

## Collection Development Policy for the University of Pittsburgh East Asian Library



Revised January 1997

### I. General purpose

The East Asian Library has the following collections: Chinese language collection, Japanese language collection, Korean language collection, and Western language collection. Those collections form the East Asian Collection. The primary purpose of the East Asian Collection is to support undergraduate and graduate teaching, learning, and research of the Asian Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt), one of the preeminent such programs in the United States.

The Asian Studies Program was established in 1969 to enrich the international dimension of education for all students at Pitt and to provide the opportunity for them to attain proficiency in Asian languages and familiarity with Asian cultures and societies. More than 65 faculty members with research interests focusing on Asia from departments and schools throughout the University are affiliated with this program, and in recent years, more than 3,500 students are enrolled in courses on Asia each year. Programs leading to the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees with an emphasis in Asian studies are offered in various departments including Anthropology, Classics, East Asian Languages and Literature, Economics, Fine Arts, Geography, History, Linguistics, Law, Music, Political Science, Religious Studies, Sociology, the School of Education, and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. In addition, an MBA/MA-East Asian Studies joint program has been established in recent years in Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

The East Asian Library's Chinese collection is the largest of its collections. It covers major aspects of retrospective and modern Chinese scholarship in all major disciplines of the social sciences and humanities. While continuing to enrich its resources in traditional Chinese publications, this collection has expanded vigorously in recent years to cover modern Chinese publications related to contemporary China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

The Japanese collection, smaller in size, mainly focuses on publications and reference tools in humanities and social sciences to support the teaching, learning and research program on Japanese studies. The collection is rich in some unique resources such as Japanese medical histories, apprenticeship and modern art. It should be developed in complement to the electronic information resources at the Japanese Information Center, a new information-providing facility at the East Asian Library.

Recognizing the contributions of Korea to East Asian history, culture, economic and political development, the East Asian Library is developing a basic Korean collection with emphasis on reference works and based on gift materials.

This collection is built in subject areas of Korean history, language and literature, anthropology, economics, education and politics.

The East Asian Library collects some Western language reference materials on East Asian studies to support its daily reference and information services. Those materials are housed in the East Asian Library. The Western language collection includes dictionaries, encyclopedias, bibliographies, directories, handbooks, a few major periodicals, historical surveys and finding aids, etc. From 1996, the East Asian Library in general no longer collects or stores Western language publications in the general subject areas of humanities and social sciences, although some such materials collected in the past are still in the East Asian Library.

## **II. Languages**

Materials are primarily in Chinese and Japanese. A small amount of materials are in Korean and Western languages.

## **III. Geographical areas**

The Chinese collection primarily covers materials published in Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. The Japanese collection primarily covers materials published in Japan. The Korean collection primarily covers materials published in Korea. The Western language collection covers materials from all above countries or regions in addition to North America and Europe. Materials are purchased from those countries and from North America and Europe.

## **IV. Chronological limitations**

Both current and retrospective materials are purchased for the East Asian collection. Although the emphasis in collecting is on modern imprints, no significant chronological limitations are imposed on selection.

## **V. Types of materials**

The East Asian collection consists of print and non-print materials in all formats. Occasionally, duplicates or reprints are purchased to satisfy user demand, for preservation or circulation purposes in the case of restricted in-house use of reference materials. In addition to books, the collection also includes serials, newspapers, government documents, manuscripts, and in some circumstances, special items and artifacts. Sound recordings, video tapes and microforms are collected as well. With the rapid development of information technology, electronic resources such as CD-ROMs are also acquired.

## **VI. Collection levels and subjects**

**5. Comprehensive level:** Materials are collected to support doctoral and post doctoral research with a high degree of adequacy. Provides for indefinite expansion

of library resources to support Ph.D. and post-doctoral programs and faculty research. Emphasis on primary source documents.

**4. Research:** Provides for the collection of a wide range of materials, but with little emphasis on the collection of manuscripts and non-print resources. Should support doctoral studies with reasonable adequacy, but is not designed to support a large doctoral program with heavy concentration in several fields. Considerable reliance is placed on interlibrary loan.

**3. Study:** At this level, a collection policy is designed to provide full support for undergraduate programs and most of the materials required for work at the master's level. Basic works of scholarship are purchased in the required languages.

**2. Basic:** Provides for development of a collection which will effectively support undergraduate instruction including honors programs. Requires the purchase of a wide range of reference materials, subject indexes, and bibliographies as well as files of basic journals and periodicals.

**1. Minimal level:** Designed to build collections selectively in subject areas in which no formal academic program is offered, but which overlap with subject areas in which academic programs are available. This level is generally not adequate to support undergraduate programs. Materials include only basic reference works, periodicals, and monographs.

**0. Not collected:** The library does not collect in this area.

Below is a description of collection levels in different subject areas that the East Asian collection covers. It is necessary to point out here that the Japanese collection of the East Asian Library, though small in size, contains unique materials in a number of subject areas for high level research. Its quality should not be overlooked by relatively low collection levels due to its small size.