

Periodicals of General Content

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I. Scope

A periodical is a serial containing articles, editorials, reviews, columns, short stories, poems, or essays written by more than one contributor, generally issued at regular intervals of less than a year, and meant to continue indefinitely. This Collections Policy Statement applies to periodicals of a general nature, published either in the United States or abroad, of the type that might be found in Subclass AP of the Library of Congress Classification Schedule. *Collier's*, *Harper's*, *Look*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and some of the major United States news magazines provide domestic examples of this type of periodical. Foreign examples are *Punch*, *Paris Match*, and *Der Spiegel*.

The statement does not apply to periodicals limited to a specific subject. Such specialized periodicals are selected for the Library's collections based on their subject content in conformity with the appropriate subject Collections Policy Statements.

The Library maintains a research level collection of domestic and foreign general interest periodicals in all languages and in all formats. Specific collecting levels for parts of Subclass AP appear in section VI-Collecting Levels.

The best edition of a periodical of general content is based on the criteria for each periodical format selected as published in Title 37, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Appendix B to Part 202: "Best Edition" of Published Copyrighted Works for the Collections of the Library of Congress.

II. Research Strengths

The Library's depth and breadth of holdings of United States and foreign general content periodicals constitute a major research strength. Significant are the extensive runs of retrospective informational and news magazines in the collections, which provide an overview of history, opinion, popular culture, and fashion. The strong collection of foreign language general periodicals, along with the American collections, provide a rich source of comparative information. Since many prominent authors first published essays, fiction, and poetry in periodicals of popular content, they are a resource for literary

research. Runs of juvenile periodicals, such as *St. Nicholas*, further enhance the study of popular culture and literature. Together with the many secondary works in the Library's collections dealing with periodical publishing history and trends (subclass PN of the Library Classification Schedule), they provide a strong resource for the study of the format in general.

Periodical indexes, both print and electronic, allow access to the contents of general interest periodicals and increase the value of the collections. Electronic versions of periodicals are acquired to provide service to researchers and to enhance and complement the print collections, often through fulltext indexer/aggregators, such as *JSTOR*, *Project MUSE*, and *Reader's Guide Full Text*. Management tools, such as *Serials Solutions*, *TDNet*, and *FindIT*, guide the researcher to full text of particular periodicals or articles within the electronic collections. The Library has access to many other full text databases which index and reproduce general periodicals.

III. General Collecting Policy

Periodicals of general content, domestic and foreign, are acquired in all formats, based on content and its importance to the Congress and the Library's other user communities.

For periodicals of undoubted research value, complete holdings are acquired whenever possible. The selection of periodicals for the permanent collections is a commitment of the future resources of the Library. All periodicals acquired, whether by purchase, copyright, exchange, or gift, bring with them the continuing costs of accessioning, processing, maintenance and preservation.

If a periodical is indexed in one or more regularly published periodical indexes, it should be seriously considered for acquisition.

Special features, including advertising, should be taken into consideration in making the decision.

Integrating resources, such as publications intended to be inserted into a binder for regular update, are acquired only if a custodial unit agrees to keep the title as part of its reference collection and to file the inserts and remove superseded pages as received.

Domestic periodicals may be published in differing editions for local or regional distribution; frequently only the advertisements are different. International editions of periodicals may differ markedly for each country. When there is a choice of edition, the edition which will best serve the Library's users is selected. If more than one edition is to be acquired, the edition or editions to be retained for the permanent collections should contain substantially different content.

"Born digital" periodicals are currently acquired by linking if they are free and open access, full text, and contain back files online. The Library will continue to develop policy and infrastructure to allow permanent collection of "born digital" and other remote access general interest periodicals in terms of the Electronic Resources, Selection Guidelines (2004). See section V.

If a print periodical is retained solely for its current reference value ("current issues only"), strong consideration is given to an existing online electronic version instead of the print. When currency is not a critical requirement, the microfilm edition of a periodical may be acquired in lieu of individual paper issues.

IV. Specific Collecting Policy

United States Periodicals

The Library of Congress acquires for its permanent collections all periodicals published in the United States which:

- a. reflect current events and opinions;
- b. provide information about trends, fashions, and contemporary culture;
- c. record the present and past life achievements of the people of the United States;
- d. provide current information about the United States as a whole, or focus on a particular region, state, city, or ethnicity;
- e. reflect the general recreational, aesthetic, and cultural needs of the people.

Periodicals whose contents are of a repetitive, formula-based "pulp" type are not collected, but current issues may be retained temporarily to meet the specific needs of Congress.

Foreign Periodicals

The Library acquires for its permanent collections periodicals from all other countries, which:

- a. reflect current events and opinions;
- b. provide insight into the life, trends, fashions, and contemporary culture of the country of origin as a whole, or of an important region or city;
- c. record the present and past life achievements of the people of the country or of an important region or city;
- d. reflect the general recreational and aesthetic needs of the people of the country.

In light of the current trend toward globalism, it is particularly important to carefully, but adequately, select foreign general content periodicals, including foreign editions of United States imprints with research value and substantially different content from the parent.

Popular, repetitive and formula-based publications which provide little or no new information are not generally acquired, but current issues may be retained temporarily to serve the specific needs of Congress.

For periodicals from developing countries, a more liberal policy may be followed in recognition of the short life span of many publications and the difficulty in acquiring serials on a regular basis. The general principles set forth in the Collections Policy Statement on Developing Countries are taken into consideration.

Juvenile periodicals, United States and foreign

The Library selects for its permanent collections all juvenile magazines published in the United States of a general, non-specialized content, excepting periodicals of a repetitive, formula-based or "pulp" nature. Juvenile periodicals intended solely as teaching aids in the classroom are not acquired unless they represent a new and innovative approach as to teaching methods.

Foreign periodicals intended for juveniles are acquired selectively on the basis of their lasting

research value to scholars in the field. Emphasis is given to acquiring juvenile periodicals from countries with major ethnic concentrations in the United States.

Further guidelines, may be found in the Collections Policy Statement on Children's Literature.

V. Acquisition Sources: Current and Future

The Library acquires most United States periodicals of general content, both adult and juvenile, through the Copyright Office, although some may come as gift subscriptions. Copies of United States general interest periodicals that are especially important to the work of the Congress or where multiple reference copies are required are purchased. Foreign periodicals of general content are acquired through the Library's Overseas Offices, gift, exchange, and purchase. Foreign periodical publishers with United States offices may submit copies to the Copyright Office.

Today, many periodicals are issued in multiple formats, including electronic, and some periodicals are available only electronically. The content of multiple format periodicals is not always the same in each format. At present, the Library subscribes to or points to more than 27,000 electronic journals, but does not own the content permanently. Some licensing agreements may provide that the Library will receive the content if the online publisher goes out of business. In the future, the Library will have to choose the format or formats that will be most valuable to the Congress and the Library's other user communities. This will involve developing the infrastructure and policies needed to select, describe, archive, manage, and provide public access to electronic subscription and open access periodicals. The Library is currently investigating mechanisms and procedures for archiving and providing access to United States electronic periodicals received through the Copyright Office. The Library is also exploring means of receiving and storing some foreign government online periodicals in a LOCKSS environment through exchange arrangements.

VI. Collecting Levels

Collecting levels for specific parts of subclass AP are listed below.

Subclass AP	Description	Collecting Level
AP1-(271)	Periodicals	4
AP101-115	Humorous periodicals	4
AP200-230	Juvenile periodicals	3
AP(250)-(265)	Periodicals for women	4
AP(270)-(271)	Periodicals for blacks	4

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