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Political Science (Classes J-JZ and Z7161-Z7164)

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I. Scope

Political science, the "study of the processes, principles, and structure of government and of political institutions" (*American Heritage Dictionary*, 2nd College Edition), is treated in Classes J through JZ in the Library of Congress classification system. This policy statement covers the field on a world-wide basis. In broad terms, these classes cover:

- JC (political theory)
- JF (general works, comparative works)
- JK (constitutional history and administration United States)
- JL, JN, JQ (constitutional history and administration foreign countries)
- JS (local government)
- JV (emigration and immigration)
- JX (international law, international relations- obsolete)
- JZ (international relations)

Political Science is generally divided into six major fields: 1) political theory and philosophy, 2) comparative government, 3) U. S. government and politics, 4) public administration, 5) international relations, and 6) political behavior. In addition to the classes listed above, Political Science also includes many topics variously classed in history (Classes D, E, and F, under such subheadings as political history, diplomatic history, etc.), sociology (Class HX, socialism, communism and utopianism), state and local history, and law.

Subclass JX was replaced by two new subclasses KZ for the Law of Nations and JZ for international relations. Pre-1997 cataloging remains under JX. 1997 and later international relations is now under JZ and the Law of Nations is under KZ. Although important to political scientists, political science materials in classes other than Classes J-JZ are out of scope for purposes of this Statement. Publications of the United Nations and other International organizations are treated in the International Organizations Collections Policy Statement.

II. Research Strengths

The political science collections of the Library of Congress are extremely distinguished. The collection dealing with the study of U.S. political science is by far the largest national collection of its kind. The Library has extensive holdings of works on political science from all over the world, as well as collections of foreign official documents at both national and subnational levels, and serves as a depository for many international organizations, including especially, the United Nations and its many affiliates. The scope of these various collections is both broad and deep; their coverage historical as well as current. They fall into a wide range of classes within the Library's classifications system, a fact which researchers must bear in mind when searching for them.

Among the collections on U.S. political science, U.S. government documents, particularly those issued by the Congress, are virtually exhaustive and held in long historical runs. Collections of Congressional hearings in the Main Reading Room complement the collections in the Law Library, the Federal documents depository (Serial and Government Publications Division), as well as in several commercially published microform collections.

Valuable materials on U. S. political science exist in many of the specialized collections within the Library. The Manuscript Division has custody of the papers of twenty-three U.S. presidents, the papers of more than nine hundred past and present members of Congress, and many Supreme Court Justices. The Rare Book and Special Collections Division has several collections dealing with U.S. presidents. The Prints and Photographs Division houses relevant collections such as the Washington Press-Photo Bureau (government officials); photographic collections of the New York World-Telegram and Sun and Look Magazine; and the Brady-Handy collections (members of Congress); recordings of well-known U.S. political figures exist in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

The Library's General Collections in the field of international relations are very extensive. Notable special collections include the Manuscript Division's holdings of the papers of individuals who served as Secretary of State from the first Secretary, Thomas Jefferson, to Alexander Haig; the Serial and Government Publications Division's United Nations depository materials; and other relevant collections in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division Microform and Machine Readable Reading Room.

III. Collecting Policy

The Library collects in the field of political science overall at Level 4. It collects all the important current reference works, monographs and serials in all languages in the field of political science, which comprises Class J of the Library of Congress Classification. It acquires subject bibliographies and other research-level general works and collections. These include periodicals, yearbooks, encyclopedias, the publications of societies and congresses, treatises, works on the theory, method, scope and history of political science, works related to the study and teaching of political science, and biographies of authorities in the field. Political science materials are acquired in all formats, i.e., monographs (dictionaries, indexes, abstracts, encyclopedia, bibliographies, textbooks), periodicals (journals, magazines, newspapers), serials (proceedings, annuals, scholarly series), maps, electronic resources (online databases, CD-ROMS), videocassettes, microforms (microfilm, microfiche), dissertations (microfiche, electronic), and government documents. The Library also collects at Level 4 current works on U.S. political science that exist only in electronic format by exploiting new technologies; these include (but are not limited to) Web sites, serials and databases published only in electronic form, and other such resources, all of which are increasingly integral to the practice of political science

scholarship. (For some guidelines pertinent to the collection of materials from the Internet, see the Web Capture and Archiving Collections Policy Statement.)

The Library acquires the following categories of publications at Level 4: U.S. textbooks on political science written for college use; texts published in the U.S. on the methodology of teaching political science below the college level; and non-fiction juvenile titles dealing with U.S.- related political science topics. The Library also collects at Level 3 elementary and secondary school textbooks on U.S. government in order to document changing approaches to presenting the subject to students below the college level in the United States. The Library collects foreign textbooks on political science on a highly selective basis, primarily as examples of significant trends in teaching methods, ideological doctrine, etc.

IV. Acquisition Sources: Current and Future

The mandatory copyright deposit law has been the primary means which allowed the Library to build the U.S. political science collection. The other basic methods of acquisitions: exchange, gift, purchase, federal transfer, and (more recently) Cataloging in Publication have also been significant sources contributing to this strength. Materials selected for the Library from the items which are submitted for copyright registration have given the collection its richness and wide scope. The Copyright Best Edition statement provides guidance for selecting materials for the U.S. political science collection. As the internet changes and Web 2.0 technologies continue to evolve, the way users and organizations disseminate information is changing. Methods to capture, collect, and store these new forms of communication mediums will also need to evolve. Data from new communication technologies that are available only in born digital formats will become essential to political science research. Techniques to explore, gather and evaluate this type of information need to be developed. As the information needs of Congress change, the manner and formats in which resources are acquired for the Political Science collection will need to be incorporated into this collecting policy. Developing collaborative relationships and sharing digital resources with other institutions will expand and enhance access to the political science collection.

VI. Collecting Levels

(Classes JC, JF, JK, JL-JQ, JS, JV, JZ and Z7161-Z7164)

The following list is arranged according to the major subclasses of JC, JF, JK, JL-JQ, JS, JV, JZ and Z7161-Z7164.

NOTE:

The policies regarding the acquisition of U.S. and foreign government documents, such as those classed in Subclasses J and JS1-JS37, are provided respectively in Government Publications U.S. and Government Publications Foreign.

LC Classification	Collecting Levels
General works (Subclass JA)	

<p>The Library maintains a research level collection (intensity level 4) of current general works and collections in the field of political science. These include periodicals, yearbooks, encyclopedias, the publications of societies and congresses, treatises, works on theory, method, Scope and history of political science, works related to the study and teaching of political science, and biographies of authorities in the field.</p>		
JA1-92	Political science (General)	4
Political theory. The state. Theories of the state (Subclass JC)		
JC11-605	Political theory. The state. Theories of the state	4
Political institutions and public administration (Subclass JF)		
JF20-2112	Political institutions and public administration	4
Political institutions and public administration (North America) (Subclass JJ)		
JJ1000-1019	Political institutions and public administration (North America)	4
Political institutions and public administration (United States) (Subclass JK)		
JK1-9993	Political institutions and public administration (United States)	5
Constitutional history and administration foreign countries (Subclasses JL, JN, JQ)		
<p>In general, the Library seeks to maintain a research-level collection of current reference works, monographs and serials on the constitutional history and administration of foreign countries. The Library aims, however, for coverage at the high end of level 4 for current histories and treaties on foreign judiciaries and current works on laws and legislation concerning political rights (citizenship, voting, etc.). Popular and minor works on political rights are acquired selectively (level 5). The Library acquires a copy of each country's current official constitution.</p>		
JL1-3899	Political institutions and public administration Canada, Latin America, etc.	4
JN1-9689	Political institutions and public administration (Europe)	4
Political institutions and public administration (Asia, Africa, Australia, Pacific Area, etc.) (Subclass JQ)		
JQ21-6651	Political institutions and public administration Africa, Australia, Pacific area, etc.	4
Local government. Municipal government (Subclass JS)		
JS39-8500	Local government. Municipal government	5
Colonies and colonization		

Emigration and immigration. International migration (Subclass JV)		
The Library maintains a research-level collection of current materials on colonization and the colonial history of particular nations. The Library acquires selectively (level 3) retrospective materials on colonization and the colonial history of individual countries. Laws relating to colonization, including international and comparative codes, compilations and legal periodicals on the subject, are acquired at the high end of the research level (4+).		
JV1-9480	Colonies and colonization. Emigration and immigration. International migration	4
International Law (Subclass JX)		
JX(1)-(6650) (obsolete)	International Law, see JZ and KZ	4
International Relations (Subclass JZ)		
JZ5-6530	International Relations	5
J Subject Bibliography		
The Library seeks to maintain a comprehensive collection (level 5) of subject bibliographies in the field of political science covered by Subclasses Z7161-Z7164 (general political science and specific political science topics or subfields not covered elsewhere).		
Electronic Resources	All content areas commensurate with the classes above	5

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