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Guidelines for Religious Studies

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1. Purpose.

Collections in Religious Studies 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. A minor in Catholic Studies is offered.

The collection supports teaching and research through the undergraduate level. The program explores the artistic, ethical, literary, psychological, and social dimensions of religions, as well as the influence of religions on sexuality, gender, race, health, ecology, public policy, and social justice. Areas of emphasis in Religious Studies include: the history of religion, Old and New Testament studies, Buddhist and Islamic studies, and Judaic and Asian religious traditions.

2. General Collection Guidelines.

A. Language.

English is preferred, but material in Western European languages may be purchased if no English-language translation is available.

B. Chronology.

No limitations.



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C. Geography.

No restrictions.

D. Publication Date.

Collecting efforts focus on current imprints.

E. Treatment of Subject.

Material providing critical, historical, bibliographic, or textual studies of the various areas are collected.

F. Types of Materials and Formats.

Monographic literature and a wide variety of reference works, including dictionaries, encyclopedias, and concordances, are acquired, as are relevant serial titles and selected proceedings. Because of the existence of a grants for Judaica, special attention is given to the collection of materials in that area. Unpublished theses and dissertations may be collected when they provide a unique source of information on a particular topic. In general, there are few restrictions on format if the material is deemed essential for instructional support. Textbooks are excluded.

3. Area Resources.

The library of Union Theological Seminary holds an extensive collection in the area of biblical studies.

4. Subjects and Collecting Levels.

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