

Subject Level Collection Statement: German

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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 German. The statement supports the teaching, learning and research activities of the German 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

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

There are currently three academic staff members teaching in the German Programme. In addition, there is one senior tutor also employed by the German Programme.

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

3. Focus of the Subject

The main focus of the German Programme is on German language, literature and society and culture. The research interests of the staff are in German literature from 1750 to the present, literary translation, the relationship between New Zealand and Germany, German-Jewish culture, migration and exile studies.

4. Overview of the Current Collection

The focus of collection is on both primary texts and secondary sources in German literature from 1750 to the present, as well as German language teaching material.

Strengths of the collection

The collection is particularly strong in primary and secondary literature on more established figures in the German literary canon, especially concerning 20th century writers up to reunification. During his 34 years in the German Programme (to 2005), Peter Russell conscientiously ensured comprehensive coverage of this period. The Thomas Mann collection and the Heinrich Heine collection are particularly strong. In 2007 the Library has secured the most comprehensive historical-critical edition of Heinrich Heine's complete works, the Dusseldorfer Heine-Ausgabe (DHA) edited by Mandred Windfuhr. The years from 1750 to 1900 are also well represented. Peter worked to achieve complete coverage of primary texts by German-language writers of note from 1750. The Library Contestable Fund (of Euro 100,000), won by Monica Tempian in 2008, allowed the German Programme to purchase the complete Deutsche Klassiker Verlag Series.

Weaknesses of the collection

Contemporary (post-reunification) writing and more recent scholarship is not so well represented, with the collection lacking several prominent authors of recent years. For example, Nobel Prize-winning authors Elfriede Jelinek and Herta Müller are only sparsely represented, while acclaimed novels by WG Sebald and Thomas Kehlmann are held only in translation. German-speaking exile writing and scholarship in the area of exile studies is also sparsely represented. These gaps need to be addressed in order to adequately support staff and postgraduate research.

Electronic Resources

There are no specialist databases for the German Programme. Use is made of existing databases, as appropriate (for example, the MLA International Bibliography database).

Journals

There are a dozen journals currently subscribed to for the German Programme. Most of these are in print only, with only a couple available in electronic format.

Audiovisual Material

There is a small amount of audiovisual material collected, mainly in the form of movies. Most movies are foreign language titles or non New Zealand commercial release titles. These movies are held in either Kelburn Library or the [Language Learning Centre](#) (LLC). The LLC also holds a collection of other audiovisual material for language learning (tapes, CDs, DVDs, etc).

Reference collection

The reference collection has a basic level collection of German material, concentrating on language, history, and society.

Books

There are approximately 600 titles in the PF3001-PF5999 (German language) callmark range, and approximately 10,700 titles in the PT1-PT4897 (German literature) callmark range. These are the two most significant collections for the German Programme in the library. The library also provides access to approximately 1,000 eBooks on German-related topics. Lastly,

to put these figures in perspective, there are almost 17,000 titles in the German language in the library (regardless of callmark or location).

5. Collection Development Guidelines

The primary responsibility for selection lies with the German Programme staff.

LC Callmark Range	Subject Area	Current Collection Level	Future Collecting Level
PF3001-PF5999	German language	Study	Study
PT1-PT4897	German literature	Research	Research

5.1 Languages Collected

Resource material is collected in both English and German, and to a lesser extent in French.

5.2 Geographical Areas Collected

The particular geographical area of interest is the German-speaking world, particularly Germany, Austria and Switzerland, with a broader interest in Europe as well. In addition, New Zealand material where it relates to Germany is also of interest.

5.3 Chronological Periods Collected

Research within the Programme focuses on the period from the mid-18th century to the present day.

5.4 Publication Dates

Collection is focused on currently published material, with occasional key older material required.

5.5 Format Guidelines

Electronic journals are the preferred format, with print journals only acquired if electronic access is unavailable. Purchase of eBooks will be negotiated with academics on a case by case basis.

5.6 Budget Guidelines

No budget guidelines to consider at present.

5.7 Classification Guidelines

The Library of Congress classification system is used.

5.8 Preservation Guidelines

German 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 titles should be seen by the German Programme staff first, to make sure key works are not relegated.

Journals

For currently subscribed journals, issues before 1990 can be relegated to offsite storage. For those titles that the library no longer subscribes to, the whole run can be relegated to offsite storage.

7. Deselection Statement

From 2012 the following criteria will apply:

Books

Superseded editions and duplicate titles may be considered for deselection. Deselection will take place in close consultation with German Programme staff.

Journals

Print copies of journals included in owned electronic access (for example, titles in the JSTOR database) can be deselected.

Other Guidelines/Considerations

Over the years the German Programme has built up an extensive monograph collection thanks to the diligent and systematic cultivation of the collection by Programme staff. This represents a substantial and significant resource for scholars in the field of German Studies throughout Australasia, and for this reason it is doubly important not to let the collection decline.