose of the classics collection is to support teaching and research in the fields of classical civilization and Greek and Latin. The department grants a B.A. in classical civilization or classics with a Greek or Latin emphasis. The classics department offers courses that are cross-listed in history, English, and art. The writings of the classical philosophers purchased by the philosophy and religion department form a supporting collection. The extensive collections of ancient and classical sculpture, vases, coins, and other artifacts in the University Museum are the basis for archaeological study.

The department offers course work in Etruscan and Egyptian art, classical mythology, Greek and Roman history, literature, art, and archaeology. The department is small, but the teaching of classics has a long tradition at the University of Mississippi. Collection development should focus on the needs of upper division students and faculty research. Because of the long shelf life of materials in this area, more erudite works may be purchased than would normally be the case.

Collection Development

Call Numbers: Classics are found principally in PA, DF, and DG of the Library of Congress Classification scheme.

Languages: English is preferred, but accurate renditions of works in the original Greek and Latin are required for both course work and research. As the center of classical scholarship and publication is in Europe, particularly Germany, much classical research material will be in German and French.

Chronological Period: The major time frame for collection materials stretches from the time of Homer through the fall of the Roman Empire. Earlier time periods and other high civilizations contiguous to Greece and Rome are also selectively considered.

Geographical: Greece and Rome and the domains of their empires are the central geographical focus. Selected works in the history, archaeology, and literature of Egypt, the Near East, and Persia are also needed.

Format: Only published materials, basically trade and university press monographs and journals, are acquired. Dictionaries, concordances, and commentaries are important. Journals and increasingly books are purchased as online products.