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Guidelines for Sociology

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1. Purpose.

Collections in sociology 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 bachelor's and master's degree and a graduate certificate in applied social research programs in the field. Undergraduate and graduate programs focus on social justice related to social inequality and sustainability inside a global framework with specific attention paid to issues related to gender violence, reproduction, health disparities and environmental movements. The undergraduate program emphasizes basic principles, theories, and techniques of analysis. The Master's of Science in Sociology offers a thesis option for those interested in pursuing a Ph.D. or research-intensive professional positions and an applied option. The Master's program also offers a focus on digital sociology.

2. General Collection Guidelines.

A. Language.

English is the primary language of the collection. English translations of works in other languages are preferred. However, the original text of the writings of major sociologists is acquired 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.

No restrictions.

D. Publication Date.

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

E. Treatment of Subject.

Biographies of sociologists, are collected selectively. Works on social justice, social inequality, social history, social problems, social research, statistical methods, and social theory are collected broadly. There is a strong emphasis on theory, techniques, and research methods involving statistics, mathematical models, and computer applications, and these materials are systematically acquired.

Textbooks are not purchased.

Types of Materials and Formats.

Most materials acquired for the sociology 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 research collections, online databases, data sets, software, and media in various formats.

VCU Libraries is a selective depository library for U.S. government documents. Numerous federal, state and local agencies are sources of statistical data and other information useful to the sociologist.

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 Library of Virginia. Faculty and students also have access to the specialized collections of the Center for Research Libraries. CRL is a cooperative research library that acquires, stores, preserves, and provides bibliographic and digital access to a collection which supplements and complements the collections of the major research libraries of North America.

4. Related Subject Policy Statements.

Because of the interdisciplinary character of the field, publications in sociology are of interest to many subject areas outside the discipline. 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.

Sociology is collected at a research level (4).