

**Political Science**  
**Collection Development Policy Statement**

**Principle Selector:** Social Sciences Librarian -- Specialist: International/Foreign Government Information, Political Sciences, International Relations, & Global Studies

Helen M. Sheehy, Social Sciences Librarian  
208 Paterno Library  
814-863-1347  
hms2@psu.edu

**Primary Location:** Social Sciences Library, 208 Paterno

**I. Program Information**

The collection supports current and anticipated teaching and research needs of the Political Science Department, in the College of Liberal Arts. The department grants B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. Undergraduate majors include Political Science, International Politics, and a dual degree in Political Science and Women's Studies. Undergraduate minors are offered in Political Science, as well as Law & Liberal Arts (designed for students planning on attending law school).

M.A.s & Ph.D.s are offered in Political Science with emphasis on American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, and Political Methodology. In addition, the collection will serve the new graduate School of International Affairs is due to open in fall 2008.

The department is organized by "research clusters" with emphasis on the following areas:

- Conflict, War and Terrorism Studies
- Democratization
- U.S. National Institutions, Interest Groups, Public Policy, Agenda Setting
- State and Local Politics
- Public Opinion and Mass Politics
- 19th and 20th Century Political Theory
- Gender and Politics
- Social Movements
- Race & Inequality
- Political Methodology
- Law & Judicial Politics
- Political Parties, Voting, and Party Systems

The department is the academic home to 27 full time faculty members and 2 Commonwealth Campus Faculty (Delaware & Fayette), as well as 4 affiliate faculty from the Departments of African & African American Studies (2), Sociology (1), and Crime, Law and Justice (1).

There are two post doctoral positions in Quantitative Correlates of War and in Social Sciences Statistics. In Fall 2003/2004, there were 1,245 students enrolled in lower division undergraduate courses, 703 students enrolled in upper division undergraduate courses, and 96 graduate students enrolled in political sciences courses.

## II. Special Programs and Institutes

The department is also host to several special programs and institutes, including:

- Correlates of War Project <http://correlatesofwar.org/>
- Peace Science Society <http://pss.la.psu.edu>
- The Program on Empirical International Relations (PEIR)
- The Expected Utility Generation and Data Management Program (EUGene) <http://www.eugenesoftware.org>
- The Lobby Project <http://lobby.la.psu.edu/>
- Policy Agendas Project <http://www.policyagendas.org>
- Globalization Seminar Series <http://www.personal.psu.edu/qx14/globalization-seminar/webpage3.htm>
- Quantitative Social Science Initiative (QuaSSI) <http://qssi.psu.edu/>
- Social Thought Program <http://www.stp.psu.edu/>
- Undergraduate summer program on "European Integration" at the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands, which consists of a four-week intensive course on "The Politics of European Integration" and a two-week study trip that will tour major European institutions and cities

## III. Coordination and Cooperative Information

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the Political Science programs at Penn State, efforts are made to coordinate purchases with several collection development specialists in a number of other disciplines, including:

- African & African American Studies
- Area Studies
- Asian Studies
- Communications
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- History
- Latin American Studies
- Labor Studies
- Law
- Middle Eastern Studies,
- Military Studies
- Sociology
- Women's Studies
- Government Documents (U.S., Local, State, and International)

The political science selector is also a member of the Libraries' Global Studies Group.

#### **IV. Campus locations outside University Park.**

Several campus locations have active programs that utilize political science materials. The political science selector will consult with selectors at other campuses to ensure that collections serve users across the commonwealth.

#### **V. Language modifiers.**

Items purchased are primarily in English; all languages with Roman alphabets are accepted. Materials in non-Roman alphabets accepted if they are deemed to be particularly important.

#### **VI. Geographic coverage.**

All parts of the world are collected, with emphasis placed on the United States, Europe, Eastern Europe, Russia and the CIS, Canada, Latin America, and East Asia. Other important areas include Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East.

#### **VII. Description of material collected**

1. Academic & Trade Publications. These include scholarly monographs, edited works, conference material, etc.
2. Reference Works. These include encyclopedias and dictionaries; directories; handbooks; and biographical works, and bibliographies. The political science selector works closely with other social sciences librarians in building these reference collections using both political science funds and Social Sciences and Documents reference funds. As much as possible these materials are purchased in electronic format.
3. Periodicals. The political science fund supports a large collection of research journals in both print and electronic format. As in other areas in the social sciences, journal coverage is increasing provided in electronic format

#### **VIII. Supporting Collections**

1. *Government Documents*. Political Science faculty and students rely heavily on the primary source materials from governments. The University Libraries collects government information from a wide range of local, state, national, and international agencies. These collections are currently selected by subject specialists in the Social Sciences Library and separate collection development statements are available for ....
2. *Legal Materials*. While the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, houses the law school collections, the library collections at the University Park campus include an exceptional amount of legal materials in both print and electronic formats. The Political Science Librarian in consultation with the Law Librarian works to ensure that the law collections support the students and faculty in the Law and Liberal Arts minor.

3. *Statistics & Data.* The faculty and students in the Political Science Department are heavy data users and the subject specialist works closely with the Social Sciences Data Librarian to acquire to access to data for use political science faculty and students. Resources acquired include both secondary data (statistical resources, e.g. World Development Indicators) as well as primary data sets.
4. *Special Collections.* The political science subject specialist occasionally purchases special collections on microfilm. Examples of recent purchases include *The war on poverty, 1964-1968* (selections from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library) and *Terrorism, special studies.*
5. *A-V Materials.* Faculty in the department increasing use video and other multimedia materials in their classrooms. The political science selector works closely with the department faculty to build a suitable collection. Social Sciences Group funds are also used to supplement the Political Science Funds.

### **Electronic Resources**

As in all other subject disciplines faculty and students are eager for remote access to collections in political science. The political science selector actively explores new electronic resources that will enhance the political science collections at University Park and across the Commonwealth at all PSU locations.

Core Databases include:

- Worldwide Political Science Abstracts
- CIAO
- AccessUN
- World Bank E-Library
- Source OECD
- Lexis/Nexis Statistical
- Lexis/Nexis Congressional
- CQ Electronic Library

### **Generally excluded are:**

Dissertations; textbooks; juvenile material; pamphlets.

### **Types of Materials:**

Materials of varied formats will be collected, to include print on paper, electronic, microform, audio-visual, and multi media. There is no preferred format.

### **Date of Publication:**

Current publications are emphasized with selective purchases of non-current materials.

Revised August 20, 2007.