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## **Psychology (Classes BF and Z7201-Z7204, with some Z8000s)**

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### **I. Scope**

The materials on psychology covered by this statement comprise physical collections in Class BF, with corresponding subject bibliographies in Z7201-7204, and also electronic, microform, manuscript or other formats of material whose subject areas would fall into these class designations. Bibliographies on individual psychologists, in the Z8000s, are also within the scope of this statement. Materials covering psychiatry are regarded as subsets of medicine, in various subclasses of R, since psychiatrists must first acquire M.D. degrees before specializing (see the Medicine Collections Policy Statement).

Various topics outside the BF areas have psychological components and are classed within their own overall subject areas, e.g.:

Religious Psychology (BL53 within Religion, BL);  
Educational Psychology (LB1051-1091 within Theory and Practice of Education, LB);  
Psychohistory (D16.16 within History [General], D);  
Psycholinguistics (P37 within Philology and Linguistics [General], P),  
Industrial Psychology (HF5548 within Business Administration, HF5001-6182).

Works pertaining to the psychology of individual persons, ethnic groups, or classes of persons are cataloged within those overall subjects in the *LC Classification* scheme, but are given the topical subdivision “-Psychology” within the *Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)* scheme; for example:

“Abusive men—Psychology” (often HV6626 within Social Pathology, HV; or RC569.5.F3 within Neurology and psychiatry, RC321-571);  
“Actors—Psychology” (often PN2058 within Dramatic Representation: The Theater, PN2000-3307);  
“African Americans—Psychology” (E185.625 within History: American: African American, E184.5-185.98); or  
“Women—Psychology” (often HQ1206 within Women: Feminism, HQ1101-2030.7).

Also, the *LCSH* subdivision “-Psychological aspects” can be attached to many subjects more generally, leading to still other clusters of relevant works classed outside BF; for example:

- “Architecture—Psychological aspects” (NA2540-2542 within Architecture in general, NA);
- “Video games—Psychological aspects” (GV1469.3 within Games and Amusements, GV1199-1570);
- “Music—Psychological aspects” (various areas in ML3800s, within Philosophy and Physics of Music, ML3800-3923); or
- “Nursing—Psychological aspects” (RT86 within Nursing in general, RT).

In short, works relevant to psychology cannot be confined within BF classes exclusively; as with Philosophy, those librarians with recommending and acquisitions responsibilities in this subject are urged to look for it in all relevant areas. While Recommending Officers who monitor these other classes outside BF have primary collection development responsibilities in these areas, it is nonetheless desirable to have more than one pair of eyes, within differing perspectives, monitoring all subject areas of the classification scheme. Officers responsible for BF areas are therefore urged to be vigilant for appearances of psychology in other class areas.

## II. Research Strengths

The Library of Congress lies in the unique position of receiving the nation’s copyright deposit materials in all subject areas, and, further, benefits from national taxpayer support in maintaining both blanket order arrangements in countries with developed book trades, and overseas acquisitions offices in less developed regions. For these reasons alone, the Library’s general collections in psychology (as in most other subjects except agriculture and Medicine) are almost automatically of world-class extent and depth. Beyond the materials received automatically through copyright deposit, however, collections levels must be chosen for blanket orders and overseas offices’ selection; and even for copyright receipts, levels of retention must be determined. Further, unique items or collections may have to be assessed individually for their appropriateness to Rare Book, Manuscript, or Microforms acquisition. For example, within Microforms, the Library is unique in systematically collecting United States doctoral dissertations, including all those on psychology; and within Manuscripts, the Library is unique in holding the Sigmund Freud Archive, as well as the papers of the African-American psychologist Kenneth Bancroft Clark. One area of particular strength, in addition to our collection of doctoral dissertations, is our non-English material, worldwide, in all of the B through Z classes designated above: the cross-disciplinary reach of our holdings (e.g., the materials described above having the *LCSH* subject subdivisions “—Psychology” and “—Psychological aspects” in all classes) is unmatched elsewhere.

## III. Collecting Policy

The Library’s Psychology collections, in general, are to be maintained at the overall Level 4, although occasional references will be made below to Levels 3 and 5. The Library shall acquire all important current reference works, monographs, and serials in the field of psychology, in all languages. Primary emphasis shall be placed on research in the history and theory of psychology, and on the scholarly and theoretical aspects of the field. The Library shall maintain an instructional-level collection in the area of psychological tests (commercially-published sets, not individual tests), and in tangential fields such as physiognomy, phrenology, graphology, palmistry, and occult sciences (BF840-1999). American college-level textbooks on psychology shall also be acquired at Level 3, but not normally textbooks from other countries. Formats selected shall accord with the Copyright Best Edition statement.

The Library shall acquire remote access to electronic resources whose content corresponds to the subject(s) of the Class designations listed above in Section I if they are offered on platforms maintained by reasonably stable institutional publishers or other providers. If there are

corresponding print versions, as in the case of some serials, the Library shall endeavor to acquire such copies for preservation purposes. Minor journals in electronic format that are bundled within larger subscription aggregations may be excluded from consideration. In the case of book-length monographs or bibliographies, paper copies shall be preferred, for preservation purposes.

Since psychiatry is generally distinguished from psychology, and psychiatry is classed in R (Medicine) rather than BF (Psychology), it is noteworthy that much of the R material received by the Library must be transferred to the National Library of Medicine. Nonetheless, LC shall systematically acquire monographs in psychiatry, especially in the English language, and especially reference works such as encyclopedias and subject bibliographies. In general, serial publications cataloged under the heading "Psychology" in *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory* shall be considered "in scope" while those listed in *Ulrich's* under the heading "Medical Sciences—Psychiatry and Neurology" shall be considered "out of scope." This rule of thumb, however, is not absolute, and may be overridden on a title-by-title basis, especially if the desired serials (or other works) are viewed as enhancing research in the Library's Freud Archive in the Manuscripts Division.

#### IV. Acquisition Sources: Current and Future

One recent assessment of "Classics in the History of Psychology" lists 20 books and over 100 journal articles as foundational; this analysis indicates that within psychology, journal articles can be just as important and influential as books. Confirmation is provided by Bowker's *Magazines for Libraries*, a standard list of the most important journals within each academic discipline: the latest (2007) edition lists 135 titles for psychology (as compared with 89 for philosophy, a field much more centered on books). Similarly, the core journals for psychology (indexed in the *Social Sciences Citation Index*) include over 300 titles; those for philosophy (indexed in the *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*), only 91. The distinction is important because, first, journals in psychology must be more extensively acquired if "research levels" of collecting are to be maintained; and second, current academic journals are "transitioning" to electronic forms to a noticeably greater degree than current books are. For Selection/Recommending purposes, the practical upshot is that Officers in this area need especially to seek out and justify subscriptions to the very largest aggregations of electronic full-text journals (e.g., *Gale Gengage*, *ProQuest Databases*, *EBSCOhost*, etc.) and keep subscriptions at levels of maximum coverage when new modules are offered as add-ons to existing subscription sets (e.g., *JSTOR*, *Project Muse*). There are now too many individual serial titles to be selected or monitored individually, given that Recommending Officers have many responsibilities other than just collection development; and this is a problem that will only grow worse in the future. Reliance on outside aggregators, for serial titles, will have to increase. Individual open source journals, however, shall be cataloged (with appropriate links to the full text servers) whenever possible.

#### V. Collecting Levels

LC Classification		Collecting Levels	Comments
BF1-20	Periodicals, serials, societies, congresses	4	
BF31	Dictionaries and encyclopedias	5	
BF38-64	Philosophy, relation to other topics	5	

BF38.5	Methodology	4	
BF39	Statistical methods	4	
BF39.5	Computer applications	4	
BF76.5	Research	4	
BF77-80.7	Study and teaching	3	
BF81-109	History and biography	4	
BF110-149.8	General works	4	
BF150-172	Mind and body	4	
BF173-175	Psychoanalysis	39542	5 if relevant to Freud Archive; Serials: see III
BF176	Psychological tests (no single tests)	3	
BF180-205	Experimental psychology	4	
BF207-209	Psychotropic drugs	3	Medical, NLM
BF231-299	Sensation, anesthesiology	4	
BF309-499	Consciousness, cognition, perception intuition	4	
BF318-319.5	Learning	4	
BF341-346	Nature and nurture	4	
BF370-385	Memory	4	
BF408-426	Creative processes, imagination	4	
BF431-441	Intelligence, mental ability, intelligence testing	4	
BF455-499	Thought, perception, intuition	4	
BF501-504.3	Motivation	4	
BF511-593	Affection, feeling, emotion	4	
BF608-635	Will, volition, choice	4	
BF636-637	Applied psychology	4	
BF638-648	New thought	4	
BF660-685	Comparative psychology	4	
BF692-692.5	Sexual behavior, sex differences	4	
BF697	Differential psychology, individuality	4	

BF698-698.9	Personality (incl. assessment, testing)	4	Not individual tests
BF699-711	Genetic psychology (incl. evolution)	4	
BF712-724.85	Developmental psychology (incl. Child Psychology)	4	
BF725-727	Class psychology	4	
BF789.D4	Death and dying		
BF795-839.5	Temperament, character	4	
BF840-861	Physiognomy	3	
BF866-885	Phrenology	3	
BF889-905	Graphology	3	
BF908-840	The hand, palmistry	3	
BF1001-1389	Parapsychology	4	3 for popular works
BF1404-1999	Occult sciences	4	3 for popular
Z7201-7201	Subject bibliography	5	
Z8000s	[Bibliographies on individual psychologists]	5	

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