

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTIONS POLICY STATEMENTS

Education (Class L)

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I. Scope

The Library attempts completeness in acquiring library materials of research value regarding education in the United States. Collecting is comprehensive for publications of the United States Government, U.S. educational associations at the national level, international organizations, and substantial monographs and serials deposited or registered under the U.S. copyright law. Publications on education in non-U.S. countries are acquired selectively, with emphasis on those having scholarly content and those relating to the country as a whole.

The Library also collects test preparation guides beginning with advanced placement level studies through college admission (SAT, ACT) and post graduate education (GMAT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, etc.). The Library does not routinely collect K-12 achievement test materials or guides. The Library also does not routinely collect customized training for adults, employee training modules, or PowerPoint presentations. College catalogs are out of scope for the collection.

[Dissertations and Theses](#) are addressed in a separate Collections Policy Statement by that name. Other Collections Policy Statements should also be consulted, including: [Countries and Regions with Acquisitions Challenges](#), [Government Publications—United States](#), [Government Publications—Non-U.S.](#), [International Organizations](#), [Law](#), and [Societies and Associations](#). All materials relating to education of the legal professions and to the education of the general public in the field of law come under the [Law Collections Policy Statement](#).

In recognition of the importance of education in countries and regions with acquisitions challenges, the content and the political and social importance of the materials should be taken into consideration in making selections for the Library's collections. Major changes in education systems outside the U.S. are a consideration for wider coverage of the material to compare the old systems with the new systems.

II. Diverse and Inclusive Collecting Statement

As the nation's de facto national library, the Library of Congress strives to build an expansive, yet selective, collection that records the creativity of the United States and is reflective of the nation's diversity and complexity. The Library's mandate is to have collections that are inclusive and representative of a diversity of creators and ideas. A priority includes acquiring material of underrepresented perspectives and voices in the Library's collections to ensure diverse authorship, points of view, cultural identities, and other historical or cultural factors. The Library also seeks to build a research collection that comprises a globally representative sample of international materials that are diverse in voice and perspective, relative to their places of origin, further supporting the Library's mission to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for Congress and future generations.

Diverse collecting is mentioned within many of the Library's Collections Policy Statements. In addition, the Library has adopted several specific collection policies in an effort to ensure it is building an inclusive and representative collection. For more information, see the Library's Collections Policy Statements on [Ethnic Materials](#), [LGBTQIA+ Studies](#), [Women's and Gender Studies](#), [Independently Published and Self-Published Textual Materials](#), and [Countries and Regions with Acquisitions Challenges](#).

III. Research Strengths

The Library's long-standing ability to acquire education materials published throughout the world contributes to a solid and historically distinct collection. The education collections are particularly distinguished by the comprehensiveness of their scope, and by the diversity of languages and cultures represented. The collections are extraordinarily strong in the theory and practice of U.S. education, the history of U.S. education, school administration and organization, materials about education and state government policy, both secondary and higher education, illiteracy, professional education, and in resources about American educational institutions.

In addition, the collections about the educational systems of other countries are significant. The Library's complete collection of Education Resources Information Center microfiche is supplemented by an extensive collection of education periodicals. The collections are strong in education materials from professional societies and associations. A number of monographic series in the field of education, such as *Advances in Teacher Education*, augment the collections, as does electronic subscription databases such as *Education Full Text* and *Education Journals*.

Other noteworthy research materials include manuscript items on women's education in the early 19th century such as the Margaret Bayard Smith Papers in the Manuscript Division, McGuffey Readers which fused moral instruction with the teaching of language skills in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, and a Pictorial Americana collection of American colleges and universities in the Prints and Photographs Division. Many items in the general and special collections that are not found within the L classification contain political, social, religious and psychological information that directly support research in the educational classes.

IV. Collecting Policy

The Library of Congress attempts to acquire all substantial U.S. periodicals, yearbooks, and directories of national scope, and publications of educational societies and congresses at the national or international level. Other general publications are acquired selectively, based on their research value.

The Library acquires university and college alumni directories, from both inside and outside the United States. However, the Library does not collect syllabi, campus newspapers, educational psychological tests, teacher training outlines, local or high school directories, or individual class textbooks. The Library does collect high school textbooks selectively.

V. Best Editions and Preferred Formats

For guidance regarding best editions for material acquired via the Copyright Office, see: <http://copyright.gov/circs/circ07b.pdf>.

For guidance regarding recommended formats for material acquired via all other means; e.g., purchase, exchange, gift and transfer, see: <http://www.loc.gov/preservation/resources/rfs>.

For information regarding electronic resources, open digital content, web archiving, and data sets, see the following Supplementary Guidelines: <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/electronicresources.pdf>, <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/opencontent.pdf>, <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/webarchive.pdf>, and <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/datasets.pdf>.

VI. Acquisition Sources

Whenever possible the Library attempts to acquire materials through non-purchase means, such as copyright, exchange, gift, federal transfer, or the Cataloging in Publication program. The Library of Congress collections are heavily dependent upon materials received through the copyright deposit provisions of U.S. copyright law ([17 USC section 407](#) & [17 USC section 408](#)). For copyright demand, the U.S. regulations allow for the Library to receive analog and some digital materials. When items are offered in both formats the Library's default is normally the Best Edition print version, unless the publisher has arranged a special relief agreement with the Copyright Office. For materials not available to the Library through copyright deposit, or other non-purchase means, the Library acquires materials through purchase. Purchase is used predominately for non-U.S. publications that are not widely available within the United States. The Library utilizes an array of traditional methods of library acquisition (firm orders, subscriptions, and approval plans) with vendors located in different areas of the world. In addition, the Library uses its six Overseas Operations Offices to broaden its acquisitions opportunities outside the United States.

Current acquisitions sources include web archiving of selected U.S. government sites including the U.S. Department of Education. Future acquisitions sources may be increased to include the archiving of sites such as major educational associations, think tanks, and consortia. Blogs and wikis are also probable sources of future content. This activity should follow the guidance provided in the Supplementary

Guidelines on [Web Archiving](#).

Whether as individual titles or large commercial databases, electronic resources are increasingly critical to conducting research. Electronic resources facilitate efficient access to current data and literature, and increasingly, to retrospective literature. The Library obtains individual electronic serial and monograph titles. The Library also acquires and provides access to a collection of the best available education databases for use by staff and patrons. The Supplementary Guidelines on [Electronic Resources](#) provides more detailed guidance for recommending these materials.

VII. Collecting Levels

Meeting the Library’s Diverse and Inclusive Collecting Statement (see Section II) and the collecting levels outlined below requires continual evaluation of the publishing landscape, sources of expression, current events, and socio-cultural trends to thus maintain effective collecting policies and acquisitions methods. Changes in publishing or in the creation of materials covered by this policy statement may necessitate collecting efforts not explicitly referenced here. Such efforts will be handled on a case-by-case basis while the Library evaluates the need for policy statement updates.

For explanation of the Collecting Levels used by the Library, see <https://www.loc.gov/acg/devpol/cpc.html>.

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
L7-L107	Periodicals, yearbooks, publications of congresses and societies: U.S. (national) U.S. (state, regional, local) International scope Non-U.S.	5 4 4	4 4
L111-L113	Official publications (non-legal): U.S. federal	5	
L116-L219	Official publications (non-legal): U.S. states U.S. counties U.S. cities	4 3 3	
L221-L791	Official publications (non-legal): Non-U.S. (national) Other government publications (non-legal)		4 3
L797-L899	Exhibitions, museums	3	3

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
L900-L991	Directories of educational institutions: U.S. (national, state, regional) U.S. (local) Non-U.S. (national) Non-U.S. (major cities)	4 2	4 3
LA5-LA11	General works	4	4
LA13	Textbooks on education	3	3
LA14	Syllabi and topical outlines	0	0
LA21-LA25	Anecdotes, addresses, pamphlets	2	2
LA31-LA186	History of education by historical period	4	4
LA190-LA396	History of education by country: U.S.	5	
LA410-LA2284	History of education by country: non-U.S.		4
LA2301-LA2396	Biography	5	4
LB5-L45	Collected writings and general works	4	4
LB51-L885	Systems of individual educators and writers: U.S. Non-U.S.	5	4
LB1025-LB1050	Teaching except: LB1028 computer programs for class use/ Samples only	3	1
	LB1043 Audiovisual materials/ Samples only	0	0
LB1101-LB1139	Educational psychology study	4	4
	Except: LB1131 individual tests	0	0
LB1140-LB1695	Preschool through secondary	4	3

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
LB1705-LB2286	Education and training of teachers: U.S. Non-U.S. Except outlines, questions books	4 0	3 0
LB2300-LB2430	Higher education	4	4
LB2799	Education consultants and consulting	4	4
LB2801-LB2997	School administration and organization	4	4
LB3011-LB3095	School management and discipline	4	4
LB3201	School architecture	4	4
LB3401-LB3499	School health	3	3
LB3525-LB3575	Special days (holidays, etc.): U.S. Non-U.S.	3	2
LB3602-LB3640	School life (recreation, political activity, school journalism, etc.) Student congresses at national or international level	3 4	3 4
LC8-LC45	Self-education, home study	4	4
LC47-LC58	Private school education	4	4
LC59	Public school education	4	4
LC65-LC245	Social aspects of education (education and the state, popular education, religious instruction, attendance, discrimination, community and the school)	4	4
LC251-LC951	Moral and religious education (education under church control)	4	4
LC1001-LC1099	Types of education (humanistic, basic, vocational, professional)	4	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
LC1390- LC5158	Education of special classes of persons (women, Blacks, gifted, handicapped, disturbed)	4	4
LC5201-LC6691	Adult education	4	4
LD, LE-LG	Catalogs: U.S. Non-U.S.	5	3
LD;LE-LG	Institutional histories and related publications: U.S. Non-U.S.	4	3
LD;LE-LG	Souvenir programs, descriptive brochures, announcements of meetings, athletic schedules, etc.	0	0
LD;LE-LG	Yearbooks (Higher Education)	3	3
LD;LE-LG	Alumni directories and publications	3	2
LH1	Campus newspapers	0	0
LH1	Student magazines	1	1
LH1	Alumni Magazines	1	1
LJ	Directories, yearbooks and substantial publications	3	3

Textbooks

(These appear across LC classes.)

The Library acquires commercially published textbooks only.

Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
Syllabi, study guides, workbooks, answer books, teacher's manuals, laboratory manuals, lessons from correspondence schools	0	0

Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
Programmed instructional materials	1	1
Audiovisual and computer file materials	1	1

Examinations

(These appear across LC classes.)

Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
Compilations of standard examinations	1	0
Single tests	0	0

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