



VCU

Libraries

Guidelines for Criminal Justice

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1. Purpose.

The collection in Criminal Justice supports research and teaching in the undergraduate criminal justice program that includes a concentration in Forensic Science Investigation or a concentration in Justice as well as the Master of Science in Criminal Justice. Study in the master's program also can lead to students earning a post-baccalaureate certificate in criminal justice. Specific areas of program concentration in criminal justice are: law enforcement, juvenile justice, corrections, legal studies, and forensic science. Students can also take a Criminal Justice minor.

2. General Collection Guidelines.

A. Language.

English is the primary language of the monograph collection. Foreign journal titles are acquired only if the majority of the articles are in English.

B. Chronology.

Because the curriculum is directed toward developing knowledge, skills, and abilities required by middle managers or highly specialized professionals, collection emphasis is on, primarily, current materials; however, certain areas such as comparative justice systems and legal studies will require materials dealing with earlier periods.



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C. Geography.

Major focus is on the United States but some international and comparative criminal justice systems material is collected.

D. Publication Date.

Emphasis is on materials published since 1960. Retrospective purchasing is selective and may involve microform, reprints, and photocopies rather than the original format.

E. Treatment of Subject.

Selection is tied directly to the criminal justice curriculum on comparative justice systems, legal studies, corrections, juvenile justice, law enforcement, and forensic science. Primary sources, such as statutes, administrative codes, regulations, and case law, are collected selectively at a federal level and more broadly on a regional and local level.

Secondary sources (finding aids) such as digests, citators, reviews, and legislative histories are collected selectively at a national level and more broadly on a regional and local level.

Some introductory and general legal readers, casebooks, and almanacs for the layman are purchased. Upper level texts are selectively purchased. Biographies and collections of legal opinions may be purchased. Practitioner oriented materials, such as guides, policy statements, procedural and technical manuals are selectively purchased. Undergraduate texts, juvenile and popular texts are not acquired.

F. Types of Materials and Formats.

Monographs and serial publications are the most commonly acquired type of publication. This includes dictionaries, indexes, abstracts, encyclopedias, and specialized bibliographies. Transactions, proceedings, dissertations, and theses are selectively purchased. Major microform or print collections are acquired selectively if they significantly serve to strengthen present collections and if funding permits. Microform research collections, films, videos, slide collections, kits, audio-cassettes, databases, data sets, and software providing instructional support may be selectively acquired. The publications of the United States and Virginia are of primary interest and are collected extensively by the Government Documents Department.

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 state Division of Criminal Justice Library, and the Virginia State Supreme Court Library.

4. Related Subject Policy Statements.

SRA faculty and students share interests with other disciplines, among them, public administration, health administration, social work, urban studies and planning, and industrial hygiene.



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5. Subjects and Collecting Levels.

Resources on Criminal Justice relating to the areas of studies in the department are collected at the research level (4). These include but are not limited to the Criminal Justice System, Forensic Science, Criminology, Juvenile Justice, Organized Crime, Law Enforcement, Corrections, and Transnational Crime.