

Demography Library Collection Development Policy (Last updated March 11, 2008)

Mission and Purpose

The primary mission and purpose of the Demography Library is to achieve the highest level of library service to the Population Studies Center and its Research Associates. The selection of library materials is the responsibility of the Librarian. Suggestions for selection by PSC Research Associates are evaluated according to relevance to the current collection (what is already in the collection at that call number), cost, duplication of Penn Libraries collection, have other population libraries selected this item, and finally, if a decision has not yet been made, does the Library Committee believe the item should be purchased. The Librarian also uses publisher's catalogs (both online and paper), acquisitions lists from other population libraries, and book reviews in journals.

Materials are weeded from the collection if they are duplicates or if they do not fall into any of the Library of Congress call number categories listed below. Weeded materials are offered to PSC RA's , staff and students, and the remainder are sent to other libraries.

Areas for Selection and Acquisition by Library of Congress Classification

A - General Works [minimal level]

B - Psychology [minimal level]

C - Auxiliary Sciences of History [minimal level]

D-F - History [minimal level]

G - Geography [minimal level]

H - Social Sciences [comprehensive/research level]

HA - Statistics

*HB - Economic Theory, Demography, Business Cycles

HC - Economic History and Conditions (by country)

*HD - Economic History and Conditions

HG - Finance

HM - General Sociology

HQ - Family, Marriage, Women

HT - Cities, Communities, Races

HV - Social Service, Welfare, Community

* Primary sub-categories of selection and largest Demography Library collections

QA - Math and Computer Science [research level]

RA - Public Aspects of Medicine [research level]

RC - Internal Medicine [minimal level]

RG - Gynecology and Obstetrics [minimal level]

T - Technology [minimal level]

Z - General Bibliography [basic level]

Policy on Gift Materials

The Demography Library is grateful for gifts of materials that have enriched our collection. Library staff reserves the right to decide which gifts should be added to the collection and which should be given away.

Special Collections in the Library

Dissertations: acquire those of PSC demography students; purchase others upon recommendation if on relevant topics.

US Government Documents and Census Materials: Use our GPO deposit account to pay for heavily used serial publications; Van Pelt Library is a federal depository and acquires most US government documents so it is not our policy to duplicate their collection of these materials.

Non-US Census Materials: These materials are not usually purchased unless required for a specific core research project; censuses are borrowed through the APLIC-I census network.

Journals: Journal subscriptions are acquired if recommended by a Research Associate and approved by the Library Committee; periodic evaluations are made about the journal's usefulness (if the tables-of-contents are requested, if journal issues are signed out, or if articles are regularly photocopied).

Working Papers: only acquired as part of a working paper exchange arrangement; others are purchased upon request only if a copied cannot be borrowed from another library.

Data on CD-ROM: Recommendations are considered from Research Associates and evaluations are requested from Computer Core Staff and other APLIC-I libraries