

Subject Level Collection Statement: Classics

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1. Purpose of the Statement

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

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

2. Description of the Academic Subject

Classics was one of the original subjects offered when Victoria opened its doors for the first time in 1899, and the discipline has a history that stretches back to the origins of academia. The Classics programme covers two complete civilisations—Greek and Roman—together with surrounding Mediterranean societies. Between them, the Greeks and Romans exemplify humanity's highest achievements and lowest degradations. Thus, the spectrum of experience offered by the Greeks and Romans can be said to provide a complete education. Moreover, Greek and Roman languages, practices, and traditions form the foundation of Western culture, systems of law and government, and thought. Classics offer the basis for understanding the development of modern Western societies and their interaction with the non-Western world.

Classics students have been engaged in numerous research projects at the MA and PhD levels, including such topics as modern depictions of Amazons, the role of the Furies in Greek tragedy, the use of education to display status at Rome, and the teaching of Classics in modern Germany. Last year, two Classics MA students were granted prestigious Scholarships; Woolf Fisher and Fulbright; to study at Cambridge and Columbia Universities respectively. They join a long line of Victoria Classics graduates who have gone on to post-graduate study at top Universities around the world.

The Classics programme grants the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Arts (Honours), graduate diploma in arts, Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy.

There are currently nine full-time members of the teaching staff and 1209 students, including five PhD students, 13 MA students, and seven honours students.

Further information on the Classics Programme may be found on the Classics [website](#).

3. Focus of the Subject

Major teaching subjects of the Classics programme include Greek art and architecture; drama and theatre, epic, history and historiography, language, mythology, poetry, social history; death in the Greek world; Latin language, Roman art and architecture, epic, drama, history and historiography, mythology, social history; reception of Classics in literature; Aegean art and archaeology; Etruscan art and archaeology.

A particular highlight of the teaching programme is the field trip to Greece which ran annually from 2000-2008 and will run bi-annually from 2010 onward.

The current research focus of Classics programme staff includes warfare, economy, and society in the Greek world; Greek myth, art, and architecture; death in Greek culture; Athenian tragedy, comedy, history, oratory, and culture; Roman architecture, epic poetry and literature, historiography, and social history; sex and gender in the ancient world; Etruscan studies; palaeography; late antiquity; reception of Classics in literature, film, television and popular culture.

Classics staff have a proud record as multiple recipients of teaching awards both at Victoria and nationally. They maintain a strong publication record, particularly in Athenian tragedy, comedy, history, and oratory; Greek military, social, and economic history; Roman historiography, social history, and epic; the reception of Classics in film, television, and popular culture and in New Zealand literature. Developing research strengths include the study of death in the Greek world; late antiquity; sex and gender in ancient world, Etruscan studies, and Roman archaeology. In the last five years, members of the programme have authored books on Greek mercenaries, feasting and revelry in Aristophanes, Aeschylus' Persians, the reception of Classics in film and television as well as a sourcebook on Roman social history. In 2010, the staff were joined by Professor Jeffrey Tatum, an expert on Roman Republican history and literature, who published a book on Julius Caesar in 2008.

4. Overview of the Current Collection

The Classics collection is housed primarily in the Kelburn Library. Other parts of the collection are housed in the Law Library, Architecture and Design Library, and in off-site storage. Items of particular special interest are housed in the JC Beaglehole (Special Materials) Room.

The collection contains over 10,000 titles, including monographs, journals, and special materials. The physical reference collection is housed in the Kelburn library. Useful books for Classics scholars are listed on the Classics subject guide on the library information [page](#).

Databases available to Victoria University Classics scholars are:

- L'Annee Philologique online
- JSTOR
- Project Muse
- Academic OneFile
- ProQuest
- Web of Science Arts & Humanities Citation Index

- British Humanities Index
- Supplementum epigraphicum graecum (SEG)
- WorldCat
- Te Puna

Overall, there has been strong collection in the Classics, and purchasing in most subject areas has been maintained at a steady level. The collection has a strong focus on Greek art, poetry and drama, history and historiography as well as in Roman history, historiography, and literature. The collection warrants more robust collection in Greek and Roman epigraphy and archaeology; Etruscan Art; and late antiquity. In particular it needs more European language monographs to bring it up to international standard in Classics.

5. Collection Development Guidelines

Library resources in all formats are selected primarily by academic staff and the Classics Subject Librarian.

LC Callmark Range	Subject Area	Current Collection Level	Future Collecting Level
B108-B708	Ancient Philosophy	Study	Research
BL300-BL325	Mythology	Study	Research
BL700-BL820	Classical religion and mythology	Study	Research
BR160-BR240	Early history of Christianity	Study	Study
CE21-CE46	Ancient chronography	Study	Basic
CJ201-CJ1400	Ancient numismatics	Study	Research
CN1-CN1100	Ancient epigraphy	Basic	Research
D	History	Research	Research
D51-D90	Ancient History - general	Research	Research
DA145-DA147	Roman Britain	Research	Study
DC62-DC63	Roman Gaul	Study	Study
DE	The Greco-Roman world	Study	Study
DE1-DE15	General	Study	Study
DE27-DE31	Geography	Study	Study
DE46-DE73	Culture and civilization	Study	Study

DE80-DE98	History	Study	Study
DF1-DF500	Ancient Greece (to c. 323 AD)	Research	Research
DF10-DF16	General	Research	Research
DF75-DF135	Civilisation and culture	Research	Research
DF207-DF241	History	Research	Research
DG1-DG399	Ancient Italy, Rome to 476 AD	Research	Research
DG11-DG16	General	Research	Research
DG42-DG70	Local and regional history	Research	Research
DG75-DG190	Civilisation and culture	Research	Research
DG201-DG365	History	Research	Research
DS54.3	Ancient Cyprus	Study	Basic
DS81	Ancient Iraq to 638 AD	Study	Basic
DS96	Ancient Syria, including The Seleucids	Basic	Basic
DS111-DS123	Ancient Israel	Study	Basic
DS275-DS287	Iran to 651 AD	Study	Research
DT57-DT93	Ancient Egypt, including the Ptolemies	Study	Basic
G82-G88	Ancient geography	Basic	Study
G1033	Atlases of the ancient world	Study	Study
GT530-GT580	Ancient dress and costume	Study	Basic
GV17-GV35	Ancient sports and games	Basic	Research
GV573	Ancient sports and games	Basic	Research
HC31-HC39	Ancient economic history	Study	Research
HD132-HD137	Ancient economic history (land)	Basic	Research
HD4844	Labour in the ancient world	Basic	Research

HF355-HF381	History of ancient trade and commerce	Basic	Research
HN9-HN10	Ancient social history	Study	Research
HQ13	Ancient sexuality	Study	Research
HQ505-HQ1012	The family in the ancient world	Basic	Research
HQ1127-HQ1139	Women in the ancient world	Study	Research
HT863	Ancient slavery	Study	Research
JC51-JC93	Ancient political institutions and theory	Study	Research
KJA	Roman Law	Basic	Study
ML162-ML169	Ancient music	Study	Study
N5320-N5899	Fine arts in antiquity	Basic	Basic
NA210-NA340	Ancient architecture	Basic	Study
NA69-NA169	Ancient sculpture	Basic	Study
ND60-ND135	Ancient painting	Basic	Study
NK610-NK685	Ancient decorative arts	Minimal	Minimal
NK1180-NK1250	Ancient decoration and ornament	Minimal	Minimal
NK4645-NK4654	Greek and Roman vases	Study	Research
P901-P1099	Extinct Asian and European languages	Basic	Basic
PA	Classical Philology	Research	Research
PA1-9	Periodicals	Research	Research
PA51-85	History, study, & teaching	Research	Research
PA111-199	Greek & Latin Language	Study	Research
PA201-1179	Greek Philology & Language	Study	Research
PA2001-2995	Latin Philology & Language	Study	Research
PA3000-3049	Classical Literature (in General)	Research	Research

PA3050-5868	Greek Literature	Research	Research
PA6000	Latin Literature	Research	Research
R126-R127	Ancient medical works	Study	Study
R135	History of ancient medicine	Study	Study
T16	Ancient technology	Basic	Study
U29-U35	Warfare in antiquity	Study	Research
Z105-Z115	Palaeography	Basic	Basic
Z7016-Z7030	Bibliography of classical languages and literature	Basic	Study

5.1 Languages Collected

The majority of secondary materials collected are in English; however books and monographs in French, German, Italian, and Spanish are also collected. The Library contains original works in Greek and Latin as well as translations into English, French, and German. Reference materials and other bibliographic resources are collected mainly in English, though French (*L'Année Philologique*, *Lexicon iconographicum mythologiae classicae*) and German reference materials (*Pauly-Wissowa*, *Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft*) are of particular importance.

5.2 Geographical Areas Collected

Included are regions governed or influenced by ancient Greece or Rome.

5.3 Chronological Periods Collected

The chronological periods collected range from the 30th century BCE to the 5th century CE, with the heaviest concentration falling in 5th century BCE to the 5th century CE. Other periods are also included, considering the seminal influence of Greek and Roman literature and culture from Renaissance onward.

5.4 Publication Dates

The emphasis for collection is on current publications, including recent editions of ancient texts, although occasionally key older material may be purchased. Retrospective purchasing is confined mostly to replacing important books which have deteriorated or disappeared. Retrospective collecting may be undertaken to support new teaching and research programmes.

5.5 Format Guidelines

Journals and books in electronic format are both acceptable, though many Classicists prefer books, which are easier to read closely. Out-of-print material and rare books which would be unavailable if not published online are perfectly acceptable.

5.6 Budget Guidelines

Classics primarily purchases from New Zealand, USA and Great Britain, although publications from throughout Europe are also collected. Therefore our buying ability is influenced by currency fluctuations. Future purchasing must be carefully targeted towards publications that strongly support current teaching and research.

5.7 Classification Guidelines

The Library of Congress classification system is used.

5.8 Preservation Guidelines

Classics programme journals are not bound. Any book that is 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:

Journals

The following relegation criteria apply:

- For currently subscribed journals, issues before 1990 can be relegated to storage.
- For those titles that the library no longer subscribes to, the whole run can be relegated to storage.
- Print journals not available electronically (including back issues) or with no perpetual access, the current 10 years will be retained in the Library, issues older than 10 years can be relegated to storage.
- Journals no longer required for research or teaching purposes will be cancelled (in consultation with academics). Cancelled print journals will be moved to storage.

Books

The following books will be retained in the main Library collection:

- Books published or added to the collection within the last 15 years.
- Books used (issued) in the last 10 years irrespective of publication date.
- Books relevant to current research or teaching, seminal and historic works, works on the history of philosophy and books which fill gaps in the existing collection irrespective of publication date.
- Multiple copies of editions (including superseded editions) used for current study or teaching.

The following relegation criteria apply:

- Books published or added to the collection more than 15 years ago and not issued in the last 10 years can be sent to storage.
- Any such list should be seen by the Classics programme staff first, to make sure key works are not relegated.

7. Deselection Statement

From 2012 the following criteria will apply:

Books

The following deselection criteria apply:

- Duplicate material may be considered for deselection, provided that it is not required for current teaching or research.
- Duplicates of superseded editions may be considered for deselection.
- Duplicate copies when usage has fallen or when there is duplication within the collection in other formats, e.g. electronic.
- Superseded editions (NB. retain earlier editions if they provide a useful snapshot of an earlier state of knowledge).
- Worn, badly marked or damaged books (only important titles will be replaced when possible).
- Items used for informational purposes that contain out-of-date, misleading or inaccurate information (unless the inaccuracies shed light on the state of knowledge of a subject at a particular time).
- Items that were purchased to support academic programs or courses but which have not been taught for the previous ten years and which are unlikely to have any future use.

Special care will be made to retain items regardless of usage which fall into the following categories:

- Single copies of different editions of classic or influential works. This includes items that authoritatively capture the state of knowledge of a subject at a particular time
- items authored by academic staff (past or present) and alumni items by local authors
- items related to local history
- items by famous authors including the "classics"
- items which are unique to the collection (i.e. there is little or no information available on the subject elsewhere)
- Items with significant associations (e.g. possess signatures, inscriptions, bookplates etc.)
- original research reports
- primary source material

Journals

The following deselection criteria apply:

- Journals where perpetual access to electronic versions is or becomes available.
- Journals which have been discontinued (over 10 years ago) unless they have a New Zealand origin (in which case they will be retained).

Audiovisual material

The following deselection criteria apply:

- Items that are replicated in more modern or more usable formats (e.g. videos replaced with DVDs).
- Materials in formats requiring obsolete equipment. Academic staff should be given the opportunity to review the list of items selected for deselection.

Other Guidelines/Considerations

A comprehensive subscription review and a book relegation project were carried out in mid-2009.

If access to an e-journal is discontinued (e.g. removed from a package or aggregated database) the library will endeavour to reinstate access.

Some courses require multiple copies of textbooks or recommended readings for teaching purposes. Multiple copies of superseded editions will be retained in the Library collection while their content is still relevant. Location will be negotiated with academics (Closed reserve, 3-day loan, main collection)

Victoria University Press donates two copies of each of its publications to the Library with one copy archived in the JC Beaglehole (Special Materials) Room.

Classics has been a long-standing programme at Victoria. The collection in the Library reflects the programme's longevity and its value to humanities education at Victoria as well as the long history and foundational status of the discipline in the humanities. The collection requires further development to qualify as a research collection. In particular, it needs to order more European-language books and monographs, and it needs to order a wider selection of current Anglophone publications to provide researchers with required materials and to ensure that the Classics teaching programme remains state-of-the-art.

Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements

- Architecture
- [Art History](#)
- [Criminology](#)
- [Cultural Anthropology](#)
- [Engineering and Computer Science](#)
- [English](#)
- [Film](#)
- [History](#)
- Law
- [Museum & Heritage Studies](#)
- [Philosophy](#)
- [Politics and International Relations](#)
- Public Policy
- [Religious Studies](#)
- [Theatre](#)