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Guidelines for Social Work

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1. Purpose.

Collections in social work support a research agenda consistent with the research enterprise at a Doctoral University: Highest Research Activity under the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education with doctoral, master's, and bachelor's degree programs in the field. The Bachelor of Social Work prepares students for beginning level practice. The Master of Social Work program offers two concentrations: clinical social work practice and social work administration, planning and policy practice curriculum. Master of Social Work students can combine their M.S.W. program of study with other programs to earn special certificates or other additional degrees. Certificate options are aging studies, gender violence intervention, nonprofit management, and school social work practice. Additional degree options are Juris Doctor, Master of Divinity, and Master of Public Health. The Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work prepares students for substantive research and teaching.

2. General Collection Guidelines.

A. Language.

English is the primary language of the monograph collection.



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B. Chronology.

Primary emphasis is on the late nineteenth and the twentieth centuries. Social work has developed from a group of private charities and "friendly visitor" associations into a profession. Private and public social work agencies have come into greater prominence since the passage of the Social Security Act in 1935 and the 1960s "War on Poverty". Social policy and social legislation with its codification at a local, state and national level has increased significantly from the 1960s to date.

C. Geography.

Major focus is on the United States and Great Britain. Other areas of interest include Western European countries, although developments in other areas may result in attention to those areas in the future.

D. Publication Date.

Emphasis is on materials published during the last thirty years from the Johnson Administration to date. Retrospective purchasing is selective and may involve microform, reprints, and photocopies rather than the original format.

E. Treatment of Subject.

Histories of social work and public welfare programs are collected broadly; biographies of historical figures in the field of social welfare are also collected. Compendiums of cases are of great interest as are the texts of social legislation and general treatments of the legal aspects of social work. Materials on social work research and its statistical measurement and interpretation are collected widely. All materials related to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (in its various editions), casebooks, and training guides, are collected.

Annual proceedings and reports of professional associations are collected widely. Works written on a popular level are purchased very selectively. Lower undergraduate textbooks are not purchased. Professional texts and anthologies containing reprints are considered for purchase.

F. Types of Materials and Formats.

Acquired materials may be in various formats: monograph, reprint, periodical, microform, continuation, occasional paper, irregularly published material, media, database, data set, or software. Proceedings and reports of conferences, reports of social welfare agencies and organizations and annual reports of private or quasi-public societies and foundations are collected. VCU Libraries is a selective depository for federal documents. Government documents from social, medical and human resources and services agencies in the United States are collected by the selective depository program. Documents from other state and local governments are purchased selectively on the basis of their availability and relevance to the curriculum. Dissertations may be added on a highly selective basis. Undergraduate textbooks are not collected.

3. Area Resources.

Students and faculty have access to the Library of Virginia, the libraries at Virginia Union University, Union Theological Seminary, and the University of Richmond Law Library.

4. Related Subject Policy Statements.

Social Work faculty and students share interests with related academic disciplines, such as sociology, psychology, psychiatry, public administration, criminal justice, urban planning, gerontology, substance abuse, health, economics, and



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law. In addition to covering these substantive areas, primary consideration is given to the method or process used in providing services. Therefore, a significant amount of the collection covers direct services, community organization and development, and social administration as methods of intervention with society.

5. Subjects and Collecting Levels.

Social work is collected at a research level (4).