Collection Policy: Political Science

1. Introduction

The Library supports the instructional and research needs of faculty and students working within the Department of Political Science. At the centre of the curriculum are established courses that deal with the history of political ideas, Canadian and American government and politics, international relations and comparative government, and finally, public policy and public administration. The Department attracts a solid core of three year and four year students in its Major and Honours programs, as well as a good number of students from other disciplines who wish to minor in Law and Politics, International Law and Politics and in general Political Science. The Department offers several different programs:

- BA (Political Science Major)
- BA (Political Science/Pre-Law Major)
- BA (Economics and Political Science Majors)
- Honours BA (Political Science Major)
- Honours BA (Political Science and History Majors)
- Honours BA (Political Science and Philosophy Majors)
- Minor Program in Political Science
- Minor Program in Law and Politics
- Minor Program in International Politics
- Concurrent Programs with Education

The Department offers the only concentration of law courses at the University, which are all, taught by local members of the Bar.

The Chancellor Paterson Library is the main location for the political science collection. Materials relating to the politics of the North and aboriginal politics are housed in the Northern Studies Resource Centre. The collection of the Education Library includes some materials relating to political science, political economy, law and administration. One microform collection of significance, the Pre-1900 monographic collection of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, includes many titles relating to politics and law. As well, The Chancellor Paterson Library has been a depository for federal government publications since 1967 and for Ontario government publications since 1972.
2. History of the Collection

Since the Department of Political Science is one of the original departments of the University, over the years the Library’s political science collection has developed into one that nicely supports undergraduate program needs. With new programs being added to the Department the collection has been adjusted to reflect these changes. The Northern Studies Resource Centre opened in 1988, and materials relating to politics in the Canadian North and aboriginal politics in Canada are actively sought and located in the Centre.

3. Languages

The Department collects materials primarily in English.

4. Chronological Guidelines

The major focus is on current publications and access to current materials. For the most part the academic programs concentrate on the contemporary period (nineteenth through twenty-first centuries). An exception is political thought and theory, ranging from antiquity to the present day.

5. Geographical Guidelines

Publications acquired are primarily from Canada, the United States and Great Britain. English language books from other areas such as Asia, Europe and Africa are acquired on a limited basis.

6. Types of Material

a. Physical

The preferred format for monographs is print although the Library has access to NetLibrary electronic books, many of which are pertinent to political science. Microfilms are acquired particularly for newspapers such as the Globe and Mail, the New York Times and the London Times originally acquired in print format. The Library subscribes to print and online journals and indexes/abstracts.

b. Publication format (monographs, journals, conference proceedings)

The major focus is on monographs and journals. Selection of reference materials, specifically handbooks, encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, directories, indexes
and abstracts is shared with Reference & Information Services, The Chancellor Paterson Library.

7. **Subject Areas and Collection Levels**
   (four levels: basic, initial study, advanced study and research)

The subject organization below follows the Library of Congress Classification Outline, Class HX – Socialism. Communism. Anarchism; Class J – Political Science; and Class KE – Law of Canada.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>LC Class</th>
<th>Current Level</th>
<th>Target Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Socialism. Communism. Anarchism</td>
<td>HX</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Political science (General)</td>
<td>JA</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Political theory</td>
<td>JC</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Political institutions and public administration - General</td>
<td>JF</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>JK</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>JL 1 - 500</td>
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<td>JL 599.5 –</td>
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<td>Central and South America</td>
<td>JL 3899</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>JQ 1 – 1849</td>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Middle East. Arab countries. Islamic countries</td>
<td>JQ 1758 – 1852</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Initial</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>JQ 1870 – 3981</td>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Australia. New Zealand. Pacific Ocean</td>
<td>JQ 3995 – 6651</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Initial</td>
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### 8. Interdisciplinary Activities

At present the Department of Political Science offers no specifically designated “service” courses to any other department or unit at the University. However, many students from other faculties and disciplines take political science courses for the social science component of their degree requirements. The Department has cross-listed courses with Women’s Studies, Environmental Studies, Indigenous Learning and Northern Studies.

### 9. Strengths/Weaknesses

The Department spends a larger proportion of its budget on monographs than on serials; however, access is available to a substantial number of electronic journals through the Library’s participation in the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) and subscriptions to suites of electronic journals offered by publishers such as Blackwell Synergy, Oxford and Springer.

The monograph collection is strong in the areas of political theory, public administration, and international law. Political science holdings in the areas of law, international relations, colonization and immigration are complemented by holdings in the disciplines of history and economics. The Library’s strong collection of government documents is also of value. With the current interest in Middle East politics the Library will need to strengthen its collection in this area.
10. Thunder Bay and Regional Resources

The collections of the Thunder Bay Public Library and the Challis Resource Library of Confederation College provide support at the undergraduate level. The Challis Library’s collection is particularly strong in the areas of First Nations material as well as law. The collection of the Thunder Bay Public Library is fairly substantial in the areas of current issues and local politics. Members of the university community also have access to The Thunder Bay Law Association Library, which boasts an extensive collection of books, reports, journals and digests including Canadian and Ontario legislation from the 1800’s to the present. It also has access to QUICKLAW, Lexis and eCarswell (Canada’s online service for the legal profession, librarians and researchers).

11. Internet Resources

The Library maintains links to political science resources on the Internet at its website.

12. Liaison

The Political Science Department is responsible for selecting appropriate library resources. A library representative from the Department liaises with a designated Collections Development Librarian with respect to its library budget, the acquisition process and cancellation projects. It is the responsibility of the Collections Development Librarian to ensure that relevant information regarding new publications is forwarded to the department’s library representative for consideration. The Library welcomes donations of books and journals, which fall, within its collection scope. Tax receipts are issued on request only and only if the item is added to the collection.

13. Weeding

Weeding will be done on an ongoing basis to preserve the quality, currency and strength of the collection. Collection Development Librarians are responsible for weeding the collection in their respective subject areas. When appropriate they will work with teaching faculty to make informed decisions about the value of potentially discarded materials.

November 2005

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Library Representative                  Collection Development Librarian
Department of Political Science          Chancellor Paterson Library

_________________________________________  _________________________________________
Date                                    Date