



VCU

Libraries

Guidelines for Anthropology

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1. Purpose.

Collections in Anthropology support teaching and research consistent with the curriculum at a Doctoral University: Highest Research Activity under the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education with a bachelor's degree program in the field.

The anthropology program takes a broad, holistic, and comparative approach to the study of social life and the multivariate complexity of human nature and experience, emphasizing balance and integration among all four fields of the discipline: archaeological, biological, sociocultural, and linguistic anthropology. The program makes a special effort to sustain and develop productive dialogue not only among the sub-disciplines of anthropology, but also across disciplines and programs at VCU.

2. General Collection Guidelines.

A. Language.

English is the primary language of the collection. English translations of works in other languages are preferred. However, VCU Libraries acquires the original text of the writings of major anthropologists if the English translation is not available.



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B. Chronology.

Works on all aspects of social history are collected. Emphasis is on the twentieth century, especially contemporary conditions.

C. Geography.

There is more emphasis on society in North America and Western Europe than on other geographical areas, but no area is excluded from consideration.

D. Publication Date.

Emphasis is on materials published in the past thirty years. Retrospective purchasing is selective and may involve reprints rather than the original format.

E. Treatment of Subject.

Biographies of anthropologists are collected selectively. Works of local and Virginia anthropology and archaeology are collected broadly. There is a strong emphasis on theory, techniques, and research methods in anthropology and archaeology. Materials on Latin America, Africa, and indigenous peoples of both North and Central America are given higher priority than other world regions, though not to exclusivity. Legal aspects of anthropology and archaeology are pertinent. As a whole, undergraduate textbooks are not purchased though some upper undergraduate materials in field work may be selected.

F. Types of Materials and Formats.

Most materials acquired for the anthropology collection are in book or periodical format. Indexes, abstracts, proceedings, publications of private or quasi-public agencies, including foundations, and statistical materials of all types are collected. Purchases of dissertations and theses from other institutions is restricted. Other instructional and research formats for the collection may include digital and microform research collections, databases, data sets, software, and media in a variety of formats. VCU Libraries is a partial depository library for U.S. government documents. In Richmond, numerous federal, state and local agencies are sources of statistical data and other information useful to the anthropologist.

3. Area Resources.

Students and faculty should be aware of other libraries in Richmond that also support this program. They are the University of Richmond Law Library, the Virginia Theological Seminary Library, the state Division of Criminal Justice Library, and the Library of Virginia. Faculty and students also have access to the specialized collections of the Center for Research Libraries.

4. Related Subject Policy Statements.

Because of the interdisciplinary character of the field, publications in sociology and anthropology are of interest to many subject areas outside the disciplines themselves. Among these are social work, economics, statistics, business, education, urban studies, psychology, gerontology, history, political science, public administration, and justice administration.



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5. Subjects and Collecting Levels.

Resources for Anthropology are collected at an instructional support level (3).