Subject Level Collection Statement: Politics and International Relations

Subject Librarian: Justin Cargill  
Subject Librarian Contact Details: justin.cargill@vuw.ac.nz  
Academic Liaison: Greta Synder  

Reviewed: September 2015

1. Purpose of the Statement

The purpose of this statement is to provide a framework to guide the collection development and management activities for Politics and International Relations. The statement supports the teaching, learning and research activities in the Politics and International Relations 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

Established in 1939, the Victoria University Political Science Programme was the first of its kind in New Zealand. It was renamed the Political Science and International Relations Programme in 2001 after a number of changes of structure and name.

It is the only Programme in New Zealand in which undergraduates can major in International Relations as distinct from Political Science.

The programme’s website provides an overview of the subject as taught at Victoria University.

3. Focus of the Subject

The Programme’s teaching and research interests can be conflated into five broad areas:

Political Theory
- History of political thought
- Ethics
- Conceptual analysis (power, accountability and responsibility)
- Ideologies of colonisation, nationalism, liberalism, socialism, conservatism, the New Right, anarchism, religious fundamentalism, feminism, and postmodernism
- Formal theory
Comparative Politics

- Authoritarian regimes, democratically elected governments and concepts of strong and weak states
- Political representation, voting behaviour and electoral systems
- Feminist political theories of the 70s and 90s; contemporary debates about sexuality or environmentalism
- Role of pressure groups and the mass media

International Relations

- IR theory, concepts and issues
- Ethno-cultural diversity and ‘divided societies’
- Foreign policy and international relations of the United States, China and other Asian countries
- Global governance, human rights, race, nationalism, immigration and citizenship
- Regionalism, globalisation, democracy/authoritarianism, caste, class, religious extremism, separatist movements, modernisation, decolonisation, democratisation and post-conflict policies
- International development, aid, trade, migration, international security, human security, non-state armed groups and terrorism, peacekeeping and asylum seekers
- Governance and economic development in China, East Asia, the Pacific and western Europe

Strategic Studies

- Strategy and strategic theory
- Intelligence
- Civil-military relations
- Asia-Pacific security
- Arms control and disarmament
- Terrorism and counterterrorism
- Insurgency and counterinsurgency
- Cyber-security
- Military technology

New Zealand Politics

- Māori political structures, movements and ideologies
- New Zealand’s political system, political culture and political leadership
- Functions and effects of the media in New Zealand
- Foreign policy

The establishment of the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre in 2009 furthered Victoria’s research and teaching interest in China. Located within the programme, the Centre was established to promote research collaboration and teaching relating to contemporary China, and knowledge sharing among tertiary institutions, the business community and the public sector to foster New Zealand’s engagement with China.

The programme has a further strength due to its physical location in the capital city. Here it can avail itself of guest speakers who work at the heart of the political world. Some students are given the opportunity to work as interns in the offices of Members of Parliament.
The programme is responsible for the peer-reviewed journal *Political Science* which began in 1948.

The programme is highly interdisciplinary. Courses offered by this Programme complement and sometimes overlap courses offered in other Programmes. There are synergies with Anthropology, Asian Studies, Development Studies, Economics, Education, Gender and Women’s Studies, Geography, History, Law, Māori Studies, Media Studies, Pacific Islands Studies, Philosophy, Public Policy and Sociology.

A full list of papers offered may be found on the School’s [webpage](#).

4. **Overview of the Current Collection**

The collection has followed the research interests and teaching needs of the discipline at Victoria University. This explains increased levels of collecting from the 1990s in international relations, including such areas as globalisation, colonisation, migration, and terrorism.

**Books**

Political science and international relations is characterised by a heavy usage of books and the programme uses the limited loan collection extensively. The Political Science and International Relations reference collection is supplemented by a range of reference tools in electronic format available through [Sage Knowledge](#), [Oxford Reference Online](#) and [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#). The internet has provided greater access to archival indexes and other reference tools.

**Electronic Resources**

The Library is well placed for secondary source indexing and abstracting tools. It also subscribes to a number of databases providing full text content that are of immediate and obvious Political Science and/or International Relations focus, notably:

- [Columbia International Affairs Online:CIAO](#)
- [Worldwide Political Science Abstracts](#)
- [OxResearch](#), which covers world and regional economic and political developments

These are supplemented by a range of multidisciplinary databases such as:

- [Academic Onefile](#)
- [ACLS Humanities E-book: HEB](#)
- [JSTOR](#)
- [Project Muse](#)
- [ProQuest](#)

See the [recommended resources](#) page for a more complete listing.
In addition the Library has a range of primary source databases, such as:

- Cold War: Voices of Confrontation and Conciliation
- Digital National Security Archive
- Gale News Vault
- House of Commons parliamentary papers
- Keesings World News Archive
- March of Time
- North China Herald

**Journals**

Cumulatively, the databases provide full text access to 39 of the 40 most cited journals for 2014 in the category of Political Science. They also provide full text access to 39 of the 40 most cited journals in the category of International Relations (ISI Journal Citation Reports impact factors).

**J.C. Beaglehole Room Special Collection**

The Library’s special materials collection (the J.C. Beaglehole Room) provides access to a range of primary source material, most notably relating to New Zealand.

**United Nations Collection**

In 1975 Victoria University Library became a United Nations Depository Library and thus receives the documents of the principal organs of the UN.

Victoria University’s Politics and International Relations Programme benefits from close physical proximity to New Zealand’s major national collections and institutions such as Archives New Zealand, the National Library and Alexander Turnbull Library, the Parliamentary Library, New Zealand Film Archive, and Waitangi Tribunal.

5. **Collection Development Guidelines**

For general policy refer to Section 4.3 in the CDMP.

Primary responsibility for selection lies with the School’s academic staff.

**Section 4.5.2** in the CDMP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LC Callmark Range</th>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Current Collection Level</th>
<th>Future Collecting Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BJ1-1725</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB74.P65</td>
<td>Economics as a science. Relation to other topics: political science</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HF1351-1647</td>
<td>International economic relations</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HX1-970.72</td>
<td>Socialism. Communism. Utopias. Anarchism</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J1-981</td>
<td>General legislative and executive papers</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Type 1</td>
<td>Type 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JA81-84</td>
<td>History of political science</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JA92</td>
<td>Collective biography of political scientists</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JC11-607</td>
<td>Political theory. The state. Theories of the state. Modern state, nationalism, nation-state, geopolitics, sovereignty; consensus, opposition, civil disobedience, insurgency, political violence, failed states; power.</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JF20-2112</td>
<td>Political institutions and public administration (General)</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JJ1000-1020</td>
<td>Political institutions and public administration (North America)</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JK1-9993</td>
<td>Political institutions and public administration (United States)</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JL1-3899</td>
<td>Political institutions and public administration (Canada, Latin America, etc.)</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JN1-9692.2</td>
<td>Political institutions and public administration (Europe)</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JN26-50</td>
<td>European Union. European Community. European communities</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JQ1-6651</td>
<td>Political institutions and public administration (Asia, Africa, Australia, Pacific Area, etc.)</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS3-8500</td>
<td>Local government. Municipal government</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JV1-5397</td>
<td>Colonies and colonisation</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JV6001-9480</td>
<td>Emigration and immigration. International migration</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JZ2-6530</td>
<td>International relations. General works; war crime trials; law of nations; international cooperation; globalisation;</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.1 Languages Collected
English is the preferred language for new acquisitions but no resource is excluded based on the criteria of language alone.

5.2 Geographical Areas Collected
The areas studied are widespread. Case studies are drawn from New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Islands; Europe and Northern Ireland; the United States and Canada; East Asia (notably China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan); South-East Asia (notably Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Burma, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei); Africa (e.g. South Africa, the Sudan, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, the Congo); Middle East (notably Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Israel and Palestine); Asia Minor (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka), and parts of South America (Colombia).

5.3 Chronological Periods Collected
The following chronological periods are collected:
- Europe post World War 2
- NZ history from its inception
- Pacific region in the 20th century
- Political theory from ancient Greece through to the present
- East Asia in the 20th century
- South Asia in the 20th century
- South East Asia in the 20th century
- United States in the 20th century
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 20 years which support current teaching, study or research needs will be retained in the Kelburn Library
• Print journals published before the last 20 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 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
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 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
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 category:
- Items authored by academic staff (past or present) and alumni
7. Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements

- Asian Studies
- Cultural Anthropology
- Economics and Finance
- Geography, Environmental Studies and Development Studies
- History
- J.C. Beaglehole Room (Special Materials) Collection
- Media Studies
- Philosophy
- Sociology and Social Policy