

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTIONS POLICY STATEMENTS

Sports, Recreation, and Leisure

Classes GV (except GV1580-GV1799.4), and sections of SF, SH, SK and Z

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I. Scope

This Collections Policy Statement (CPS) covers amateur, competitive, and professional sports, as well as recreation and leisure studies. These subjects fall under Subclass GV (except GV1570-GV1799, Dance) and portions of Class S. This includes GV subjects on individual and team sports, physical education, leisure activities and hobbies, games (including tabletop games and video games), amusements, and the circus, 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 and the sporting goods industry, fencing, yachting, automobile racing, the design and construction of sports venues, and sports journalism. While works written about video games, video game culture, and the video game industry are covered by this CPS, the collection of physical and electronic video games, including gaming hardware and software, is covered by the [Moving Image Materials](#) CPS.

Other Collections Policy Statements that address sports and leisure activities not in scope for this CPS include:

- [Law](#) (sports law)
- [Medicine](#) (sports medicine; beauty culture and exercise for health)
- [Geography and Cartography](#) (travel)
- [Agriculture](#) (gardening)
- [Numismatics and Philately](#)

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 of Congress has outstanding research collections in the areas of sports and recreation which support research in individual sports and in the area of sport and society. 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*.

In addition to monographs and bound serials, the holdings on microform are considerable and include dissertations, copies of several important serials, the *ERIC* collection (unpublished reports on education, which includes 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 including *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*, the *American Periodicals Series*, the *Sports Industry History Database* (archive of the first sporting good trade newspaper in Japan) and the *Sports Illustrated Magazine Archive* greatly enhance this resource.

Custodial divisions with notable holdings include the American Folklife Center, Prints & Photographs, the National Audiovisual Conservation Center, and, to a lesser extent, Music, Manuscript, Rare Book and Special Collections, the Law Library, and the area studies divisions. Many of these divisions make available digital collections focused on sports and leisure activities. Examples include *America at Work*, *America at Leisure: Motion Pictures from 1894-1915*, the *Benjamin K. Edwards Collection* (baseball cards), the *Branch Rickey Papers*, and the *Sports Byline* radio series collection. Divisions across the Library also contribute to a growing number of sports and recreation websites included in cross-disciplinary Web Archive collections and standalone Web Archive collections such as the *Winter Olympic Games 2002 Web Archive*.

IV. Collecting Policy

The Library's United States collections are at Level 4 in most areas of sports, recreation, and physical education. They are acquired and retained across a much broader range both by topic and intellectual level than non-U.S. publications, with the notable exception of international competitions. Works relating to the Olympics are collected at Level 5; other games and events in which the United States participates (e.g., Pan American Games, Ryder Cup) at Level 4, and games in which the United States does not participate (e.g., SEA Games, Commonwealth Games) are collected at Level 3. Particular emphasis is placed on the official reports, which are the result of any international competition. The Library's acquisition of non-U.S. publications aimed towards a juvenile audience is governed by the [Children's Literature](#) CPS.

Further guidance includes (note that mentions of sports in items 1 and 2 exclude the individual sports listed in item 3):

1. The Library acquires at Level 4:
 - a. Scholarly serials on the topics of sports, physical education, recreation, games, and leisure, especially those published by societies and associations which are associated with one or more aspects of sport, including sport history, sport psychology, and the sociology of sport, regardless of language or country of origin (see also the [Societies, Associations, and Nongovernmental Organizations](#) CPS).
 - b. Scholarly monographs on the topics of sports, physical education, recreation, and leisure.
 - c. Works addressing the history and the current or future state of official national sport policy of any country.
 - d. Scholarly and popular biographies of nationally renowned sports figures, both athletes and administrators.
 - e. Non-U.S. directories of sports and recreational facilities providing coverage on the national level.
 - f. Works which detail the government funding of sport.
 - g. Statistical works which address sports participation or attendance at sports events.
 - h. Works on the manufacture of sporting goods, including labor practices involved in their manufacture.
 - i. Any works relating to national or international broadcasting of sports events.
 - j. Scholarly monographs and serials in the field of leisure studies.

2. The Library acquires at Level 4 for most U.S. materials and at Level 3 for most international materials:
 - a. Works on individual sports
 - b. Works on individual leagues and teams which compete on the national or international level.
 - c. Non-U.S. directories of sports and recreational facilities which provide coverage on a regional level.
 - d. Publications by or about international governing bodies for individual sports.
3. The Library acquires at Level 3 for most U.S. materials and at Level 2 for most international materials:
 - a. Works on horse sports, angling, and hunting sports
 - b. Works on games and amusements
4. The Library acquires at Level 4 for most U.S. materials and at Level 3 for most international materials:
 - a. Works on circuses, amusement parks, and similar attractions

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, 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.

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>. It should be noted that these collecting levels are aspirational in nature. That is, they are goals for guiding the Library’s collecting policies. Changing resources in, for example, budgets or human capital, may require adjustments in collection building, especially at the comprehensive level (level 5).

Note exceptions in IV. Collecting Policy, item 1, which indicate some types of materials have a Non-U.S. collecting level of 4.

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
GV (except GV1580-GV1799.4)	RECREATION, LEISURE		
GV1	Periodicals and serials	4	3
GV3	Societies	4	3
GV4	Congresses, Collected Works	4	3
GV9	Quiz Books	2	1
GV12	Directories, Museums, Exhibitions, History	4	3
GV15	General Works	4	3
GV17-GV158	Recreation. Leisure—History	4	3

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
GV200	Outdoor Recreation	4	3
GV201-GV557	Physical Education and Training	4	3
GV558-GV1198	Sports	4	3
GV1199-GV1565	Games and Amusements This includes children's games, card playing, board and table games (chess, go), computer games, fantasy games (Dungeons and Dragons), party games, puzzles (crossword, word games), parlor magic, and works about gambling NOTE: tabletop games are not collected; games in book format are collected	3	2
GV1800-GV1860	Circuses, amusements, etc. Includes carnivals, side shows, rodeos, daredevils, amusement parks, and waxworks.	4	3
S	AGRICULTURE		
SF294-SF359	Horse Sports	3	2
SH401-SF691	Angling	3	2
SK (All)	Hunting Sports	3	2
Z	SUBJECT BIBLIOGRAPHIES		
Z7511-Z7516	Sports, Amusements, Recreation	4	3
Z5349.S65	Sports for the Blind	4	3
Z5481	Cards and Card Playing	4	3
Z5541	Chess	4	3
Z5814.P47	Educational Play	4	3
Z5814.R3	Recreation Centers	4	3
Z5906	Fencing and Dueling	4	3

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
Z5971-Z5975	Fishing and Fisheries. Angling	4	3
Z6121	Gymnastics, Physical Education	4	3
Z6123.S65	Sports for the Handicapped	4	3
Z6240	Equestrianism	4	3
Z7631	Swimming	4	3
Z7963.S6	Women in Sports	4	3

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