

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTIONS POLICY STATEMENTS

Sociology (Classes HM, HN, HQ, HS, HT, HV, HX, Z5703, and Z7161-Z7166)

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I. Scope

Sociology, the study of human social behavior, is defined by subclasses HM through HX, components of class H (Social Sciences) in the Library of Congress classification system. In broad terms, these subclasses cover:

HM	Sociology (General)
HN	Social history and conditions. Social problems. Social reform HQ The Family. Marriage. Women
HS	Societies: secret, benevolent, etc.
HT	Communities. Classes. Races
HV	Social pathology. Social and public welfare. Criminology HX Socialism. Communism. Anarchism
Z5703	Subject Bibliography: Criminology
Z161-7166	Parts dealing with Subject bibliography: Political and Social Sciences

The applications and relationships of sociology to a specific subjects are generally classed with that subject, e.g., the sociology of religion classes in BL and the sociology of medicine in RA. Much of sociological research and study are interdisciplinary and may be found in subclass H (general social sciences).

Given the structure of the LC classification system, this Collections Policy Statement (CPS) considers sociology primarily as treated in subclasses HM-HX, Z5703, and relevant parts of Z7161- 7166. Sociological materials in other classes are out of scope for purposes of defining collecting levels for sociology in part VI of this document.

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 sheer size and historical nature of LC's collections have ensured the development of great strength in all areas of sociology with respect to both general and theoretical sociology and their specific subfields, to both academic and popular sociology, and to both current and historical materials. The collections are particularly strong for titles published within and about the United States. In general, the Library's holdings of Non-U.S. titles in sociology are not as extensive as its holdings of U.S. imprints; this is especially true for non-U.S. serial titles. In subclass HV, the collections of U.S. government documents are notable. The strength of the historical materials provides good documentation of early social research programs both in the U.S. and Europe. The Manuscript Division has the papers of eminent sociologists, including Amitai Etzioni, James Wyche Green, Seymour Martin Lipset, Daniel P. Moynihan, Robert Staughton Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd, and Robert A. Nisbet. The Prints and Photographs Division has many items relevant to sociology, such as the National Child Labor Committee collection. There are numerous sociology-related Web Archive collections, including Public Policy Topics, Web Cultures, Women's and Gender Studies, Zine, Executive Branch Federal Government, and State Government Websites. The Library subscribes to twenty databases relevant to sociology, according to the Electronic Resources Online Catalog. These databases provide access to many types of sources, including scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles, reports, working papers, theses, dissertations, data, and statistics.

Closely related material is also found in subclasses BJ (ethics), BF (psychology), GN (anthropology), GT (Manners and Customs), HA (statistics), HB (demography), JF (political institutions and public administration), JZ (international relations) and P (communication and linguistics, including sociolinguistics), and other subclasses. For information on collecting in these overlapping areas, see the Library's Collections Policy Statements for [Anthropology, Archaeology, and Ethnology](#), [Economics and Business](#), [Philosophy](#), [Psychology](#), [Political Science](#), and [Literature and Language](#).

IV. Collecting Policy

The Library will continue to acquire the majority of sociology materials at level 4 (research level), with some popular works acquired at level 3. The Library attempts to acquire all current works of scholarship as well as retrospective publications needed to fill in gaps or strengthen the collections. The Library acquires all substantial subject bibliographies and other reference works on sociology and its subfields. With regard to textbooks of sociology, the Library collects at a high research level college textbooks published in the United States; non-U.S. textbooks are selectively added to the collections. Secondary and primary school textbooks are rarely acquired; however, a strong representative selection of juvenile titles on specific social topics and problems is collected. Formats selected shall accord with the Copyright Best Edition statement.

Sociological materials are acquired across formats, including but not limited to print, microforms, electronic resources, and digital materials. Digital materials from U.S. and non-U.S. government agencies, academic and professional associations, social service and public policy institutions, and social change organizations and movements are of particular research value. Innovations in technology and the often impermanent nature of web-based information require increased attention to and monitoring of Library acquisitions and archiving of electronic resources and digital materials. The Library will continue to add sociology-related websites to the Library's Web Archive.

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 and web archiving, see the following Supplementary Guidelines: <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/electronicresources.pdf> , <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/webarchive.pdf>, <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/opencontent.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 or gift. 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.

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.

The following tables are arranged according to the major subclasses of HM, HN, HQ, HS, HT, HV, HX, and Z5300 and Z7161-7166 of the Library of Congress Classification Schedules. For a complete definition of these levels, see "Collecting Levels," on the Library's Collection Development web site: <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/cpc.html>.

Sociology

The numbers HM1-HM299 were used by the Library of Congress until January 1999. After that date, they were replaced by a revised subclass HM that begins at HM401. The numbers HM1-HM299 are currently used only to class new continuations of serials that are already classified in those numbers.

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
(HM1-HM299)	In January 1999, HM1-HM299 were replaced by a revised subclass HM that begins at HM401. HM1-HM299 are currently used only to class new continuations of serials that are already classed in those numbers. Historically, the collecting level was 4.	4	0
HM401-HM421	Periodicals, societies, congresses	4	4
HM425	Dictionaries and encyclopedias	4	4
HM435-HM477	History	4	4
HM481-HM554	Theory, method, relations to other subjects	4	4
HM571-HM578	Study and teaching, research	3	3
HM585-HM606	General works, treatises, advanced textbooks	4	4 Textbooks 3
HM621-HM656	Culture	4	4
HM661-HM696	Social control	4	4
HM711-HM806	Groups and organizations	4	4
HM831-HM901	Social change	4	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HM1001- HM1281	Social psychology	4	4

Social history and conditions, social problems and reform

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HN1-HN3	Periodicals, societies, congresses	4	4
HN8-HN19	History (includes social reform literature)	4	4
HN25	Social statistics and indicators, quality of life	4	4
HN29	Study and teaching, research	3	3
HN30-HN40	The Church and social problems	4	4
HN41-HN46	Community centers	4	4
HN49	Special topics	4	4
HN51-HN90	United States	4	
HN101-HN995	Other countries and regions	4	4

Sexual life

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HQ12-HQ18	History and customs	4	4
HQ19-HQ30.7	Sexual behavior and attitudes, sexuality	4	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HQ31-HQ64	Sex education and sexual ethics Textbooks and instructional materials	4	4 3
HQ73-HQ77.95	Sexual minorities, including homosexuality and lesbianism	See LGBTQIA+ Studies Collections Policy Statement	
HQ101-HQ440.9	Prostitution	4	4

Marriage and the family, age groups

The Library acquires at Level 5 current materials on birth control, abortion, the elderly, and death and dying which are written from a sociological perspective. Since the National Library of Medicine comprehensively acquires current materials on these subjects written from a medical perspective, the Library of Congress limits its acquisition of such materials to basic current reference works, monographs and serials at Level 3. For more information on the Library's policies concerning the acquisition of medical materials, consult the [Medicine Collections Policy Statement](#).

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HQ503-HQ727.9	History	4	4
HQ728-HQ743	Treatises	4	4
HQ745-HQ746	Wedding ceremonies, forms, etc.	3	3
HQ750-HQ755.5	Eugenics	4	4
HQ755.7-HQ759.92	Parenthood, parenting	4	4
HQ760-HQ767.7	Family size, family planning and birth control; abortion	4	4
HQ767.8-HQ792.2	Children, child development	4	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HQ793-HQ799.2	Adolescents	4	4
HQ801	Courtship and dating	4	4
HQ811-HQ960.7	Divorce	4	4
HQ961-HQ997.5	Free love, polygamy and polyandry	4	4
HQ998-HQ999	Illegitimacy and unwed mothers	4	4
HQ1001-HQ1043	The State and marriage	4	4
HQ1051-HQ1057	The Church and marriage	4	4
HQ1058	Widows and widowers	4	4
HQ1059.4- HQ1059.5	Middle age	4	4
HQ1060-HQ1064	Old age, social gerontology, retirement	4	4
HQ1073-HQ1073.5	Death and dying	4	4
HQ1088-HQ1090.7	Men	4	4
HQ800	Single men and women	4	4

Women, feminism, and women's studies.

For HQ1101-HQ2030.7 please see the Women's & Gender Studies CPS.

Life and coping skills, life style.

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HQ2035-HQ2039	Life and coping skills Popular works	4 3	3
HQ2042-HQ2044	Life style Popular works	4 3	3

Secret and other societies, associations and clubs (HS)

The Library seeks to maintain a Level 4 collection of current materials about the sociology of societies, associations and clubs. In general the Library acquires published materials of and about specific political, cultural, philanthropic, benevolent, professional, scientific, business, labor, religious, racial, ethnic, fraternal and secret societies at the national level only. For more information about the Library's acquisitions policies concerning these materials, consult the [Societies and Associations Collections Policy Statement](#).

NOTE: The Library does not normally acquire the unpublished records or papers of organizations, including those of the types of bodies just listed. See the [Manuscripts Collections Policy Statement](#).

Urban and rural sociology, social classes, and race (general)

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HT51-HT65	Communities (periodicals, societies, general works, etc.)	4	4
HT101-HT395	Urban sociology, urban studies	4	4
IHT111-HT150	History	4	4
HT165.5-HT169.9	City planning (social, economic and political aspects)	4	4
HT170-HT178	Urban renewal and redevelopment	4	4
HT241-HT243	Urban ecology	4	4
HT361-HT384	Urbanization	4	4
HT390-HT395	Regional planning (social aspects)	4	4
HT401-HT485	Rural sociology	4	4
HT601-HT815	Social classes (except slavery)	4	4
HT851-HT1444	Slavery, slave trade, and abolition (except U.S.), general and other countries	4	4
HT1501-HT1595	Races and relations in general	4	4

Social work, charities, and public welfare

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HV1-HV8	Periodicals, directories, societies, etc.	4	4
HV16-HV25	History of philanthropy	4	4
HV40-HV69	Social work, social service, charity organization and practice	4	4
HV70-HV75	Charities and government policy	4	4
HV85-HV520.7	By region or country	4	4
HV551.2-HV639	Emergency management and disaster relief	4	4
HV640-HV645	Refugee relief	4	4
HV650-HV670	Life saving	4	4
HV675-HV677	Accidents and accident prevention	4	4
HV697-HV4630.9	Protection, assistance and relief by special classes (e.g., women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, homeless, immigrants, etc.)	4	4
HV4701-HV4959	Animal welfare and animal rights	4	4

Social pathologies and criminology

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HV4961-HV4995	Social degeneration (primarily older titles), addictions Current titles on addictions	3 4	3 4
HV4997-HV5000	Substance abuse	4	4

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HV5001-HV5722	Alcoholism and temperance reform treatment	4 3	4 3
HV5725-HV5770	Tobacco use treatment	4 3	4 3
HV5800-HV5840	Drug habit, drug abuse treatment	4 3	4 3
HV6001-HV6249	Criminology (general works)	4	4
HV6250-HV6250.4	Victims of crime, victimology	4	4
HV6251-HV6773.55	Crimes and offenses (includes many specific categories of crimes)	4	4
HV6430-HV6433.8	Terrorism	4	4
HV6774-HV7220.7	Crimes and criminals, by country	4	4
HV7231-HV7431	Criminal justice administration (general works)	4	4
HV7435-HV7439	Gun control	4	4
HV7551-HV8291	Police and police science, detectives	4	4
HV8301-HVHV9960	Penology, prisons, corrections	4	4
HV9051-HV9230.9	Juvenile offenders, juvenile delinquency	4	4

NOTE: Since the National Library of Medicine comprehensively acquires current materials on the medical treatment of substance abuse and addiction, the Library of Congress restricts its acquisitions in these areas to the basic current reference works, monographs and serials at Level 3.

Socialism, Communism, Utopias, and Anarchism

Communism and socialism in a specific country may class with the history of that country.

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
HX1-HX970.7	General works, history, and works dealing specifically with socialism, communism, utopias, and anarchism	4	4

Subject Bibliography

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
Z5703	Criminology	4	4
Z7161-Z7166	Political and social sciences: includes general sociology and specific sociological topics or subfields not covered elsewhere	4	4

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