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Geography and Cartography

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This Collections Policy Statement deals with geography and cartography as subjects rather than formats.

I. Scope

Geographic literature is defined as literature relating to the discipline of geography, including exploration and discovery, general geographic description and analysis, the history of geographic thought, geographic bibliography, historical geography, examples of Geographic Information Systems-based studies, place-name literature and gazetteers, regional geography, information on geographic education and the various themes encompassed in the subfields of physical and human geography.

Cartographic literature is broadly defined as literature relating to the discipline of cartography, including cartographic processes (data collection, compilation, design, and painting), aerial photography and remote sensing imagery, geographic information systems, the history of cartography, carto-bibliography, and map librarianship, including map collecting and map conservation. Archival and manuscript material documenting the work of cartographic pioneers is selectively acquired.

The core materials covered by this statement comprise literature in the form of books, serials, and pamphlets relating to geography as general subjects, and fall into Classes G (excluding subclasses G1000-G9980, Atlases, Globes and Maps), GA, GB, GF, and Z6001-Z6028. They are found primarily in the Library's classified collection, supplemented by a selective Reference Book Collection and Pamphlet File located in the Geography and Map Division.

For treatment of cartographic materials in the narrower sense of maps, atlases, globes, charts, geographic information systems, remote sensing imagery, and other electronic media etc., see the Cartographic and Geospatial Materials Collections Policy Statement.

II. Research Strengths

Although the primary concentration of topics related to geographic and cartographic literature is

located in Classes G, GA, GB, GF, and Z, material related to geography and cartography is also scattered widely throughout the Library's collections. When considered in its entirety, the Library's body of literature in these two related areas is of sufficient breadth and depth to be placed at the high end of the Research level (Level 4). The Library does not necessarily attempt to acquire every title and edition, but it acquires most works published in the United States and works issued by major publishers in foreign countries. In addition, most of the major, as well as many secondary geographic and cartographic periodicals, are regularly added to the collections. The collection of printed literature on geographic topics is further supplemented by rich documentation on travel, exploration and ethnography in the special format collections.

While geographic coverage is global, the major focus is the Americas, the United States, with its component parts. Thematically, coverage is very broad, but the greatest emphasis has traditionally been placed on cartography, the history of cartography, and cartographic bibliography. The latter emphasis is recorded in the Library's ongoing publication, *Bibliography of Cartography*, and is supplemented in the Geography and Map Division's pamphlet or "vertical" file of approximately 50 linear feet, consisting of reprints, offprints, conference papers, and other ephemeral literature.

III. Collecting Policy

The Library acquires all major current reference works, monographs, and serials published in the fields of geography in general, mathematical geography, cartography, and physical, human, and regional geography. The Library acquires only basic reference works, monographs, and serials concerning the study and teaching of geography and its subdivisions. However, the Library does acquire all important and an ample selection of the less important, American college-level textbooks on geography. It also acquires foreign textbooks on the geography of the originating country when such textbooks present important information about the country or its perception. Field manuals and laboratory manuals in physical geography are not normally acquired.

IV. Acquisitions Sources: Current and Future

The Library acquires materials in this category in a variety of ways, including copyright, deposit of federally produced materials, through approval plan purchases with dealers world wide (who follow detailed profiles), transfer, gift, purchase, and exchange. The titles of interest in this category routinely appear in national bibliographies and are readily available to foreign book dealers. New publications are announced in a variety of places, including bibliographies, on web sites, and through online acquisition alert systems in the field (.e.g., Coutts, Harrassowitz, Casalini Libri, Touzot). Monitoring of those sources by the Recommending Officers ensures continuing development of the collection. Occasionally, special facsimile editions of key historical works in this field are made available, and special funding is often needed to acquire the items for the Library. The increasing presence of digital publications in this category will require the Library to acquire needed titles and to determine how to store and to serve the publications to its patrons.

V. Collecting Levels for Geography

The following list is arranged according to the major subclasses of Classes G, GA, GB, GF, and Z6001-Z6028 of the Library of Congress Classification. The collecting levels are numbered; for a description, see Collecting Levels. In this list, the first number refers to the collections of the U.S. materials, the second to foreign materials, e.g., "5/4" indicates that U.S. materials are to be collected at the Comprehensive level, foreign materials at the Research level.

Geography (General)

| Classification | Collecting Level |
|--|------------------|
| G1-G64 Periodicals, serials, societies, congresses, collected works, dictionaries, directories | 4 |
| G65-G69 Bibliographies of geographers | 4 |
| G70-71 Philosophy, methodology | 4 |
| G72-G77 Study and teaching research | 3 |
| G78 Museums. Exhibitions | 4 |
| G80-G99 History of geography | 5 |
| G100.5-110 Toponymy (gazetteers, geographic names and terms, distances, geographical positions) Gazetteers and place name literature are listed as subcategories for each geographical region defined in classes D and F. Gazetteers and place name literature pertaining to the United States and its individual states are collected at the highest end of level | 4 |
| G113-138.5 General Works . Includes U.S. college level textbooks. | 3 |
| G141 Historical Geography. Literature pertaining to the historical geography of individual localities has not been classed consistently, although it is often classed as a subcategory for each geographical region defined in classes D and F as well as various themes within class H. | 5 |

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| G142 Aerial geography. Related literature pertaining to the use of aerial photography in the process of mapping is classed under TR696 (Photogrammetry), TR810 (Aerial Photography. Photographic Interpretation), and TR713 (Space Photography). | 4 |
| G149-G180 Travel, voyages and travels Travel guides of national scope, level 4. Regional and local guides may be acquired when the information provided cannot be found in national guides. | 4 |
| G200-G336 History of discoveries, explorations and travels Literature pertaining to discovery, exploration and travel of individual localities are classed as sub-categories for each geographical region defined in classes D and F, and for the U.S. as a whole under E101- E135. Literature pertaining to the U.S. and individual states is collected at the highest end of level 4. | 5 |
| G369-G503 Historic voyages and travels | 4 |
| G521-G539 Adventures, shipwrecks, buried treasure, etc. | 4/3 |
| G540-G570 Seafaring life, ocean, travel, etc. | 4/3 |
| G575-G890 Arctic and Antarctic regions | 4 |
| G905-G910 Tropics (general) | 4 |
| G912-G922 Northern and Southern hemispheres | 4 |
| [G1000-G9980] Atlases, globes, maps - see the Cartography and Geospatial Materials Collections Policy Statement. | |
| Mathematical geography | |
| GA1-GA2.5 Periodicals, societies, serials, collections | 4 |
| GA3-GA23 History and general works | 4 |

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| GA51-GA87 Surveys (general) Related materials pertaining to surveying and mapping in specialized disciplines are classed as QB224-QB237 (Latitude and Longitude), QB301-QB328 (Geodetic Surveying), TA501- TA616 (Surveying), and UG470- UG474 (Military Surveying, Topography, and Mapping), and VK588-VK597 (Marine Hydrography. Hydrographic Surveying). | 4 |
| Cartography (map creating and works about maps) | |
| GA101-GA102 Periodicals, societies, serials, collections, dictionaries, directories, philosophy, methodology | 4 |
| GA103-GA108 General works, treatises, and advanced textbooks | 4 |
| GA109 Aerial cartography see G142 above | 4 |
| GA110-GA118 Projection, map scales | 4 |
| GA125-GA155 Digital mapping, Map drawing, modeling, printing, reading, etc. | 4 |
| Related material pertaining to specialized mapping is classed as CC76 (Archaeology. Surveying and Mapping. Aerial Photography), QB65-QB66 (Celestial Atlases and Charts. Astronomical Globes), QB595-QB605 (Lunar and Planetary Maps), QC822 (Geometric Maps), QC878 (Weather Maps), QE36 (Geological Maps), QK63 (Vegetation Mapping), S494 (Agriculture Mapping), SD387 (Forestry Mapping), TL587 (Aeronautical Charts), TN273 (Mining Maps), VK (nautical mapping), U (military mapping) | |
| GA190 Museums. Exhibitions | 5/4 |
| GA192-GA197.3 Collections of maps, globes, etc. | 5/4 |
| GA197.5-GA198 Cartographers | 5/4 |
| GA201-GA288 History. General by period, globe-making, globes | 5/4 |

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| GA300-GA325 History. World maps, general atlases, etc. Works on the history and description of atlases and maps. | 5 |
| GA341-GA1776 History. Maps. By region and country For the atlases and maps themselves, see the Cartography and Geospatial Materials Collections Policy Statement. | 5/4 |
| Physical geography | |
| GB3-GB5 Congresses, collected works | 4 |
| GB11-GB21 History and philosophy | 4 |
| GB23-GB26.2 Study and teaching | 3 |
| GB51-GB54.5 General works, treatises and advanced textbooks | 4 |
| GB111-GB398.7 By region or country | 4 |
| GB400-GB649 Geomorphology, landform, terrain | 4 |
| GB651-GB2998 Hydrology, water | 4 |
| GB5000-GB5030 Natural disasters | 4/3 |
| Oceanography (GC1-GC1581). See the Earth Sciences Collections Policy Statement. | |
| Human Geography (Human Ecology, Anthropogeography) | |
| GF1-GF9 Periodicals, congresses, collections | 4 |
| GF13-GF23 History and philosophy | 4 |
| GF26-GF28 Study and teaching | 4 |
| GF31-GF50 General works, treatises, and advanced textbooks | 4 |
| GF51-GF95 Environmental influences on man | 4 |
| GF500-GF895 By region and country Literature pertaining to the regional geography of individual localities may also be classed within various subcategories for each geographical region defined in classes D and F. Literature pertaining to the U.S. and individual states is collected at the highest end of level 4. | 4 |

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| GF101-GF127 Settlements Urban geography of individual cities is classed under respective cities in Classes D and F. Literature pertaining to U.S. cities is collected at the highest end of level 4 | 4 |
| Bibliography | |
| Z286.M3 Maps: bookselling and publishing | 5/4 |
| Z692.M3 Maps in libraries | 5 |
| Z697.M17 Classification of literature on maps | 5 |
| Z6001-Z6020 Geography and travels | 5/4 |
| Z6021-Z6028 Maps and cartography | 5/4 |

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