

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTIONS POLICY STATEMENTS

Political Science (Classes J-JZ and Z7161-Z7164)

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I. Scope

Definitions of political science vary. However, the *Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Political Science* covers the field comprehensively by describing the subject area as “an academic discipline which seeks to systematically describe, analyse and explain the operations of government institutions and overtly political organizations.”

Political science is frequently divided into the following fields: political theory and philosophy, comparative government, U.S. government and politics, public administration, international relations, and political behavior.

The Library of Congress Classification System enumerates political science topics in Classes J through JZ as follows:

- JC (political theory)
- JF through JQ (political institutions and public administration in the United States and the rest of the world)
- JS (local government)
- JV (colonies, colonization, emigration, immigration, and internal migration) JZ (international relations)

In addition to the classes listed above, political science also includes many topics variously classed in history (Classes D, E, and F, under such subheadings as political history, diplomatic history, etc.), sociology (Class HX, socialism, communism and utopianism), state and local history, and law. Bibliographies on political science topics are classed in Z7161-Z7164.

Publications of international organizations such as the United Nations, Organization of American States, European Union, and others are treated in the [International Organizations Collections Policy Statement](#).

The policies regarding the acquisition of U.S. and non-U.S. government documents, such as those classed in Subclasses J and JS1-JS37, are provided respectively in [Government Publications—United States](#) and [Government Publications—Non-U.S.](#)

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 political science collections of the Library of Congress are extensive. The collection dealing with the study of U.S. political science is by far the largest national collection of its kind. The Library has considerable holdings of works on political science from all over the world, as well as collections of non-U.S. official documents at both national and subnational levels, and serves as a depository for many international organizations, including, especially, the United Nations and its many affiliates. The scope of these various collections is both broad and deep; their coverage is historical as well as current. They fall into a wide range of classes within the Library's classifications system, a fact which researchers must bear in mind.

Among the collections on U.S. political science, those of U.S. government documents, particularly those issued by the Congress, are virtually exhaustive and held in long historical runs. Collections of congressional hearings in the Main Reading Room complement the collections in the Law Library and the Federal documents depository (Serial and Government Publications Division), as well as those of commercially published microform collections.

Valuable materials on U. S. political science exist in many of the specialized collections within the Library. The Manuscript Division has custody of the papers of twenty-three U.S. presidents, the papers

of more than nine hundred past and present members of Congress, and many Supreme Court Justices. The Rare Book and Special Collections Division has several collections dealing with U.S. presidents. The Prints and Photographs Division houses relevant collections such as the Washington Press-Photo Bureau (government officials); photographic collections of the New York World-Telegram & Sun, and Look Magazine; and the Brady-Handy collections (members of Congress). Recordings of well-known U.S. political figures exist in the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center.

The Library's General Collections in the field of international relations are very extensive. Notable special collections include the Manuscript Division's holdings of the papers of many individuals who served as Secretary of State from the first Secretary, Thomas Jefferson, to Alexander Haig to Madeleine Albright; the Serial and Government Publications Division's United Nations depository materials; and other relevant collections in the Researcher & Reference Services Division's Microform and Electronic Resources Center.

IV. Collecting Policy

Domestic works in the field of political science are collected at level 5 (comprehensive) and non-U.S. works are collected at level 4 (research level). Comparable electronic materials are collected at the same levels. The Library collects all the important current reference works, monographs and serials in all languages in the field of political science. The Library acquires subject bibliographies and other research-level general works and collections. These include periodicals, yearbooks, encyclopedias, the publications of societies and congresses, treatises, works on the theory, method, scope and history of political science, works related to the study and teaching of political science, and biographies of authorities in the field.

Political science materials are acquired in all formats, e.g., monographs (dictionaries, indexes, abstracts, encyclopedias, bibliographies, textbooks), periodicals (journals, magazines, newspapers), serials (proceedings, annuals, scholarly series), maps, electronic resources (online databases, tangible media), video and audio recordings, microforms (microfilm, microfiche), dissertations (microfiche), and government documents. Through a variety of means, the Library also collects current works on U.S. political science that exist only in electronic format. These include, but are not limited to, the archiving of web sites, and the purchase of serials, monographs and databases published only in digital form, all of which are increasingly integral to the practice of political science scholarship. (For some guidelines pertinent to the collection of materials from the Internet, see the [Web Archiving Supplementary Guidelines](#).)

The Library acquires the following categories of publications at Level 4: U.S. textbooks on political science written for college use, texts published in the U.S. on the methodology of teaching political science below the college level, and non-fiction juvenile titles dealing with U.S.- related political science topics. The Library also collects at Level 3, instructional support level, elementary and secondary school textbooks on U.S. government in order to document changing approaches to presenting the subject to students below the college level in the United States. The Library collects non-U.S. textbooks on political science on a highly selective basis, primarily as examples of significant trends in teaching methods, ideological doctrine, etc.

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

The mandatory copyright deposit law has been the primary means by which the Library has built the U.S. political science collection. The other basic methods of acquisitions, i.e., exchange, gift, purchase, federal transfer, and (more recently) Cataloging in Publication, have also been significant sources contributing to the strength of our collections. Materials selected for the Library from the items which are submitted for copyright registration have given the collection its richness and wide scope. The Copyright Best Edition statement provides guidance for selecting materials for the U.S. political science collection. As the internet evolves, the way users and organizations disseminate information is also changing. Methods to capture, collect, and store these new forms of communication media will also need to evolve. Data from new communications technologies that are available only in born digital formats will become essential to political science research.

Techniques to explore, gather and evaluate this type of information need to be developed. As the information needs of Congress change, the manner and formats in which resources are acquired for the political science collection will need to be incorporated into this collecting policy. Developing collaborative relationships and sharing digital resources with other institutions will expand and enhance access to the political science collection.

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/acq/devpol/cpc.html>.

(Classes J, JA, JC, JF, JJ-JL, JN, JQ, JS, JV, JZ and Z7161-Z7164)

The following list is arranged according to the major subclasses of JC, JF, JK, JL-JQ, JS, JV, JZ and Z7161-Z7164.

Subclass J: General Legislative and Executive Papers

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
J80-87	United States	5	4
J80-82	Presidents' messages and other executive papers	5	4
J100-981	Other regions and countries	4	4

Subclass JA: Political Science (General)

The Library maintains a research level collection (level 5) of current general works and collections in the field of political science. These include periodicals, yearbooks, encyclopedias, the publications of societies and congresses, treatises, works on theory, method, scope and history of political science, works related to the study and teaching of political science, and biographies of authorities in the field.

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JA1-26	Periodicals	5	4
JA27-34	Societies	5	4
JA35.5	Congresses	5	4
JA60-64	Dictionaries and encyclopedias	5	4
JA71-80	Theory. Relations to other subjects	5	4
JA81-84	History	5	4
JA86-88	Study and teaching. Research	5	4
JA92	Collective biography of political scientists	5	4

Subclass JC: Political Theory. The State. Theories of the State

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JC47	Oriental state	5	4
JC49	Islamic state	5	4
JC51-93	Ancient state	5	3
JC109-121	Medieval state	5	3
JC131-273	Modern state	5	4
JC177-178	Thomas Paine	5	4
JC311-314	Nationalism. Nation state	5	4
JC319-323	Political geography	5	4
JC327	Sovereignty	5	4
JC328.2	Consensus. Consent of the governed	5	4
JC328.6-.65	Violence. Political violence	5	4
JC329	Patriotism	5	4
JC345-347	Symbolism	5	4
JC348-497	Forms of the state	5	4
JC571-605	Purpose, functions, and relations of the state	5	4

Subclass JF: Political Institutions and Public Administration

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JF20-1177	General. Comparative government	5	4
JF51-56	General works. History	5	4
JF225-619	Organs and functions of government	5	4
JF251-289	Executive. Heads of state	5	4
JF331-341	Parliamentary government	5	4
JF491-619	Legislation. Legislative process. Law-making	5	4
JF799-1177	Political rights. Political participation	5	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JF1338-2112	Public administration	5	4
JF1501-1521	Civil service	5	4
JF2011-2112	Political parties	5	4

Subclass JJ: Political Institutions and Public Administration (North America)

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JJ1000-1019	Political institutions and public administration (North America)	5	4

Subclass JK: Political Institutions and Public Administration (United States)

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JK1-9593	United States	5	4
JK404-1685	Government. Public administration	5	4
JK501-868	Executive branch	5	4
JK631-868	Civil Service. Departments and agencies	5	4
JK1012-1432	Congress. Legislative branch	5	4
JK1154-1276	Senate	5	4
JK1308-1432	House of Representatives	5	4
JK1606-1683	Capital. Public buildings. Government property. Government purchasing	5	4
JK1717-2217	Political rights. Practical politics	5	4
JK1758-1761	Citizenship	5	4
JK1846-1929	Suffrage	5	4
JK1965-2217	Electoral system	5	4
JK2255-2391	Political parties	5	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JK2403-9593	State government	5	4
JK9663-9993	Confederate States of America	5	4

Subclass JL, JN, JQ: Constitutional History and Administration of Non-U.S. Countries

In general, the Library seeks to maintain a research-level collection of current reference works, monographs and serials on the constitutional history and administration of non-U.S. countries. The Library aims, however, for coverage at the high end of level 4 for current histories and treaties on non-U.S. judiciaries and current works on laws and legislation concerning political rights (citizenship, voting, etc.). Popular and minor works on political rights are acquired selectively. The Library acquires a copy of each country's current official constitution.

Subclass JL: Political Institutions and Public Administration (Canada, Latin America, etc.)

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JL1-500	Canada	5	4
JL599.5-839	West Indies. Caribbean Area	5	4
JL1200-1299	Mexico	5	4
JL1400-1679	Central America	5	4
JL1850-3899	South America	5	4

Subclass JN: Political Institutions and Public Administration (Europe)

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JN1-97	General	5	4
JN101-1371	Great Britain	5	4
JN1187-1371	Scotland	5	4
JN1395-1571.5	Ireland	5	4
JN1601-2191	Austria-Hungary. Austria. Hungary	5	4
JN2210-2229	Czech Republic. Czechoslovakia	5	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JN2240	Slovakia	5	4
JN2301-3007	France	5	4
JN3201-4944	Germany	5	4
JN5001-5191	Greece	5	4
JN5201-5690	Italy	5	4
JN5701-5999	Netherlands	5	4
JN6101-6371	Belgium	5	4
JN6500-6598	Soviet Union. Russia. Former Soviet Republics	5	4
JN6615	Estonia	5	4
JN6630-6639	Ukraine	5	4
JN6640-6649	Belarus	5	4
JN6680-6689	Moldova	5	4
JN6690-6699	Russia (Federation)	5	4
JN6730-6739	Latvia	5	4
JN6745	Lithuania	5	4
JN6750-6769	Poland	5	4
JN7011-7066	Scandinavia. Northern Europe	5	4
JN7101-7367	Denmark	5	4
JN7370-7379	Greenland	5	4
JN7380-7389	Iceland	5	4
JN7390-7399	Finland	5	4
JN7401-7695	Norway	5	4
JN7721-7995	Sweden	5	4
JN8101-8399	Spain	5	4
JN8423-8661	Portugal	5	4
JN8701-9599	Switzerland	5	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JN9600-9689	Balkan States	5	4

Subclass JQ: Political Institutions and Public Administration (Asia, Africa, Australia, Pacific Area, etc.)

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JQ21-1852	Asia	5	4
JQ200-620	India	5	4
JQ1070-1199	Central Asia Including former republics of the Soviet Union	5	4
JQ1499-1749	East Asia Including China, Japan, Korea	5	4
JQ1758-1852	Middle East Including Turkey, Iran, Israel, Arabian Peninsula	5	4
JQ1850	Arab countries	5	4
JQ1852	Islamic countries	5	4
JQ1870-3981	Africa	5	4
JQ3981.5-3986.7	Atlantic Ocean islands	5	4
JQ3995-6651	Australia. New Zealand. Pacific Ocean islands	5	4

Subclass JS: Local Government. Municipal Government

Although non-U.S. publications in this subclass are generally collected at level 3, publications from national capital cities and those cities of widespread international importance may be collected at level 4.

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JS55-68	History	5	3
JS141-163	Executive branch. Mayor	5	3
JS171	Legislative branch	5	3
JS221-227	Elections. Local elections. Municipal elections	5	3
JS241-271	Local government other than municipal	5	3

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JS300-1583	United States	5	3
JS1701-1800	Canada	5	3
JS1840-2058.9	West Indies. Caribbean Area	5	3
JS2101-2143	Mexico	5	3
JS2145-2219	Central America	5	3
JS2300-2778	South America	5	3
JS3000-6949.89	Europe	5	3
JS6950-7520	Asia	5	3
JS7510	Arab countries	5	3
JS7520	Islamic countries	5	3
JS7525-7819.9	Africa	5	3
JS7820-7827.9	Atlantic Ocean islands	5	3
JS7900-7906.9	Indian Ocean islands	5	3
JS8001-8490.9	Australia. New Zealand. Pacific Ocean islands	5	3

Subclass JV: Colonies and Colonization. Emigration and Immigration. International Migration

The Library maintains a research-level collection of current materials on colonization and the colonial history of particular nations. The Library acquires selectively (level 3) retrospective materials on colonization and the colonial history of individual countries. Laws relating to colonization, including international and comparative codes, compilations and legal periodicals on the subject, are acquired at the high end of the research level (level 4).

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JV1-5397	Colonies and colonization	4	4
JV1-9	Periodicals. Serials	4	4
JV10-19	Societies	4	4
JV61-152	History	4	4
JV412-461	Administration	4	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JV500-5397	Colonizing nations	4	4
JV6001-9480	Emigration and immigration. International migration	4	4
JV6001-6006	Periodicals. Serials	4	4
JV6021-6033	History	4	4
JV6091-6124	Emigration	4	4
JV6201-6347	Immigration	4	4
JV6403-7127	United States	4	4
JV7200-7539	Canada, Latin America, etc.	4	4
JV7590-8339.7	Europe	4	4
JV8490-8758	Asia	4	4
JV8760	Arab countries	4	4
JV8762	Islamic countries	4	4
JV8790-9024.5	Africa	4	4
JV9029-9036	Atlantic Ocean islands	4	4
JV9040-9047	Indian Ocean islands	4	4
JV9100-9269	Australia. New Zealand	4	4
JV9290-9470	Pacific Ocean islands	4	4

Subclass JZ: International Relations

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JZ5.5-18	Periodicals	5	4
JZ24-38	Societies, associations, academies, institutes, etc., for the study of international relations	5	4
JZ63-1153	Sources	5	4
JZ221-1153	By region or country	5	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
JZ1249-1254	Relation to other disciplines and topics	5	4
JZ1305-2060	Scope of international relations. Political theory. Diplomacy	5	4
JZ1329.5-1395	By period	5	4
JZ1400-1454	Diplomatic and consular service	5	4
JZ1464-2060	Scope of international relations with regard to countries, territories, regions, etc.	5	4
JZ3674-3875	State territory and its parts	5	4
JZ3685	Boundaries	5	4
JZ3686-3875	International waters	5	4
JZ4835-5490	International organizations and associations	5	4
JZ4841-4848	Political non-governmental organizations. NGOs	5	4
JZ4850-5490	Intergovernmental organizations. IGOs	5	4
JZ4853-4934	League of Nations	5	4
JZ4935-5160	United Nations	5	4
JZ5511.2-6300	Promotion of peace. Peaceful change	5	4
JZ5514-5526	Societies, associations, academies, institutes, etc., for peace promotion, research and education	5	4
JZ5527-5532	Congresses and conferences	5	4
JZ5587-6009	International security. Disarmament. Global survival	5	4
JZ6010-6060	Pacific settlement of international disputes	5	4
JZ6360-6377	Non-military coercion	5	4
JZ6385-6405	The armed conflict. War and order	5	4
JZ6422-6422.5	Neutrality. Non-participation in wars. Norms of neutrality	5	4
JZ6530	Humanitarian aspects of war	5	4

Electronic Resources

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
Electronic Resources	All content areas commensurate with the classes above	5	4

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