

Collection Development Policy of the UNC-Chapel Hill Rare Book Collection

I. Statement of purpose of the institution and collection

University

The mission of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is “to serve as a center for research, scholarship, and creativity and to teach a diverse community of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to become the next generation of leaders.” The University also extends “knowledge-based services and other resources of the University to the citizens of North Carolina and their institutions to enhance the quality of life for all people in the State.”

(<http://www.unc.edu/about/mission/>)

The University Library

“The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library provides collections, expertise, services, and facilities that are essential to achieving the University’s mission of research, teaching, learning, and public service for the campus community, state, nation, and world.” (<http://library.unc.edu/about/mission/>)

The Rare Book Collection: Purpose and Mission

The Rare Book Collection (RBC) is the University Library’s principal repository for rare printed works. It currently holds close to 200,000 printed volumes, as well as codex manuscripts, graphic materials, maps, broadsides and other bibliographic items, mainly from Western Europe and the Americas. In its Rare Book Literary and Historical Papers (RBLHP), the RBC also holds papers and archives that support its print holdings.

The Rare Book Collection has its origins in the 1929/1930 establishment of the Hanes Foundation for the Study of the Origin and Development of the Book. That foundational concept of the study of the book continues to guide the Rare Book Collection as it collects a wide range of primary sources in original formats that support research and instruction in the University’s academic programs, the scholarship of outside researchers, and the lifelong learning of North Carolina’s citizens.

II. Types of programs supported by the collection

A. Research

The RBC’s collections are accessible to researchers in the Wilson Library reading rooms.

B. Instruction

The RBC's collections are actively deployed in undergraduate and graduate courses through Wilson Library's Research & Instructional Services.

C. Exhibits

The RBC regularly mounts exhibitions from its collection in the Melba Remig Saltarelli Exhibit Room of Wilson Library. It lends to other exhibitions at UNC and at outside institutions.

D. Community outreach

The RBC holds lectures and programs that are free and open to the public. It also mounts displays and hosts instructional sessions for community groups.

E. Publications

The RBC produces brochures, exhibition catalogs, other print publications, and digital resources, as staff and funding permit.

F. Acquisitions

The Rare Book Collection acquires materials through donation and purchase that build upon existing strengths and support the University's research and teaching. In-kind gifts to the collection are a major means of collecting, although there are also significant endowed funds for the purchase of materials.

III. Clientele served by the collection

The Rare Book Collection is accessible to members of the public, as well as visiting researchers and the UNC community, who register according to the procedures and regulations of Wilson Library Research & Instructional Services.

A. Faculty, scholars, and other professionals

B. Graduate students

C. Undergraduates

D. General public

IV. Priorities and limitations of the collection

A. Present identified strengths

The Rare Book Collection is broad in scope, with significant holdings in the literature and history of Europe and the Americas. Particular areas of strength and their current collecting levels are:

- Literature in English (British, Irish, U.S., and other nationalities); highly active through gift and purchase with the William A. Whitaker Fund
- History of the book, principally in the West, including medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, early printing, and fine printing; active through gift and purchase with the Hanes Fund and other endowed funds
- French printing, history, and literature; active
- American popular culture; active through gift and purchase on the William A. Whitaker Fund and Documenting Social Change Fund

- African-American and African Diaspora literature; active
 - Maya civilization; active through gift and purchase
 - Reference material and bibliographies; active in consultation with Davis Library
 - Greek and Latin language and literature; selective
 - Spanish, Catalan, and Portuguese drama; selective
 - Southern imprints; selective
 - New World *cronistas* and Latin American literature and history; active
 - Human kidney and nephrology; selective purchase with the Gottschalk Fund
 - Mycology; selective
 - World Wars I and II graphic materials: selective
 - Russian Diaspora literature and historical materials of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (Savine Collection); selective in consultation with Savine curator
- B. Present areas of relative weakness identified for enhancement**
- Natural history and history of science, particularly as they support current scholarship in the humanities.
 - Illustrated books and visual materials
 - Non-Western materials, particularly those related to the Middle East and Muslim civilizations, especially Persia
- C. Desired level of collecting**
- Continued growth in literature in English, French imprints, history of the book, global materials, and in areas identified for enhancement. The RBC seeks to expand as significant acquisition opportunities present themselves.
- D. Geographic areas collected**
- The RBC collects primarily materials from Europe and the Americas, but seeks to expand its collecting to support global studies areas, particularly those for which the University Library has specific responsibility according to the TRLN (Triangle Research Libraries Network) agreement (e.g., Persian language and Persian studies). The RBC identifies itself as Wilson Library's window on the world. The RBC does not collect rare North Carolina imprints (collected by the North Carolina Collection), nor does it collect manuscripts and archives pertaining to the American South (collected by other curatorial units of Wilson Special Collections Library).
- E. Chronological periods collected**
- The dates for RBC materials range from the third millennium B.C. to the present. The concentration of holdings is from the Renaissance to the present.
- F. Subject areas collected**
- History of the book and printing history; Literature in English; European culture and history; French Language and literature; Greek and Latin

Language and literature; U.S. History and culture; Iberian and Latin American history and culture; Travel and exploration; Science and natural history.

G. Languages collected

English and Western European languages, particularly French, Spanish, and Latin, Maya languages, other non-Western European languages as they are embodied in works that support the study of the book mission and the research and instructional needs of the University.

H. Forms of materials collected

The RBC primarily collects printed materials, although it also collects medieval and Renaissance manuscripts and other formats when subject matter is relevant, such as photographs and sound recordings. The RBC will acquire papers and archives opportunistically for Rare Book Literary and Historical Papers as they significantly support print holdings in the RBC.

I. Exclusions

- Materials printed in North Carolina; UNC-Chapel Hill's North Carolina Collection collects these.
- Manuscripts and archives related to the American South; UNC-Chapel Hill's Southern Historical Collection, Southern Folklife Collection, and University Archives collect these
- Law books; UNC-Chapel Hill's Kathrine R. Everett Law Library collects these.

V. Cooperative agreements affecting the collecting policy

The RBC has no cooperative agreements in place. The University Library participates in the TRLN cooperative agreement for general collections material. As indicated above, the RBC seeks to develop special collections components for general collections areas for which UNC has TRLN responsibility. The RBC is mindful of special collections strengths at nearby Duke University and does not ordinarily seek to duplicate through purchase materials already at Duke's David M. Rubenstein Library.

VI. Resource sharing policy

RBC materials are made available as condition permits in digital surrogates, usually through the Internet Archive. RBC materials are also made available for exhibition at other institutions as condition permits, accordingly to established Wilson Library guidelines.

VII. Deaccessioning policy

Materials that do not fall within the collecting area of the RBC may be transferred to a more appropriate collection within Wilson Library or deaccessioned, subject

to the terms of acquisition, University regulations, and state and federal laws. Any funds obtained through deaccession may only be used for acquisitions.

VIII. Procedures affecting the collecting policy

- A. The Associate University Librarian for Special Collections must approve all purchases over \$2,500.
- B. Purchases of literature in English on the William A. Whitaker Fund must be approved by the Whitaker Fund Committee, which consists of the University Librarian, two professors from the Department of English and Comparative Literature, and the Curator of Rare Books.
- C. The RBC will not accept materials without a legal transfer of title, deed of gift or deposit, or other official acknowledgment.
- D. The RBC only accepts materials on deposit with the understanding that those materials will be donated in a timely manner.

IX. List of Endowed Funds

Marjorie Bond Fund

Documenting Social Change – *shared with the Southern Historical Collection – materials documenting the cultural, political, and social unrest that occurred in America from 1960 through the end of the Vietnam Era*

Hanes Fund

Sarah Graham Kenan Fund

Lawrence Foushee London Fund

Rare Book Collection Endowment Fund

William A. Whitaker Fund – *Literature in English and rare books and manuscripts*

Gottschalk Collection in Rare Books Fund – *preservation and enhancement of the Gottschalk Collection*

John David Richardson Library Fund

Harry K. Russell and Dougald MacMillan Endowment Fund

Alan Stoudemire, M.D., Library Fund – *psychological, anthropological, and mythological aspects of the Judeo-Christian religion and other related religious traditions*

George F. Tucker, M.D., Library Fund – *examples of fine bindings and fine printings*

Leslie Weil Memorial Fund

X. Monitoring of Collection Development and Review of Guidelines

RBC's collecting and collection development policy will be reviewed annually and modified as necessary to meet the goals of the Rare Book Collection and the University Library.