

Subject Level Collection Statement: Cultural Anthropology

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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 Cultural Anthropology. The statement supports the teaching, learning and research activities of the Cultural Anthropology programme within the School of Social and Cultural Studies.

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

2. Description of the Academic Subject

The 1950s and early 60s saw various recommendations and proposals to establish lectureships in Māori or Anthropology. In 1965 the first courses were taught. Māori was formally separated from Anthropology in 1981.

In 2009 the name of the programme was changed to “Cultural Anthropology” to reflect the programme’s focus.

The programme’s [website](#) provides an overview of the subject as taught at Victoria University.

3. Focus of the Subject

Anthropology is now labelled 'Cultural Anthropology' to make it clear that Victoria teaches cultural and social anthropology and not physical anthropology or archaeology in any depth.

In light of this, current interests include:

- Class and culture
- Ritual
- The family/ kinship
- Ethnicity and ethnic conflict
- Migration
- Identity and inequality
- Social organisation and social change
- Colonialism and cultural change
- Cultural representations of health
- Humanitarianism
- Charity and development
- The history of anthropology
- Psychological anthropology

Ethnographic interest at Victoria University is focused on Pacific and Māori, European and European Settler Societies, along with Asia and Africa.

Undergraduate courses introduce students to a broad range of anthropological ideas and ethnographic examples. Postgraduate courses enable the staff to express more fully their own theoretical and ethnographic research interests, but these are restricted by the funding needed to carry out complex ethnographic research.

Currently members have links with the School with [Sociology](#) and [Social Policy](#) and in other Schools including [History](#), [Geography](#), [Development Studies](#), [Art History](#), and [Psychology](#).

Ethnographic interests entail links with schools concerned with Pacific studies, European Studies, Asian studies and Māori. In addition, there are links with the [Stout Research Centre](#) which is concerned broadly with New Zealand research.

For research areas see the [profiles](#) of individual staff. A full list of papers offered may be found on the School's webpage.

4. Overview of the Current Collection

Anthropology was founded at Victoria in the mid-1960s, and the collection reflects this, although some general books and gifts from Professor Ernest Beaglehole (who while a psychologist at Victoria studied anthropology) are older. The collection has followed the ethnographic research interests and teaching needs of the staff. Databases have opened up greater possibilities and made up somewhat for the lack of historical depth and widened access to journal articles.

Books

Book ordering reflects the teaching and research interests of the department (i.e. ethnographic and theoretical interests of staff) and general books needed to teach a

broadly-based anthropology degree. In the past there has been little teaching in classic African ethnography, so few books were ordered in that area although Africa has become more recently an area of research and teaching interest. Europe, European-derived societies, Asia and Pacific have always been a focus. Medical anthropology has also now become an area of teaching and research focus.

Anthropologists publish extensively in journals, and the writing and publication of ethnographic books has declined. Ethnographic studies and theoretical studies, often closely connected, are printed in the general and regionally specific journal literature.

Electronic Resources

The Library is well placed for secondary source indexing and abstracting tools. In addition to a range of full-text multidisciplinary databases such as [JSTOR](#), the Library subscribes to Anthropology Plus, which has an immediate and obvious anthropology focus. It also subscribes to a number of other anthropology databases providing full text content, notably [Anthrosource](#) (American Anthropological Association) and [eHRAF World Cultures](#) (produced by the Human Relations Area Files [HRAF] at Yale University). [Ethnographic Video Online](#) is another valued resource featuring the work of many of the ethnographic filmmakers of the 20th century.

Journals

Databases have greatly expanded the Library's journal resources and provided historical depth. Largely due to electronic access, the Library has current subscriptions to 37 of the most cited journals for 2015 in the category of Anthropology (ISI Journal Citation Reports impact factors).

AV Resources

Film has become a particularly important resource for the anthropological program for its ability to represent other customs and cultures and for the extensive use made of this medium in visual anthropology. The monograph collection about film is strong (due in part to synergies with Media Studies and Film Studies) but the physical film collection itself is weak, although recent purchases and [Ethnographic Video Online](#) have begun to remedy this.

In addition, the Library is increasingly engaged with online streaming audiovisual and eTV (on-demand recording from Freeview and subscription TV channels) which will make these resources more accessible.

5. Collection Development Guidelines

For general policy refer to [Section 4.3](#) in the CDMP.

Primary responsibility for selection lies with the academic staff in the programme although there is some input from the subject librarian.

[Section 4.5.2](#) in the CDMP.

LC Callmark Range	Subject Area	Current Collection Level	Future Collecting Level
GN1-890	Anthropology	Study	Research
GN49-298	Physical anthropology. Somatology	Basic	Basic
GN51-59	Anthropometry	Basic	Basic
GN62.8-265	Human variation Including growth, physical form, skeleton, nervous system, skin.	Basic	Basic
GN269-279	Race (General)	Basic	Basic
GN280.7	Man as an animal. Simian traits versus human traits	Basic	Basic
GN281-289	Human evolution Fossil man. Human paleontology	Basic	Basic
GN296-296.5	Medical anthropology	Study	Study
GN301-674	Ethnology. Social and cultural anthropology, incl. Methodology – Special Methods – Visual anthropology	Study	Research
GN357-367	Culture and cultural processes Including social change, structuralism, diffusion, etc.	Basic	Research
GN378-396	Collected ethnographies.	Study	Study
GN397-397.7	Applied anthropology	Basic	Study
GN406-517	Cultural traits, customs, and institutions	Basic	Research
GN406-442	Technology. Material culture Including food, shelter, fire, tools.	Study	Study
GN448-450.8	Economic organization. Economic anthropology	Basic	Research
GN451-477.7	Intellectual life, including communication, recreation, philosophy, religion, knowledge.	Basic	Research
GN478-491.7	Social organization	Basic	Research
GN492-495.2	Political organization.	Basic	Research

	Political anthropology		
GN495.4-498	Societal groups, ethnocentrism, diplomacy, ethnic conflict, warfare, refugees, etc	Study	Research
GN502-517	Psychological anthropology	Basic	Study
GN537-674	Ethnic groups and races	Basic	Research
GN550-674	By region or country	Basic	Study
GN550-560	North America	Basic	Study
GN562-564	Central and South America. Latin America	Basic	Study
GN588	Mediterranean region	Basic	Study
GN590	Parts of Asia, Africa, and Oceania (Collectively)	Basic	Research
GN625-635	Asia	Study	Research
GN640	Arab countries	Basic	Study
GN641	Islamic countries	Basic	Study
GN463-661	Africa	Study	Study
GN662-671	Australia and Pacific Islands	Study	Research
GN673	Arctic regions	Basic	Study
GN674	Tropics	Basic	Study
GN700-890	Prehistoric archaeology	Basic	Basic
GR1-950	Folklore	Basic	Basic
GT1-7070	Manners and customs	Basic	Basic
NK4700-4890	Costume and its accessories (Art)	Basic	Basic
M1627-3776	Folk music	Basic	Basic
NK607-608	Folk art	Basic	Basic

5.1 Languages Collected

With the exception of occasional specialties e.g. ethnographic studies, English is preferred.

5.2 Geographical Areas Collected

Ethnographic examples are drawn from New Zealand, the Pacific, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

5.3 Chronological Periods Collected

The focus is on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

5.4 Format Guidelines

Please refer to [sections 4.1\(e\)](#) and [4.3.2](#) in the CDMP.

Books

E-books are the preferred format (especially where copies are expected to be extensively used in undergraduate courses) but print may be bought on a case-by-case basis.

Journals

Electronic journals are the preferred format. Print journals are subscribed to only if electronic access is unavailable.

6. Life-Cycle Management Guidelines

For general policy refer to [section 4.4.1](#) of the CDMP.

Wherever possible, the potential life-cycle of new materials will be considered at the point of acquisition and accessible notes made as to any continuing historical or research value.

6.1 Preservation Guidelines

For general policy on preservation refer to [section 4.4.1](#) in the CDMP.

Careful attention to older classic well-worn texts is necessary. Titles will be assessed for mending or replacement.

6.2 Relegation Statement

For general principles refer to [section 4.1\(b\)](#) in the CDMP and the [Guidelines for Evaluating Print Journals](#).

The following criteria will apply as a general rule:

Journals

- Print journals published in the last 30 years which support current teaching, study or research needs will be retained in the Kelburn Library
- Print journals published before the last 30 years will be held in offsite storage
- Print journals which do not support current teaching, study or research will be relegated to offsite storage
- Print journals no longer required for teaching, study or research purposes will be cancelled (in consultation with academic staff). Other subject areas will be consulted where there is interdisciplinary content.
- Cancelled print subscriptions will remain in off-site storage until deselection is negotiated with academic staff.

Books

Will be retained in the library collection in the following locations:

Kelburn Library:

- Books relevant to current teaching, study and research and which have been issued in the last 10 years.
- Single copies of different editions of classic or influential works.
- Multiple copies of editions (including superseded editions) used for study or teaching.

Offsite Storage:

- Books which are not relevant to current teaching, study or research will be relegated to offsite storage and reviewed for deselection.
- Books which have not been issued in the last 10 years.

6.3 Deselection Statement

For general principles please refer to [section 4.4.3](#) in the CDMP and the [Guidelines for Evaluating Print Journals](#).

In all cases the subject librarian oversees this process, consults where appropriate and makes recommendations to relevant academic staff.

Journals

- Print journals will be deselected where the library has equivalent perpetual electronic access.
- Print journals cancelled because they no longer support research or teaching will be reviewed for deselection. If there is interdisciplinary content other subject areas will be consulted.

Books

Books will be reviewed for deselection according to the following criteria:

- 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 (these will be assessed for replacement as a worn condition may indicate high usage).
- 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).
- Not relevant to teaching or research needs (current or anticipated).
- Items not used in the last 15 years.

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

- Items authored by academic staff (past or present) and alumni

Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements

- [Art History](#)
- [Asian Studies](#)
- [Film](#)
- [Geography, Environmental Studies and Development Studies](#)
- [History](#)
- [Linguistics and Applied Language Studies](#)
- [Media Studies](#)
- [Philosophy](#)
- [Politics and International Relations](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Religious Studies](#)
- [Sociology and Social Policy](#)