Programmatic Data: The English collection supports teaching and research in the English language literatures and, secondarily, in world literature. The English department offers a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Arts, a Master of Fine Arts, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree. The department also teaches “service” courses, e.g., freshman English composition, which create special demands on the library for instructional lectures and materials in library use and materials for beginning research and writing project.

Collection Description: The English department focuses on major chronological periods in English literature beginning with Old and Middle English, through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (with a special emphasis on Shakespeare and his contemporaries), into the nineteenth century with a focus on the Victorian writers, and through the contemporary literary traditions of the twentieth century. There is a strong regional focus on Southern writers which is supported by faculty research, course offerings, and the collecting emphasis of the library’s Archives and Special Collections. Other topics of special interest include medieval studies, creative writing, linguistics, folklore, cultural studies, postcolonial studies, ESL, and film. The English collection is enhanced and supported by literary collections in classics, the translations and literary criticism found in the modern language collection, and the dramatic works of the theater collection; significant overlap between these areas is natural and desirable.

Call numbers: The principal call numbers are P, PE, PN, PR, and PS.

Languages: Modern English is preferred, but some texts may be in older forms of the language or other languages as necessary.

Chronological periods: The collection covers all time periods from the Anglo-Saxon through the contemporary but emphasizes the medieval period, the nineteenth, and the twentieth centuries.

Geographical areas: England, Ireland, and the United States are the major geographical areas of interest. Literature from other English-speaking areas is acquired selectively.

Formats: Monographs and electronic resources meet most of the teaching and research needs of the English department. Rarities and original manuscript materials are the province of Special Collections. Selected DVDs, CDs, and other media (including streaming video) are acquired to support course offerings or research as necessary.

Acquisitions: Monographs and physical media are acquired primarily through firm order, while continuing resources are purchased with periodical funds. Gifts remain a significant source of acquisitions as well.