

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

SPORTS AND RECREATION

I. SCOPE

The Library's collection on recreation, leisure studies and sports covers all works classed in GV, except GV1570-GV1799 (Dance), as well as Class S subjects on horse sports (horse racing, dressage), sport fishing, and hunting as a recreational activity. Also included are those works of an interdisciplinary nature, such as the economics of sports, the sporting goods industry, fencing, yachting, automobile racing, the design and construction of sports venues, and sports journalism.

In addition to works on individual sports and sporting events (the Olympics, Pan American Games, etc.), Class GV includes hiking and wilderness guides, recreational activities books for children, board games, card games, fantasy games (such as Dungeons and Dragons), most electronic and computer games, crossword puzzles, amusement parks, and the circus.

Sports law, sports medicine and kinesiology are not covered in this collection overview.

See also the Collections Policy Statement for Sports and Recreation.

II. SIZE

Class GV (excluding GV1580-1799, Dance) is comprised of approximately 105,000 monographic and serial titles according to a search of the Library's Online Catalog as of October 2007.

III. GENERAL RESEARCH STRENGTHS

In addition to monographs and bound serials, the holdings on microform are considerable and include copies of several important serials, dissertations, the ERIC microfiche collection (unpublished reports on education, which include such topics as physical education, school sports, and Title IX [the law requiring equality for women in sports at federally funded institutions], and the occasional collection, such as the Joe Louis Scrapbooks.)

The next most extensive and valuable resource at the Library for the study of sport and related topics is the newspaper collection, which, considering its geographical and chronological scope, makes the Library's holdings unique for primary source material in all of the fields covered by this policy. The Library's subscriptions to online full-text databases greatly enhance this resource.

Custodial divisions with notable holdings include the American Folklife Center; Prints & Photographs; Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound; and, to a lesser extent, Music; Manuscript; Rare Book; Area Studies; and the Law Library.

IV. AREAS OF DISTINCTION

The most extensive holdings in the Library of Congress relating to all aspects of sports are located in the general collections. Of particular note is an extensive collection of Spalding guides, as well as many important early sporting periodicals including *The Sporting News*, *Sporting Life*, *Spirit of the Times*, *Outing*, *The New York Clipper*, *National Police Gazette*, and *Field, the Farm, the Garden, and Ring Magazine*.

Notable holdings in special collections include the *Branch Rickey Papers*, *Jackie Robinson Papers*, and *Arthur Mann Papers* (Manuscript Division), the *Bain Collection* and *Look Magazine Collection* (Prints and Photographs), and the *Fay Vincent Oral History Collection* (American Folklife Center).

V. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The Library's many subscription databases have greatly enhanced the research capabilities of its patrons. Although none is sports specific, notable examples include *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*, *JSTOR*, *Digital Dissertations*, *ERIC*, *American Periodicals Series*, *Academic Search Premier*, and *ABI/Inform*.

American Memory contains three baseball sites: *Baseball and Jackie Robinson*, *Baseball Cards, 1887-1914*, and *Baseball Guides and Spalding, 1889-1939*. The Prints and Photographs Division's online catalog has several thousand sports images available.

VI. WEAKNESSES/EXCLUSIONS

The Library's sports collections are largely devoid of game programs, team and media guides, pamphlets, and other publications that may be best described as ephemera. The decision to "not collect" this type of material has long been part of the Library's official acquisitions policy, but it is exactly these holdings which make special libraries at sports halls of fame and museums so strong in their subject.