Collection Policy for Archaeology

1. Overview

   General coverage of subject in the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford

   Classical art and archaeology is comprehensively covered, with the great majority of holdings concentrated in the Sackler (see the CP for Classics).

   Prehistoric archaeology is more scattered: the Sackler holds an unrivalled collection on the post-Palaeolithic archaeology and art of Europe up to the medieval period; there are many items in the Bodleian randomly acquired through standing orders and legal deposit, but with a more coherent concentration on the archaeology of the British Isles; the archaeology of the world outside the Eurasian landmass is mainly covered by the Balfour Library (not part of the Bodleian Libraries), where the archaeological collections on sub-Saharan Africa, pre-Columbian America and Australasia/Pacific are housed with the anthropological collections for these areas.

   Medieval archaeology holdings are more evenly distributed between the Sackler and Bodleian collections. The Sackler has strong coverage of excavations and studies of artefacts and artistic finds throughout Europe and the Byzantine empire. The Bodleian coverage relates more to standing monuments and textual sources.

   Archaeological theory and practice is covered by the Sackler, but with strong holdings in the Bodleian/RSL and, to a lesser extent, the Balfour.

   All books and journals are searchable via SOLO. There are a number of named pamphlet collections in classics/archaeology, whose contents are not in the online catalogue but which are mostly duplicated elsewhere.

Legal deposit

   The Sackler Library has been selecting legal deposit material from the Bodleian Library since 2004. Approximately 15% of publications in these subjects can be acquired via legal deposit, which significantly enhances the Library’s capacity to purchase foreign material.

   In April 2013 new legislation came into force allowing the Bodleian Libraries and the other Legal Deposit Libraries in the UK and Ireland to access electronic books, articles, web pages and other electronic documents published in the UK. The 2013 Regulations are being implemented gradually over several years, as the Legal Deposit Libraries agree collectively whether to accept electronic versions from each UK publisher.

Electronic resources

   Many relevant electronic resources are freely available on the WWW, while those licensed for use at Oxford are accessible from OXLIP+. These include many of the more general resources such as WorldCat, JSTOR, PCI, ZETOC, etc. More specifically there is Dyabola, one of the key online bibliographical resources for classical and European archaeology, which requires a password locally available at the Sackler Library. Access to purchased e-books and e-journals is via SOLO.
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 decades many books have been complemented with illustrations on 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 comparatively slow.

Languages

In classical archaeology the major scholarly languages are English, French, German and Italian, but there is a steady stream of important material in Modern Greek, Spanish, Russian and Turkish. In recent years there has been a growing trend towards publishing in English, but this is by no means yet the default language of communication, as in sciences.

For European archaeology the range is much wider, as primary material (notably site reports, but including many museum publications) is usually in the language of the country of publication. There are many books and periodicals therefore in the various Slavonic, Scandinavian and Iberian languages as well as Hungarian and Romanian.

2. Teaching collections

Teaching collections in classical archaeology are concentrated in the Sackler Library and particularly in the Classics Lending Library, where multiple copies are available.

Multiple copies of non-classical archaeology books on Archaeology and Anthropology reading lists are held in the Balfour Library. Single copies are available in the Sackler (of works within its sphere of coverage) and in the Bodleian (mostly UK publications acquired through legal deposit, for reference only).

Text books

Not applicable.

Journal articles

Most journals cited on archaeology reading lists are available in Oxford; and the great majority of them, especially UK and US titles, can be accessed electronically. Many classical archaeology articles are also available as photocopies for loan from the Classics Lending Library. Photocopies of journal articles not available in Oxford can be obtained through inter-library loan.

Levels of provision

In classical archaeology items should be available in one or more copies in the Classics Lending Library and in most cases a confined copy should be available in the main Sackler collection.
3. **Research collections**

Research collections for Classical, near Eastern and European archaeology are concentrated almost exclusively in the Sackler Library. Research level items located at the Bodleian remote store can be ordered to the Sackler Library (or other sites) and, if appropriate, a request for permanent transfer may be made to the library staff. Research collections for sub-Saharan African, pre-Columbian American and Australasian/ Pacific archaeology are held at the Balfour Library in the Pitt Rivers Museum.

**Research books**

Research monographs are concentrated primarily in the Sackler Library, where (crucially for this subject area) provision is predominantly on open shelves. Those on non-Eurasian areas are similarly available in the Balfour Library. A high proportion of the monographic stock is primary research material: excavation reports, museum catalogues, newly discovered texts and publication of recently completed research.

**Monograph serials / standing-orders**

Many monographic series in relevant subject areas are acquired for the Sackler Library, but those with broader, multi-disciplinary scope are more likely to be found in the Bodleian.

**Journals**

Of the very wide range of classical journals held in the Bodleian and Sackler libraries those of more obviously archaeological relevance will usually be housed in the Sackler. The Sackler also holds an extremely wide range of European archaeology journals, including many titles not otherwise held in UK libraries. Journals related to archaeological theory and practice are available at the Sackler or (where the emphasis is more scientific) at the RSL.

4. **Special Collections**

There is a wide range of pre-1850 material relevant to Classical, near Eastern and European archaeology housed at the Sackler and frequently referred to in conjunction with more recent works. Much of this material relates to C18th-19th excavations and travel in Italy, Greece and Egypt. These constitute an essential part of a premier research collection in these subjects.

The Sackler also holds 2 extensive archives of particular importance to the study of Roman Britain, which were left to the University by Prof. F.J. Haverfield and Sir Ian Richmond respectively. For brief descriptions of these and smaller archive collections in the Sackler see [http://archiveshub.ac.uk/contributors/oxforduniversitysacklerlibrary.html](http://archiveshub.ac.uk/contributors/oxforduniversitysacklerlibrary.html).

5. **Subject coverage of selected purchased material**
In addition to the legal deposit intake and general works, material will be purchased in the following specific subjects:

Archaeology and art of the Greco-Roman world, including
  Excavations of classical sites
  Studies on categories of classical finds, artistic and functional
  Culture and religion
  Epigraphy and Papyrology

History, philosophy and theory of archaeology

Archaeological science, including
  Archaeometry
  Underwater archaeology
  Aerial photography
  Archaeozoology
  Palynology

Prehistoric and medieval art

Ancient and medieval technology

Prehistoric European civilisations, including
  Celtic
  Iberian
  Thracian
  Scythian

Medieval material culture, including Byzantine

Excavations of Neolithic, Bronze, Iron Age and medieval sites

Ancient and medieval pottery

including publications in the following categories:

Archaeological site reports
Catalogues of objects from public and private collections
Directories, encyclopaedias, dictionaries
Festschriften and Kleine Schriften
Bibliographies
Conference publications
Atlases and maps

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

Graham Piddock