

Subject Level Collection Statement: Theatre

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

Theatre has been taught at Victoria since 1970 (under the name Drama Studies). In the 1990s Film and Theatre was restructured as part of the English Department. Theatre offers a full range of courses from 100-level to PhD. Joint papers are taught with English and Theatre, Film and Theatre, and with Music and Design (John Downie).

Currently there are 11 academic staff members in Theatre. Academics contribute significantly to national and international scholarship in their areas of expertise. It should be noted that academic staff in the Theatre programme not only have research expertise, but have extensive professional experience in playwriting, directing, action, technical production, dramaturgy and criticism. Theatre currently has seven masters and PhD students.

Ongoing research relationships with European theatre academics, notably in Germany (Bronwyn Tweedle) and Belgium (David O'Donnell), plus research links to Pacific Theatre (David O'Donnell).

See the Theatre programme [website](#) for more details.

Masters of Theatre Arts programme

The MTA (Master of Theatre Arts in Directing) is taught jointly with Te Kura Toi Whakaari o Aotearoa: New Zealand Drama School. This course admits six students per year. To support teaching and learning of the staff and students in MTA, Nola Millar Library and Victoria Library developed a reciprocal programme where MTA students may borrow print resources from Nola Millar Library. Toi Whakaari teaching staff involved in MTA may borrow Victoria Library items (excluding online resources and Interloan services).

3. Focus of the Subject

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

- Adaptation and Appropriation, particularly contemporary uses (in drama, film, lit, etc.) of Shakespeare, Chekhov, and other canonical sources
- Canadian drama & theatre
- Comedy and parody
- Community Theatre
- History of spectacle and illusion
- Māori Theatre
- Modern(ist) and Post-modern Drama
- Multi-lingual Theatre
- New New Zealand Work
- New Zealand and Australian Theatre History
- New Zealand Drama
- Pacific island Theatre
- Phenomenology of Theatre
- Physical Theatre methodologies
- Post-Colonial Theatre
- Relationship between biological 'display' and human 'performance'
- Shakespeare: stagecraft, performance, dramaturgy
- Space and Time in Performance
- Stagecraft of the Jacobean playwright John Webster
- Theatre history
- Theatre of Samuel Beckett
- Theories of Acting and Directing
- Writing the performance script in the age of multi-media and interdisciplinary approaches

4. Overview of the Current Collection

Books

The majority of the Theatre monograph collection is held at the Kelburn Library, with some high demand course material on Three Day Loan and Closed Reserve. Some relevant material is held at the Architecture and Design Library. The WJ Scott Education Library also holds some material for study and teaching of acting and drama therapy.

The Library has an important collection of plays published by Playmarket. There is a number of Victoria post-graduate students writing on NZ and Pacific plays included in this publication.

Reference Collection

The Library also holds a number of useful reference books for Theatre Arts, including online general reference resources. Key reference books include: The Cambridge Guide to Theatre, Oxford Encyclopaedia of Theatre and Performance, The World Encyclopaedia of Contemporary Theatre, and Oxford Reference Online (Performing arts).

Audiovisual Collection

The audiovisual collection includes over 200 recordings of live theatre productions (including over 50 video recordings from the Wellington Theatre Archive), plus documentaries on film companies and film makers, stage production, theatre history, film adaptations etc. – both New Zealand and international. Collecting in this area must also take into consideration the costs of ratings and classification, which can be high (and time consuming) for DVDs of live performances

The Library receives all free to air terrestrial channels, selected SKYTV, and free to air channels. All off air recordings are made and issued under the conditions of the Audiovisual Copyright Society Screenrights license. Under this agreement, New Zealand material (mostly drama, documentary and current events programmes) is recorded. At present this amounts to approximately 25 hours per week, but is limited by staff availability for editing and cataloguing.

Journals

The Library holds over 150 journal titles related to Theatre studies. Most print journals are held at the Kelburn Library, with some titles held the Architecture and Design Library. The great majority of titles are available electronically through a variety of journal article databases.

Electronic Resources

The Library subscribes to several key international Theatre databases:

- IIPA (International Index to the Performing Arts Full Text) which includes coverage of dance, film, drama, television, the arts and entertainment industry, stagecraft, magic, musical theatre and performance art. The coverage in IIPA Full Text is wide, ranging from as early as 1864 right up to the present.
- Twentieth Century Drama which includes published plays from throughout the English-speaking world, covering the history of modern drama from the 1890s to the present day. The full range of dramatic styles, genres and traditions is covered from widely studied and frequently performed plays to important examples of radical theatre, regional theatre, postcolonial theatre, women's theatre and popular forms.
- Editions and Adaptations of Shakespeare These databases, with the exception of the Shakespeare, all include some New Zealand content.

The Library also subscribes to major journal article databases which include significant content on theatre and the performing arts: MLA International Bibliography, Literature Online (LION), Project Muse, Victoria Popular Culture, ProQuest, Academic One File, Index New Zealand

E-books

The e-book collection contains many historical plays which would otherwise be unavailable for students and researchers.

JC Beaglehole (Special Collections) Room

The special collections relevant to Theatre are:

- Bruce Mason Papers c1962-1982
- Master copies - Wellington Theatre Archive videos c1988-1996
- VUW Drama Club archives c1950-1979
- Extravaganza archives, some scripts, and ephemera esp. 1930s-1970s e.g. Bill Sheat's papers
- NZ Students' Arts Council archives
- Some of the Witi Ihimaera and Alistair Te Ariki Campbell Archives
- Single play scripts from Rachel McAlpine and from John Thompson
- Theatre programmes and ephemera donated by Prof. Robb, Prof. Wood, various Library staff – mostly 1950s-1980s
- Downstage and Theatre Centre papers from Prof. Don McKenzie

Nola Millar Library at Toi Whakaari

Victoria University Library has an understanding with the Nola Millar Library at Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School, which enables postgraduate students and academic staff to borrow from both institutions. Other Theatre students are welcome at the Nola Millar Library, but may not borrow.

5. Collection Development Guidelines

Resources are selected by academic staff and the Subject Librarian for Theatre.

LC Callmark Range	Subject Area	Current Collection Level	Future Collecting Level
PN1560-PN1590	Performing arts general	Research	Research
PN1600-PN1657	Drama – history, theory, criticism	Research	Research
PN1661-PN1699	Playwriting	Research	Research
PN1701-PN1708	Study and teaching of drama	Research	Research
PN1721-PN1861	History and criticism by period	Research	Research
PN1872-PN1988	Themes and genres	Research	Research
PN2000-PN2035	Theatre – history, reference	Research	Research
PN2044-PN2051	Theatre- social and political aspects	Research	Research
PN2053	Production and directing	Research	Research
PN2055-PN2096	Acting, costume, design etc	Research	Research

PN2101-PN2199	Theatre history	Research	Research
PN3000-PN3307	Forms of theatre	Research	Research
ML1711.8	Musical theatre	Research	Research
RC489	Therapeutic use of drama	Research	Research
TK4399	Stage lighting	Research	Research
TK7881.9	Theatre sound	Research	Research

5.1 Languages Collected

English is the preferred language; however resources in European languages may be considered where English language material is insufficient. Significant, research-level resources in European and Asian languages may be collected in order to increase the depth of the collection. Publications in Te Reo Māori may also be purchased as necessary to support teaching and research. Audiovisual material (preferably subtitled in English) may be collected in all languages.

5.2 Geographical Areas Collected

The programme is international in scope; therefore publications from countries in all geographical areas are collected with no area excluded. However there is an emphasis on New Zealand, Pacific, Pan-European, American, Asia (including South East Asia), Africa, Middle East, and Africa.

5.3 Chronological Periods Collected

Theatre papers cover a wide range of time periods from classical to contemporary drama, 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. Theatre books are much preferred in print because of the close reading required of the texts, and because of the quality images. The exception to this being historical out of print material and rare books which would be unavailable if not published online.

5.6 Budget Guidelines

Theatre books are often expensive due to high quality production of images and low print runs of specialist material. Most publications come from publishers in USA or Great Britain and therefore our buying ability is very influenced by currency fluctuations. Future purchasing must take these factors into account and should be carefully targeted towards

publications that strongly support current teaching and research. Audiovisual material may incur additional rating costs.

5.7 Classification Guidelines

The Library of Congress classification system is used.

5.8 Preservation Guidelines

Theatre books (including play scripts) 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:

Journals

The following relegation criteria apply:

- Pre-1980 print journals can be relegated to storage.
- Short runs of ceased or cancelled print journals could be relegated to storage.
- Print indexes and abstracts which are now shelved with periodicals should be relocated to storage.

Books

Monographs in non-Western languages can be considered for relegation. Any list of candidates for relegation will need to be seen by the Theatre Studies programme staff, in order to make sure key texts are not relegated.

7. *Deselection Statement*

From 2012 the following criteria will apply:

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

Books

Due to the historical nature of the discipline it is difficult to identify candidates for deselection in the subject areas of theatre and drama. 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.

The following deselection criteria apply:

- Duplicate material may be considered for deselection, provided that it is not required for current teaching or research. This does not include play scripts for which multiple copies may be needed for productions.
- Duplicates of superseded editions may be considered for deselection.
- Non-academic theatre reviews may be considered for deselection.

Journals

The Theatre programme does not want print copies discarded where electronic copies exist.

Other Guidelines/Considerations

The Theatre Programme remains small (there are limitations on enrolment to some courses) but focussed, and consequently the impact of Theatre on the library budget is small. The programme works collaboratively with English and Film – sharing common resources and offering some joint papers. Students majoring in Theatre are encouraged to consider a combined or double major with English or Film. A mark of the programme is the combination of academic research on theatre, with the nurturing of practical innovation within the profession. Recently the programme has increased its emphasis on original research for postgraduate students, and the Library collections should respond to this direction.

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

Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements

- [Classics](#)
- [English](#)
- [Film](#)
- [History](#)
- [Media Studies](#)