

TODD WEHR MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Viterbo University
Collection Statement - English Department

GENERAL PURPOSE

The Todd Wehr Memorial Library aims to support the curriculum of the Department of English, which provides undergraduate tracks in writing, literature, and education. Where possible, the Library supports faculty research and course development through acquisitions, interlibrary loan services, and electronic accessibility. The Library encourages use of the collection and electronic services through course-related instruction, orientations, reference services, workshops, and one-on-one interviews.

Degree Programs

Programs in English include an undergraduate major with emphases in writing, literature, and education.

SUBJECT AND LANGUAGE MODIFIERS

Languages - English is the major language of the collection. There is no attempt made to purchase translations into other languages of works by British and American authors.

Geographical Areas - English language literature and theory are purchased from around the world, with special emphasis on American and British writers. Some material by and about Latin American and African writers has been collected. There is significant interest in various groups within the United States, especially African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and women.

Subjects – Tracks in writing and literature introduce students to the full range of human activity—intellectual, social, aesthetic, and spiritual. The English department also offers general education courses in writing and literature that emphasize critical thinking, clear communication, aesthetics, and ethical engagement. Course topics include composition studies, composition & argumentation, advanced composition, rhetorical studies, creative writing, history of the English language, multicultural American literature, post-colonial British literature, world literature, Greek & Roman literature, literary criticism & theory, narrative theory, Shakespeare, women writers, women & gender, Latin American fiction, news & feature writing, environmental literature, travel writing, and literature's role in the healing arts.

Chronological Periods - The collection ranges from pre-1066 to the present. Within British literature there tends to be an emphasis on the Early Modern period (1500-1800).

COLLECTION LEVELS

Description of collection levels, using the CONSPECTUS model.

For the content areas of writing, literature, and education, a Basic Information level currently exists (Level 2), with some topics potentially at a Level 3 (Instructional Support). Moving towards an overall Level 3 is desirable to support the undergraduate major in English. Level 4 (Research) content areas can be determined as necessary based on student and faculty research needs.

Level 0	Out of Scope	The library does not collect in this area.
Level 1	Minimal Level	A subject area in which few selections are made beyond very basic works.
Level 2	Basic Information Level	A collection of up-to-date general materials that serve to introduce and define a subject and to indicate the varieties of information available elsewhere. It may include dictionaries, encyclopedias, access to appropriate bibliographic databases, selected editions of important works, historical surveys, bibliographies, handbooks, a few major periodicals, in the minimum number that will serve the purpose. A basic information collection is not sufficiently intensive to support any advanced undergraduate or graduate courses or independent study in the subject area involved
Level 3	Instructional Support Level	A collection that is adequate to support undergraduate and MOST graduate instruction, or sustained independent study; that is, adequate to maintain knowledge of a subject required for limited or generalized purposes, of less than research intensity. It includes a wide range of basic monographs, complete collections of the works of more important writers, selections from the works of secondary writers, a selection of representative journals, access to appropriate non-bibliographic data bases, and the reference tools and fundamental bibliographical apparatus pertaining to the subject.
Level 4	Research Level	A collection that includes the major published source materials required for dissertations and independent research, including materials containing research reporting, new findings, scientific experimental results, and other information useful to researchers. It is intended to include all important reference works and a wide selection of specialized monographs, as well as a very extensive collection of journals and major indexing and abstracting services in the field. Pertinent foreign language materials are included. Older material is retained for historical research.
Level 5	Comprehensive Level	A collection in which a library endeavors, so far as it is reasonably possible, to include all significant works of recorded knowledge (publications, manuscripts, other forms), in all applicable languages, for a necessarily defined and limited field. This level of collecting intensity is on that maintains a "special collection"; the aim, if not the achievement, is exhaustiveness. Older material is retained for historical research.

DESCRIPTIONS OF MATERIALS COLLECTED

Types of Materials Collected – Monographs and serials are acquired to support all levels of the program in writing, literature, and education, including language and language theory, teaching theory and practice, literary themes, types, and genres, critical theory and practice, writing theory and practice, literary theory, and the history of literary criticism. Novels, short stories, and poetry are also collected. Historically, primary sources have been prioritized over secondary sources.

Critical editions of the standard authors of American and British literature are purchased, as well as publications in fiction, poetry, and criticism. The library also obtains collected works such as Norton anthologies.

Texts on teaching writing, literacy issues, and adolescent/young adult literature are also collected, as well as works that support the individual themes of English 103/104 sections.

To support the curriculum of both English and Theatre Arts, the Library acquires and maintains video and DVD recordings of all Shakespeare plays as interpreted by various actors and directors. The Library also acquires other video and DVD recordings of plays, films, and motion pictures utilized by faculty in their courses.

The following award winners in fiction and poetry are purchased annually: Nobel Prize, Man Booker Prize, Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, PEN/Faulkner Award, Walt Whitman Award.

The following “best of” series are also collected annually and retained from around 1995/2000-present: *The Best American Short Stories*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, *The Best American Poetry*, *The Best American Essays*, *The Best American Travel Writing*.

Electronic Databases and Resources – Literature Resource Center and MLA International Bibliography primarily, but also Literature Criticism Online, Communication & Mass Media Complete, and the Oxford English Dictionary. Also, Academic Search Complete for multidisciplinary research.

Types of Materials Excluded – None specifically, though as a general rule the Library does not collect college textbooks unless requested by faculty.

Interdisciplinary Factors – Many of the titles purchased for the English Department also support interdisciplinary programs in Women's Studies, Latin American Studies, and Environmental Studies.

COLLECTION REVIEW AND RETENTION

The collection will be reviewed periodically by library staff and faculty to ensure appropriate materials are weeded or maintained. Materials of historical significance may be retained indefinitely or replaced when condition warrants.