

# Subject Level Collection Statement: English

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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 English. The statement supports the teaching, learning and research activities of English 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 School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies (SEFTMS) is made up of four separate programmes. The programmes have close links between them as they share a common focus on the creation and interpretation of texts, whether written, spoken, theatrical, cinematic, televised or electronic.

In 2010 approximately 30 undergraduate courses were offered. There are two major options: English Literature and English Language, which focuses on the development of English. Victoria offers one of New Zealand's widest ranges of courses in English Literature. Courses offered cover a wide range of topics from Old and Middle English to contemporary fiction. Particular new and developing areas are Pacific and indigenous literature, children's literature and new media.

The English programme offers a full range of undergraduate and postgraduate [courses](#).

There are currently 12 academic staff and approximately 20-25 postgraduate students studying English. For more details about the English Literature programme, see the programme's [website](#).

## **Notable relationships with other university institutions**

- The English programme has a strong relationship to the [New Zealand Electronic Text Collection](#). In 2009 the NZETC started a project to electronically publish a number of 19th century New Zealand novels, in conjunction with postgraduate students (ENGL489). The NZETC also has a large number of New Zealand works of prose and verse literature online, plus literary criticism and history.

- [Victoria University Press](#) publishes new fiction and poetry, New Zealand history, biography and essays. English department staff have strong associations with Victoria University Press and often contribute to or edit their publications.
- The [International Institute of Modern Letters](#) teaches the creative writing programme at undergraduate level (through creative writing workshops) and the MA in Creative Writing.

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

The teaching and research foci for Media Studies is as follows:

- 17th century poetry (English, German and Spanish)
- Australian literature
- British Literature and Culture, 1740 – 1850
- Children’s Literature including Children’s Fantasy and Gothic literature and Victorian Children’s literature
- Classical Traditions in English Literature
- Contemporary Fiction
- Creative Non-Fiction
- Cultural Policy for the Knowledge Society
- English Bible and English Literature in Relation to the Bible
- Ethics and Literature
- Graphic novels
- History of the English Language
- History of Print Culture
- Interrelations between literature and new media
- Late Victorian, Edwardian and Modernist literature
- Literary Biography
- Literary Theory (especially minority, feminist, Marxism and postcolonial literary theories), Comparative Methodologies
- Maori, Pacific and Indigenous Writing in English
- Medieval Literature
- Modern fiction
- New Zealand literature, including poetry
- Nineteenth-Century, Colonial and New Zealand Literature
- Old and Middle English Language and Literature
- Postcolonial Literature and politics
- Postcolonial Studies
- Religious poetry
- Renaissance Literature and Literary Theory
- Romanticism
- Scottish literature
- Shakespeare
- Sports Writing
- The Age of Sensibility
- Theory and Practice of Writing
- US Ethnic and Caribbean Literatures

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

### **General Collection Development**

The collection needs to be updated in terms of recent theory and criticism from the leading publishing houses and scholars in each field for the following English undergraduate teaching areas. There is little need for further ordering of primary material.

- Medieval literature
- Renaissance literature
- Shakespeare studies
- Seventeenth century literature
- Eighteenth century literature
- Romantic literature
- Victorian literature
- Children's literature
- Post-colonial literature

The Library should be buying not only critical works but the major works of fiction and poetry published each year for the following areas:

- Twentieth Century and contemporary American literature
- Twentieth Century and contemporary British literature
- New Zealand literature

### **Books**

The English literature monograph collection is held almost exclusively in the Kelburn Library, with some high demand course material on Three Day Loan and Closed Reserve. Within the discipline there is an emphasis on print publishing as monographs, and this is reflected in the robustness of the Library's book collection of English literature primary and secondary sources.

### **E-Books**

There are a small but growing number of e-books, including dissertations from international universities, in the Library's collection. The e-book collection contains many historical works which would otherwise be unavailable for students and researchers. The New Zealand Electronic Text Collection holds a range of historical and contemporary New Zealand and Pacific literature.

### **Reference Collection**

The reference collection is quite broad, although the print reference books are aging and have largely been surpassed by online reference resources. These include Oxford Reference Online, Literature Online, Dictionary of Old English Corpus, Oxford English Dictionary Online, Literary Encyclopaedia, and Eighteenth Century Collections Online.

## **Electronic Resources**

The Library currently subscribes to the following core databases for English Literature: Literature Online (which includes ABELL and MLA), MLA International Bibliography, Early English Books Online and Eighteenth Century Collections Online. Other multidisciplinary databases such as Index New Zealand, Knowledge Basket South Pacific, Informit (Australasian material), ProQuest and Academic OneFile are also used.

## **Journals**

The journal collections in English Literature are comprehensive, and support the teaching and research needs of the programme in most cases. While some journal titles are still available in print, the great majority are available electronically (or print and electronic) via a wide variety of electronic providers. New print subscriptions to journals are rarely added to the collection, although electronic access continues to grow. Perpetuity of access to electronic journals is therefore very important.

It should be noted that English students and academics regularly use journal material from throughout the twentieth century and from well established journals. Therefore any move to electronic provision must guarantee access to articles from the past 40 years.

## **Special Collections**

The Lyell Boyes Collection of popular detective fiction is shelved at PN6120.95. This collection comprises approximately 1500 books, some bound by Boyes in period material. The collection was given to the Library in by Lyell Boyes' widow.

## **JC Beaglehole (Special Materials) Collection**

Rare books in the JCBR include early printed books, scarce and valuable modern printing, New Zealand and Pacific research materials, early New Zealand newspapers, early New Zealand and general periodicals, New Zealand and general pamphlet collections, and printed ephemera. Named collections include the Fildes Collection of New Zealand and Pacific material, Sir Robert Stout Collection, the Seddon Library and the Brancepeth Station Library.

The JCBR is the official repository within the Library of archival material which is used particularly for historical research. Important Literary Archives include:

- Papers of dramatist and critic Bruce Mason which were deposited annually from his Honorary Doctorate award until his death in 1982.
- The James K. Baxter collection of English Dept. lecturer Frank McKay, the poet's biographer.
- The New Zealand Literary Archive Project – an important group of collections established in 1993 in partnership with Independent Newspapers Limited and the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, and continued by the Library. This Project has enabled the Library to collect and preserve the papers of New Zealand writers who have a strong association with the University. The original three contributors, Alistair Te Ariki Campbell, Patricia Grace and Witi Ihimaera were joined in 1995 by Jenny Bornholdt. There are some access restrictions for these collections. A complementary secondary collection of all published work by or about these authors is collected.
- The archives of Creative Writing courses begun by Prof. Bill Manhire and now The International Institute of Modern Letters.

## 5. Collection Development Guidelines

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

LC Callmark Range	Subject Area	Current Collection Level	Future Collecting Level
PN	Literature - general	Research	Research
PR1-PR78	Literary history, criticism	Research	Research
PR161-PR 479	By period, general works	Research	Research
PR500-PR611	Poetry	Research	Research
PR621-PR739	Drama	Research	Research
PR901-PR981	Oratory, diaries, letters, essay, folk literature	Research	Research
PR1098-PR1369	Collections of English literature	Research	Research
PR1490-PR1799	Anglo-Saxon literature	Research	Research
PR1803-PR2165	Anglo-Norman, early English, Middle English	Research	Research
PR2199-PR3195	English Renaissance (1500 – 1640)	Research	Research
PR3291-PR3785	17th and 18th centuries (1640 -1770)	Research	Research
PR3991-PR5990	19th century (1770-1900)	Research	Research
PR6000-PR6076	20th century	Research	Research
PR8309-PR9898	Provincial, local, post-colonial	Research	Research

### 5.1 Languages Collected

English is the only language collected.

### 5.2 Geographical Areas Collected

Literature published from around the English-speaking world is collected, with an emphasis on New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific, Great Britain and North America

### 5.3 Chronological Periods Collected

English papers cover a wide range of time periods from medieval to contemporary, and the collection must be similarly broad in its chronological scope.

### 5.4 Publication Dates

The emphasis is on current publications, although occasionally key older material may be purchased. Retrospective purchasing is confined mostly to replacing important books or to support new teaching and research programmes.

## 5.5 Format Guidelines

Journals in electronic format are acceptable. English literature books are much preferred in print because of the close reading required of the texts. The exception to this being historical out of print material and rare books which would be unavailable if not published in electronic format.

## 5.6 Budget Guidelines

English literature primarily purchases from New Zealand, USA and Great Britain, although publications from throughout the English speaking world are collected. Therefore our buying ability is unavoidably influenced by currency fluctuations. The current focus on New Zealand and Pacific literature will ameliorate this problem to some extent. 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. Resources purchased pre-2010 may be callmarked using the following alternative classification system for English literature outside Britain (titles classified in the range PR9000 - PR 9999).

Classification	Details
PR9080-PR9089	General, including British Commonwealth
PR9090	Europe – general works, history
PR9091	Europe – collections
PR9092	Europe – individual countries, A-Z
PR9093	America – general works, history
PR9094	America – collections
PR9095	America – individual countries, A-Z (except Canada, Bermudas and West Indies)
PR9100-PR9299	Canada
PR9300-PR9318	Bermudas
PR9320-PR9329	West Indies – General
PR9330-PR9339	West Indies - Barbados
PR9340-PR9349	West Indies – Jamaica
PR9360	West Indies – Other, A-Z
PR9395	Oceania – general works, history
PR9396	Oceania – collections
PR9397	Oceania – individual countries, islands A-Z
PR9400-PR9599	Australia
PR9600-PR9699	New Zealand
PR9699.5	Asia – general works
PR9700-PR9796.5	Asia – India
PR9797	Asia – individual countries, islands A-Z

PR9798	Africa – general works, history
PR9799	Africa – collections
PR9800-PR9897	Africa – union of South Africa, including British in Africa (general)
PR9898	Africa – individual countries, islands A-Z

## 5.8 Preservation Guidelines

English Literature books have a long life, and must be kept in a good state of repair, rather than deselected due to damage.

## 5.9 Digitisation Guidelines

To be developed during 2012.

## 6. Relegation Statement

From 2012 the following criteria will apply:

### Books

- In August 2009, low use books (i.e. not issued within the past 10 years) were relegated to compact shelving. This material can be relegated to storage.
- The Lyell Boyes books make up a discrete collection and are not able to be deselected, however they remain peripheral to the Library's collection and their relegation should be explored.

List of items that must be retained in the Kelburn Library:

- Parker Society (Great Britain). The Parker Society for the publication of the works of the fathers and early writers of the reformed English church: publications. Cambridge University Press, 1841-1855. Call Number: BX5133 A1 P.
- Woolton, John, 1535?-1594. The Christian manual: or, Of the life and manners of true Christians. Cambridge University Press, 1851. Call Number: BX5133 A1 P 45.
- Ridley, Nicholas, 1500?-1555. The works of Nicholas Ridley, D.D., sometime Lord Bishop of London, martyr, 1555 /edited for the Parker Society by Henry Christmas. Cambridge University Press, 1841. Call Number: BX5133 A1 P 1.
- Hutchinson, Roger, d.1555. Works. The works of Roger Hutchinson /edited for the Parker Society by John Bruce. Cambridge University Press, 1842. Call Number: BX5133 A1 P 4.
- Cranmer, Thomas, 1489-1556. Writings and disputations of Thomas Cranmer relative to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Edited for the Parker Society by the Rev. Edmund Cox. Cambridge University Press, 1844. Call Number: BX5133 A1 P 12.
- Rogers, Thomas, d. 1616. The catholic doctrine of the Church of England, an exposition of the Thirty-nine articles, by Thomas Rogers. Edited for the Parker society, by the Rev. J. J. S. Perowne. Cambridge University Press, 1854. Call Number: BX5133 A1 P 52.
- Bullinger, Heinrich, 1504-1575. Sermonum decades quinque. Decades duae. English. 1849 The decades of Henry Bullinger the first and second decades /translated by

H.I.; edited for the Parker Society by Thomas Harding. Cambridge University Press, 1849. Call Number: BX5133 A1 P 35.

- Sandys, Edwin, 1516?-1588. The sermons of Edwin Sandys: To which are added some miscellaneous pieces, by the same author. Edited for the Parker society by the Rev. John Ayre. Cambridge University Press, 1841. Call Number: BX5133 A1 P 2.
- Foxe, John, 1516-1587. Acts and monuments of John Foxe /edited by the Rev. Stephen Reed Cattley. R.B. Seeley, 1837-1841. Call Number: BR1607 F795.

## **Journals**

The following relegation criteria apply:

- Issues of print journals prior to 1980 could be relegated to storage.
- Short runs of ceased or cancelled print journals could be relegated to storage.
- Some monographs which have been purchased as a series (for example the Malone Society Reprints) have been classified as journals. Their reclassification and relocation to the main collection or to storage should be explored and will allow them to be borrowed. Further work to identify these series/titles will be carried out over the next two years.
- Print indexes and abstracts which are now shelved with periodicals (for example Abstracts of English Studies 1958 - 1991) should be relocated to storage.
- Some New Zealand periodicals which have had short runs, for example Rimu, Mate, Image, Al dente, Brief, Frontiers may be better housed in with Special Collections in the Beaglehole Room.

## **7. Deselection Statement**

From 2012 the following criteria will apply:

### **Books**

Due to the historical nature of the discipline it is difficult to identify candidates for deselection in English Literature. Publication dates are not a valid criterion for deselection as many primary texts are decades or even centuries old. Secondary literature remains relevant over a very long period of time. Usage statistics are also not a reliable deselection criterion, especially for research level collections: material remains relevant over a very long period of time, and may become crucial for particular research projects or new courses, after periods of dormancy.

- Duplicate material will be considered for deselection, provided that it is not required for current teaching or research.
- Duplicates of superseded editions will be considered for deselection.

### **Journals**

It will be acceptable for print copies of academic journals to be discarded where electronic copies exist, provided that perpetuity of electronic access can be guaranteed. However, there will be some exceptions to this rule where the electronic resource does not replicate the contents of the print issue. In these cases both print and electronic forms will need to be



maintained. Any decisions regarding deselection will be made in consultation with academic staff.

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

English literature has been taught at Victoria for over 100 years. Since this time Library collections have grown to support the changing teaching and research needs of the staff and students. The challenge for the future will be to keep the collection relevant and contemporary while acknowledging the historical importance of the monograph collection.

Keeping the balance between books and journals, print and electronic, just-in-case and just-in-time delivery, teaching and research, and historical and contemporary will be the focus of collection development in the future.

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

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

- [Classics](#)
- [Film](#)
- [History](#)
- [Linguistics and Applied Language Studies](#)
- Maori Studies
- [Media Studies](#)
- Pacific Studies
- [Religious Studies](#)
- [Theatre](#)