Collection Policy for Egyptology and Assyriology (Ancient Near Eastern Studies)

1. Overview

1.1 General coverage of subject in OULS

The subjects of Egyptology (the study of Egyptian language, literature, history, civilization, art, and archaeology up to and excluding the coming of Islam), and Assyriology (the study of ancient Near Eastern languages principally Sumerian and Akkadian, and literature, history, civilization, art, and archaeology up to and excluding the coming of Islam) are covered comprehensively in the Bodleian Libraries. The collection is concentrated in the Sackler Library. A small collection exists in the Peet Library of Queens College where access is controlled by the Professor of Egyptology. Scattered items exist in the Bodleian Library due to copyright deposit over the years, as well as items among the special collections. All books and journals are entered in OLIS, the online catalogue of the Bodleian teaching, learning and research collections. Approximately half of the Assyriological pamphlets are still not on OLIS but the cataloguing is in process.

1.2 Legal deposit (Print and Electronic)

The Sackler Library has been selecting legal deposit material from the Bodleian Library since 2004. Approximately 15% of publications in the subjects can be acquired via legal deposit. Traditionally and currently, scholarship in the subjects has been French, German and to a lesser extent Italian and other languages. Also, English language scholarship is often published by non-UK based publishers.

1.3 Electronic resources

So far, the vast majority of electronic resources that exist for Egyptology and Assyriology are freely available on the WWW. However, one resource, the Online Egyptological Bibliography (OEB) is available via OxLIP, the Bodleian gateway to electronic resources. In addition many of the more general resources like Intute: Arts and Humanities, JSTOR, PCI, ZETOC, Lexis-Nexis, etc. can contain very useful information.

1.4 Notes about particular formats or collections

The bulk of the collection is in book format, many of which are folio and large folio size. In recent years, some of the books have been complemented with microforms and CD-ROM discs. There are a very few titles that entirely consist of microforms or CD-ROMs. There are also significant holding of pamphlets, the growth of which is very slow.

1.5 Languages

Historically, the major scholarly languages of Egyptology and Assyriology have been French and German, followed by English and Italian. In reality, publications can be found in all languages. Since the 1970’s, as English has become more dominant, scholars who would have published in French or German are now publishing more
frequently in English. Also, as scholarship is growing in Egypt and the Arab world, more publications are appearing in Arabic.

1.6 Bodleian Collection Management

Readers of this document are referred to the Bodleian Collection Management Policy (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/lib/oxonly/2001/cul01-75.shtml), which outlines the aims of correctly housing material within the Bodleian Libraries and reducing unplanned duplication. Collection policies are developed in accordance with these aims and the Library works closely with the Bodleian Collection Management Unit in achieving them.

2. Teaching collections

Teaching collections for Egyptology and Assyriology are held primarily in the Sackler Library. A small collection for Egyptology is held in the Peet Library of Queens College and is managed by the Professor of Egyptology. Students of Egyptology can be given 24 hour access to this collection by the Professor of Egyptology. A small collection for Assyriology is included in the Wolfson College Library.

2.1 Text books

There are no text books for Egyptology and Assyriology at the University level. The Sackler Library holds multiple copies of grammar books and dictionaries used for the study of the languages.

2.2 Journal articles

The Sackler Library houses Egyptology and Assyriology journals regularly cited on reading lists. Photocopies of journal articles not available in Oxford will be obtained through inter-library loan.

2.3 Levels of provision

All reading list items are held by the Sackler Library in at least one copy. If, after consultation with the instructors, it is deemed necessary to purchase additional copies, this will be done. Also, items may be placed on short term loan and/or confined if the items are critical for the weekly essay.

3. Research collections

Research collections are concentrated almost exclusively in the Sackler Library. If a research level item is found to be in the Bodleian Library and not in the Sackler Library, a transfer will be requested.

3.1 Research books

Research books are acquired to reside in the Sackler Library.

3.2 Monograph serials / standing-orders

Most monographic series in Egyptology/Assyriology are acquired for the Sackler Library. A handful of such are acquired by the Bodleian
Library because the scope of the series is broader, including all periods of Near Eastern history or all Near Eastern languages or religions.

3.3 Journals

The Sackler Library will house all key journals in Egyptology and Assyriology.

4. Special Collections

The Sackler Library collection for Egyptology and Assyriology has a special relationship with the Griffith Archive and the Topographical bibliography of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic texts, reliefs, and paintings, both of which are administered by the Griffith Institute and reside in the Griffith Wing of the Sackler Library building. The files of the Topographical Bibliography can be consulted by readers as can the Archive by special appointment. The Griffith Archive is the richest archive of unpublished Egyptological documentation in the world. It also contains some material on the Ancient Near East.

5. Subject coverage of selected purchased material

In addition to the legal deposit intake and general works, the Bodleian Libraries will purchase non-deposited material in the following specific subjects:

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6. Name of subject consultant(s) responsible for collections

Diane Bergman April 2014.