
Rare Books

Collection Development Policy

February, 2018

Special Collections acquires printed books, archives, manuscripts, broadsides, prints, sheet music and other formats to support the teaching and research of TCU faculty and students. We continue to build on traditional collection strengths obtained through donations and other opportunities while also responding to changes in faculty interests and university curriculum by developing new collections. We are committed to developing all the following collections through the acquisition of unique and distinctive items not held by other libraries. We also select items on the basis of exhibit and outreach potential. The current list of priorities covers areas in which we have fund support for purchases. Donations are accepted in all areas where appropriate. Additionally, Special Collections actively transfers of materials from circulating stacks that require special care regardless of whether they meet these criteria. As circumstances change, the collecting areas will be reevaluated and modified as appropriate.

PRIMARY AREAS

Collections in this category are the focus of targeted collecting and are the most frequently used by faculty and students.

Colonial Spanish America

Existing Strengths: Manuscripts and imprints with a focus on Mexico and Peru; facsimiles of Mesoamerican codices

Current Focus: Manuscripts and imprints with a focus on Mexico and Peru; annotated books with features of use and provenance; incunabula; items that fill gaps in collection of facsimiles of Mesoamerican codices

English and American literature



Existing Strengths: Early modern drama, especially Shakespeare; reception of Shakespeare; English STC titles; association copies; early periodicals and serials in original, unbound condition; collected authors including Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, William Thackeray, and George Elliot, Shelley, and Oscar Wilde; holograph manuscripts

Current Focus: Early periodicals and serials in original, unbound condition; items to fill in any gaps among collected authors, especially annotated and association copies; Arthuriana; holograph manuscripts

Music History

Existing Collection Strengths:

Current Focus: Colonial Latin American music; piano music and treatises; manuscripts or annotated editions; medieval liturgical manuscripts with musical notation; competitions, especially anything Cliburn that we may not already have; French Baroque; video gaming

Minority Studies

This is a new collecting interest that aims to reflect current curricular needs at TCU.

Current Focus: Items in all formats that document the history of groups marginalized on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexuality in the United States and around the world

Cartography

Existing Collection Strengths: Maps and atlases of early influential cartographers

Current focus: Sixteenth- and seventeenth-century maps and atlases not widely represented in other institutions; New World maps

SECONDARY



Collections identified in this category are traditional collection strengths of MCBL that are less frequently used by faculty and researchers.

History of the Bible

Existing Strengths: Polyglot Bibles; Torah scrolls; early English Bibles

Current Focus: Polyglot Bibles; significant early English Bibles; psalms

Judaica

Existing Collection Strengths: Humanist Hebraism; Bomberg imprints; nineteenth-century Yemeni manuscripts

Current Focus: Humanist Hebraism

TERTIARY

The following categories, though traditional collection strengths, are not active priorities at this time. Nevertheless, items may be acquired in response to special opportunities.

Western Americana

Existing Collection Strengths: County and municipal histories; ranching industry; outlawry; novels

Current Focus:

American Presidency

Existing Collection Strengths: Lincolniana; nineteenth- and twentieth-century books about American presidents



Current Focus:

Luxembourgiana

Existing Collection Strengths: Materials published in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Current Focus:

Fine Press:

Existing Collection Strengths: Small presses with an emphasis on English literature, book arts, Texana and Western Americana

Current Focus:

Reference Collection

Existing Collection Strengths: Major reference sources on cartography, typography, book illustration, printing, publishing, paper, bindings, bibliography, and history of the book; departmental and desk reference books

Current Focus:

