

# **Subject Level Collection Statement: Chinese**

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**Reviewed:** 27 May 2011

**Minor changes:** 10 February 2014

## ***1. Purpose of the Statement***

The purpose of this statement is to provide a framework to guide the collection development and management activities for the Chinese programme. The statement supports teaching, learning and research activities of the Chinese programme within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

This statement is developed in accordance with the principles outlined in the Library's [Collection Development and Management Policy](#) (CDMP).

## ***2. Description of the Academic Subject***

The Chinese programme offers courses in Chinese language, culture and literature. For a complete list of courses, see the programme's [website](#).

There are currently 3.25 academic staff members teaching in the Chinese programme. In addition, the Chinese government sponsors a 0.75 language teacher position.

The Chinese programme forms part of the School of Languages and Cultures. The Chinese programme offers instruction at all levels, from 100 level to PhD.

## ***3. Focus of the Subject***

The main focus for undergraduate teaching is modern Chinese, as well as contemporary culture and literature. Classical Chinese is also a strength of the school, and is taught from 300 level onwards. This comprises the language itself, as well as literature and translation. In addition, there is a special 300 level course in composition and translation, aimed at native speakers of Chinese.

The research interests of the staff are in Chinese literature (both contemporary and traditional), translation (both contemporary and traditional), traditional Chinese art and architecture, and education in China (both contemporary and traditional). The historical focus of the research is, in the main, from the late imperial period onwards.

Postgraduate focus is on translation of traditional Chinese texts, as well as the Chinese presence in early Otago.

## **4. Overview of the Current Collection**

### **Databases**

The major database for the Chinese programme is the China Academic Journals database, which has proved indispensable. For English language material, existing subject-specific databases, for example Historical Abstracts are used.

Long on the wish-list for the Chinese programme has been the Siku Quanshu, an online database of a famous encyclopaedia of the same name, encompassing over 10,000 manuscripts and 3,461 books, and running to about 2.3 million print pages. The ability to keyword search across this large number of titles has revolutionized China Studies in academic circles overseas.

### **Journals**

The availability of the China Academic Journals database has gone a long way in addressing the need of staff to access Chinese language journal articles. There are two print journals currently subscribed to by the Chinese programme (Modern Chinese literature and culture - PL2303 M689 C, and Renditions - PL2658 E1 R397) – most of the English language journal literature comes from extant subscriptions (e.g. East Asian History, China Quarterly).

### **Audiovisual material**

There is a small amount of audiovisual material collected, mainly in the form of movies. As most movies are foreign language titles / non New Zealand commercial release titles, rating costs are an important consideration.

### **Reference collection**

The reference collection has many of the core language dictionaries necessary for research in Chinese, e.g., the Kangxi dictionary, the Han yu da zi dian (eight volumes), Ci hai, as well as range of modern and classical dictionaries.

### **Books**

While the focus of research is from the late imperial period onwards, it is necessary to collect in all eras and all areas to maintain a well-rounded and useful collection. The Chinese programme also benefits from (and contributes to) collection from other China-oriented disciplines (notably History, Political Science and International Relations, and Religious Studies).

## **5. Collection Development Guidelines**

The primary responsibility for selection lies with the Chinese programme staff, with input from the subject librarian as appropriate.

LC Callmark Range	Subject Area	Current Collection Level	Future Collecting Level
B125-B128	Chinese philosophy	Study	Study
B5230-5234	Chinese philosophy	Study	Study
BL1790-BL1975	Religious studies	Study	Study
DS701-DS799.9	History: China	Study	Research
JS7351-JS7367.9	Political science	Study	Study
JQ1499-1749	Political science	Study	Study
JZ941-JZ970	Political science	Study	Study
PL1001-PL3208	Chinese language and literature	Study	Research

### **5.1 Languages Collected**

Resource material is collected in both English and Chinese.

### **5.2 Geographical Areas Collected**

The broad geographical area of interest is China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan). In addition, New Zealand material where it relates to China is also of interest.

### **5.3 Chronological Periods Collected**

While the focus of research is from the late imperial period onwards (i.e., 1368 onwards), a base of earlier material also needs to be maintained.

### **5.4 Publication Dates**

The collection is focussed on currently published material. However, there is often demand for key older material as well.

### **5.5 Format Guidelines**

Electronic journals are preferred, with print journals are only required if electronic access is unavailable. The purchase of eBooks will be negotiated with academics on a case by case basis.

### **5.6 Budget Guidelines:**

No special budget considerations at present.

## **5.7 Classification Guidelines**

The Library of Congress classification system is used.

## **5.8 Preservation Guidelines**

Chinese programme journals are not bound. Any monographs that are beyond repair should be assessed for re-purchase.

## **5.9 Digitisation Guidelines**

To be developed in 2012.

## ***6. Relegation Statement***

From 2012 the following criteria will apply:

### **Books**

Items which have not been issued within the last 10 years should be relegated to offsite storage.

Any such list should be seen by the Chinese Programme staff first, to make sure key works are not relegated.

Chinese history (DS701-DS799.9) would need to be evaluated in consultation with History, Political Science, and Religious Studies, as they also use this material on a regular basis.

### **Journals**

The two journals currently subscribed to by the Chinese programme are Modern Chinese literature and culture (PL2303 M689 C) and Renditions (PL2658 E1 R397) – as we have these from 2006 onwards only, these should be retained at the Kelburn Library.

The following titles are no longer subscribed to and can be relegated to offsite storage:

- Chinese literature (PJ9 C539)
- Journal of the Chinese Language Teachers Association (PL1001 C539 J)
- CHINOPERL papers (PL2253 C748 C)
- Chung p`ien hsiao shuo hsuan 中篇小说选 (PL2653 C559)
- Wen hsin tiao lung yen chiu 文心雕龙研究 (PL2261 L467)
- San guo yan yi xue kan 三国演义学刊 (PL2690 S194 G)

## ***7. Deselection Statement***

From 2012 the following criteria will apply:

### **Books**

Pre-1970 grammars and dictionaries, as well as duplicate copies and superseded editions, will be considered for deselection, in consultation with the Chinese programme staff.

## **Journals**

There are two titles that we no longer subscribe to, and which are available electronically via the China Academic Journals database. The print copies of these two titles can be deselected:

- Du shu 读书(Z1003.5 C45 D812)
- Wen xue yi chan 文学遗产(PL2250 W467)

## ***Other Guidelines/Considerations***

The 440 volume work Ssu pu ts'ung k'an ch'u pien suo pen (PL2452 S774) is catalogued under its series title only. It would be useful to have this series re-catalogued so that the individual title information is available. At present this information is hidden from a catalogue search.

The main focus for undergraduate teaching is in modern Chinese, as well as contemporary culture and literature. The main thrust of research within the Chinese programme is from the late imperial period onwards.

The Library's monograph collection in the area of China Studies offers a solid foundation for future development. This collection is supported by input from other China-oriented disciplines (notably History, Political Science, and Religious Studies). Ongoing subscription to the China Academic Journals database is essential for staff and post-graduate research.

## ***Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements***

- [History](#)
- [Politics and International Relations](#)
- [Religious Studies](#)