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Guidelines for Political Science

Updated May 2024

Table of Contents

1. Purpose
 2. General Collection Guidelines
 - A. Language
 - B. Chronology
 - C. Geography
 - D. Publication Date
 - E. Treatment of Subject
 - F. Types of Materials, Formats Collected
 3. Area Resources
 4. Related Subject Policy Statements
 5. Subjects and Collecting Levels
-

1. Purpose.

The collection in Political Science supports teaching and research for the Bachelor of Arts degree and minors in political science, nonprofit management and administration, and public management. The political science curriculum has two central objectives: to offer students a broad liberal arts education and a comprehensive understanding of the nature and functioning of the political process and government; and to provide a sound foundation for graduate study in political science, public administration, and nonprofit management, or for careers that require knowledge of governance and the political process, such as law.

2. General Collection Guidelines.

A. Language.

English is the primary language of the collection.

B. Chronology.

Emphasis is on contemporary trends and issues.

C. Geography.

Emphasis is on the United States but also includes international affairs and foreign governments worldwide.



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Libraries

D. Publication Date.

Primary emphasis is on current materials. Some retrospective ordering takes place to fill in gaps and replace missing items.

E. Treatment of Subject.

Selection is tied to the political science curriculum on U.S. government, civil rights, comparative politics, human security, international relations, political theory and methodology, politics and government, and public policy and administration. Professional and scholarly works that support the curriculum are acquired broadly. Some introductory and general legal readers are purchased. Biographies may be purchased. Undergraduate texts, juvenile and popular texts are not generally acquired.

F. Types of Materials and Formats.

Monographs and periodicals in digital format are the principal resources collected. Additional materials for consideration include data, handbooks, government documents, and conference proceedings. Print and digital resources are collected.

3. Area Resources.

The University of Richmond offers an undergraduate degree in political science, and VCU students have access to Boatwright Memorial Library. In addition, VCU collects U.S. federal documents and State of Virginia documents in a digital format.

4. Related Subject Policy Statements.

See Government Documents and Public Administration policies.

5. Subjects and Collecting Levels.

Resources in Political Science relating to the areas of study for the Bachelor of Arts degree in the department are collected at the instructional level (3). These areas cover civil and human rights, international relations, law, politics and government and public policy and administration.