

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

ANTHROPOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND ETHNOLOGY

I. SCOPE

Materials on anthropology, traditionally defined to encompass social or cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, archaeology, and linguistics, as well as ethnology (works on the origin, distribution, and characteristics of populations of particular regions or countries), are well represented in the Library's general and special collections. Anthropological, archaeological, and ethnological materials can be found in all formats: books, documents, technical reports, manuscripts, newspapers, microforms, maps, music, films, prints, photographs, and electronic resources. Area divisions have materials in many vernacular languages, and several divisions have unique collections. Ethnographies of peoples from around the globe are represented in the Library's collections. In the Library of Congress, psychological anthropology falls in the B class; archaeological method and theory in C; ethnographies and archaeological site reports are in D, E, and F; anthropological method in GN; political anthropology in J; legal anthropology in K; ethnomusicology in M; and physical anthropology in Q. See also the Collections Policy Statement for Anthropology, Archaeology, and Ethnology.

II. SIZE

A total volume count of anthropological materials would be difficult to provide, as anthropology, archaeology, and ethnology cut across many LC classes. As of October 2007, there were 35,037 titles in Library's Online Catalog in class GN, covering anthropological method, ethnological science, and prehistoric archaeology; and 3,832 titles in class CC, which covers general archaeology. Again these numbers do not reflect the Library's true strengths. Much anthropological and archaeological research is listed under regions or countries with subdivisions for social life and customs, or antiquities, or under ethnology with geographic subdivisions. For example, the Manuscript Division has Margaret Mead's Papers and the South Pacific Ethnographic Archives, comprising more than 370,000 items. The Archive of Folk Culture holds a million items including manuscripts, sound recordings, photographs, films, videos, and brochures documenting folk life, traditional knowledge, customs, dance, art, and craft from ethnic and regional cultural groups from North America and around the world.

III. GENERAL RESEARCH STRENGTHS

Reports of anthropological fieldwork often appear in publications of government agencies, universities, professional associations, societies, museums, and foundations, and in publications of conferences and congresses. Broad collection policies have assured that publications of these kinds are well represented in the Library's general collections. Core journals, monographic series, technical reports, and foreign language journals provide a range of quality research materials.

The collections are particularly strong in areas covering small indigenous groups from nomadic

and mountain peoples to hunters and gatherers representing regions from around the world. Many topics from ethnographic arts and crafts to social organization to folk literature are strongly represented. The collections' greatest strengths are in materials covering cultural and ethnic groups in a number of large geographic regions, with items often in vernacular languages. Area divisions and strong general collections provide excellent coverage for most areas of North America, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Arctic regions.

Preliminary and final reports that accompany research grants for federally funded archaeological investigations are sometimes in the technical report collection in the Science and Technology Division.

Documents from international agencies and foreign governments are often used by cultural anthropologists. Also in demand are scientific journals that treat methodologies employed by archaeologists. These resources fall outside the GN and CC classes yet are anthropological resources well represented at the Library.

Taken together, however, the broad range of materials used by anthropologists and archaeologists that the Library collects assiduously (government documents, films, and scientific publications are some examples), the vast holdings of several of the Library's area divisions (Asian and Hispanic in particular), and the unique resources of the Archive of Folk Culture make the Library an unmatched institution for supporting anthropological research.

IV. AREAS OF DISTINCTION

Special format and area divisions house unique materials for anthropological research. The Archive of Folk Culture holds extensive collections including such diverse areas as ritual medical practices, notes from fieldwork, documentary footage of endangered societies, nomadic peoples, city dwellers, Euro-American folk crafts, children's games, religious belief systems, and folktales.

The Manuscript Division, in addition to the Margaret Mead's Papers and the South Pacific Ethnographic Archives, also has Rodolfo R. Schuller's archaeological manuscripts on Central and South America, the papers of E.G. Squier, the correspondence of George Stewart Duncan, the papers of Rhoda Bubendey Métraux, and records of the Society of Woman Geographers.

Microform collections of anthropological materials include the Human Relations Area Files; microfilm papers of Franz Boas; collections on North American Indians (photographs from the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution); papers from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; and the microfilm collection, Manuscripts on Cultural Anthropology.

Among many other special format collections providing primary source material for anthropological researchers are American Indians in Silent Film, American Indians on Film and Video, the Macmillan Film Collection of Eskimo materials, and sound recordings of Maori Folktales.

V. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Subscription databases have added tremendously to the Library's collections by providing access to significant digital collections in this area. Key online resources include: *Anthropology Index Online* which includes the journal holdings of The Anthropology Library at the The British Museum (Museum of Mankind) which receives periodicals in all branches of anthropology, from academic institutions and publishers around the world; *Anthropology Plus*, an index to articles and essays in over 5,000 sources published in English and other European languages; and *eHRAF World Cultures*, from the Human Relations Area Files Collection of Ethnography produced at Yale University, is a cross-cultural database of primary source materials on all aspects of cultural and social life worldwide.

Relevant digital collection found in the Library's *American Memory* collection include: *American Indians of the Pacific Northwest*, *History of the American West*, and *Florida Folklife from the WPA Collections, 1937-1942*.

VI. WEAKNESSES/EXCLUSIONS

Works on medical anthropology and indigenous agricultural practices are underrepresented in the collections because the Library does not collect comprehensively in either clinical medicine or technical agriculture. There are also certain topics and aspects of culture in which coverage is not as strong as for other areas (cultural evolution, culture diffusion, cannibalism, food-getting technologies, and Oceanic peoples).

Many archaeology journals are not retained by the Library because they are highly parochial in scope. This is a particular weakness in the case of serial holdings from Great Britain and Ireland, which have many local archaeological societies and a longstanding tradition of publishing the results of archaeological investigations.