Collection Policy for German language and literature

1. Overview
This policy is informed by the Bodleian Libraries Collection Management Policy and supporting documents.

1.1 General coverage of subject
Library resources for the study of German language and literature are primarily located in the Taylor Institution on St. Giles'. The Taylor Institution Library is the major source of research material in Oxford for the study of these subjects, and also houses a teaching collection for the support of undergraduates and taught postgraduate students.

The German collection ranges chronologically from the early fifteenth century to the present day and in format from mediaeval manuscript to a fragment of the Berlin Wall.

The Library has a small but varied collection of manuscripts. The Library’s early printed books include 56 incunabula, of which 15 items were printed in Germany in the 15th century. The Library has a rich collection of early editions of both major and minor German writers of the 18th and early 19th centuries. In the 20th century first editions by major authors include texts by Brecht, Kafka, Thomas Mann and Rilke. The Library also has special collections of literature from the former German Democratic Republic, including nearly 300 volumes of the popular Poesiealbum series and a number of rare underground or samizdat publications which appeared in a very limited number of copies eg Uni/vers (;)

The Bodleian Library also houses material relating to German language and literature. The Sackler Library is the main centre for the study of art and art history and covers European Art. The History Library is formally responsible for covering the history of Germany and the Philosophy and Theology Library holds works by German authors in the fields of Philosophy and Theology.

1.2 Legal deposit
Material relating to German language and literature received via legal deposit is housed in the bookstack of the Bodleian Library. There is no open shelf location for this material in the Bodleian. Readers may also occasionally find that some legal deposit material which has particular relevance has been transferred to the Taylorian and is on open access. However, all legal deposit material, regardless of location, is currently for reference use only and may not be borrowed.

At midnight on 5/6 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 2013 are being implemented gradually over several years, as the Legal Deposit Libraries agree collectively to accept electronic versions from each UK publisher.
1.3 Electronic resources
Electronic resources for the study of German language and literature include electronic journals, bibliographic and full text databases, as well as a number of ebooks. In consultation with the German Sub-Faculty, the subject consultant reviews subject-specific subscription databases on a regular basis. Free scholarly resources are also evaluated and added to the resource provision if appropriate. These resources can be accessed via OxLip+.

Examples of some important electronic resources for German language and literature are as follows:

- **Bibliographic databases**
  - MLA International Bibliography
  - Bibliographie der Deutschen Sprach und Literaturwissenschaft

- **Reference works online**
  - KLG – Kritisches Lexikon zur deutschsprachigen Gegenwartsliteratur
  - Biographie-Portal

- **Full text databases**
  - Literarische Expressionismus Online
  - Luthers Werke (primary texts)

1.4 Notes about particular formats or collections

The Germanic collections range chronologically from the early fifteenth century to the present day and in format from mediaeval manuscript to a fragment of the Berlin Wall.

The Library has a small but varied collection of manuscripts in the German vernacular, the oldest being *Bruder Philips Marienleben*, a life of the Virgin Mary in Low German verse dating from the early fifteenth century. From the 18th and 19th centuries there are letters not only from major writers such as Goethe, Tieck and Lavater but also from famous musical and political figures such as Brahms Mendelssohn – and Queen Victoria. Twentieth century manuscripts include letters from Brecht, Gerhart Hauptmann and Rilke.

The Library’s early printed books include 56 incunabula, of which 15 items were printed in Germany in the 15th century. From the 16th century the Library has a remarkable collection of 436 Reformation pamphlets mainly by Martin Luther including some of his most influential tracts, namely *An den Christlichen Adel deutscher Nation, De captivate Babylonica ecclesiae* and *Von der Freyheyt eyniss Christen menschen*, all printed in 1520. These have been described as the three primary documents of the Protestant Reformation.

The Library has a rich collection of early editions of both major and minor German writers of the 18th and early 19th centuries and numerous, often rare, early English or French translations. In the 20th century first editions by major authors include
texts by Brecht, Kafka, Thomas Mann and Rilke. The Library also has special
collections of literature from the former German Democratic Republic, including
nearly 300 volumes of the popular Poesiealbum series and a number of rare
underground or samizdat publications which appeared in a very limited number of
copies eg *Uni/vers* ;)

And finally . . . the Library has a meticulously attested lock of Goethe’s hair!

1.5 Languages
The Germanic collections range linguistically from Afrikaans to Yiddish, via Dutch,
Flemish, Frisian, German and the Scandinavian languages. The primary collection is
German, with a smaller Yiddish collection.

2. Teaching collections
The teaching collection supports undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses in
German language and literature.

2.1 Core texts
Books are selected in line with the syllabus and recommended authors. Key
texts on reading lists are made available, in multiple copies where possible.
Where reading list titles are out of print, every effort is made to purchase
second-hand copies. Circulation statistics are also used to identify popular
titles in order to purchase extra copies. If an ebook version is available this
will be considered for purchase especially if it is an edited collection of
essays, or if there is already a print lending copy available.

2.2 Reference material
Good provision is made in the reference room of encyclopaedias, dictionaries
and grammars for the study of German. If an e-book version of a reference
work is available, this may sometimes be purchased in preference to the
printed version, if the advantages of remote access and search functionality
significantly enhance the value of the resource.

2.3 Newspapers
The Library subscribes to *Die Zeit, Frankfurter Allgemeine, Frankfurter
Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, and Der Spiegel*. All but *Der Spiegel* are term-
time only. Copies are kept for six months. Online access to a number of
German language newspapers can be accessed through Nexis UK, via OxLip+.

2.4 Audiovisual material
There is a large collection of films from Germany (see *Film Studies*).

2.5 Translations
Translations of German Literature into English are not normally purchased
unless the translation is of interest in itself, or the work is of interest beyond
the German Sub-Faculty and requires more than a normal reading level of
German, for example medieval texts or texts in Yiddish.
2.6 Trivialliteratur
Light fiction is not actively collected by the library, but we do welcome and retain donations.

3. Research collections
The research collection of the Taylor Institution Library includes material on the language and literature of Germany, with particular strengths in medieval and contemporary literature as well as in the literature of the former German Democratic Republic. There is also a small collection of Yiddish literature.

3.1 Research monographs (individual)
In the first instance, the Library aims to collect material in support of the research of graduate students, postgraduate researchers and the current Sub-Faculty of German, as well as ensuring good provision across a wide range of topics to meet future research needs.

The majority of material is on open access in the main stack and may be borrowed. Undergraduates are not permitted to enter the stack until their final year, but may request and borrow items if necessary.

There is a small collection of confined material kept behind the main enquiry desk, comprising items that are regularly in high demand. This is to supplement multiple copies of key texts kept in the MLF, and ensures that a copy is available in the library for reference use only.

An increasingly large volume of Taylor material is housed in offsite storage facilities. New material is sent offsite unless it is considered a key work or has been specifically requested by a reader.

E-books are generally not purchased for the research collection, unless there would be a significant cost saving, or if they are “bundled” with the print publication at little or no additional cost, or occasionally if the work is a collection of essays or articles.

3.2 Monograph series/standing orders
The library has approximately 225 standing orders for German monograph series and conference proceedings, including ‘complete works’ series for important authors. Works by contemporary authors are purchased using Harrassowitz’s “Belle Lettres” approval plan.

3.3 Journals
The Library holds approximately 140 journal subscriptions covering German language and literature. Electronic access is considered a high priority. Effort is made to limit unnecessary duplication with journals received by the Bodleian via legal deposit.
3.4 Reference material
The French and German reading room houses a large collection of German dictionaries on open shelves, from general to specialist topics as well as bi- and monolingual editions. Literary histories, bibliographies, reference grammars and manuals, and catalogues of libraries with important German collections are also purchased.

3.5 Propaganda
We have a small collection of propaganda dating back to the 19th Century.

4. Special Collections

4.1 Reformation pamphlets.
The library has a significant collection of 436 tracts and Flugschriften mainly by Luther with a few by Melanchthon, Hutten and others. Most were acquired in the 1870s, many as duplicates from German libraries, notably from Heidelberg in 1878. Further additions were made in the 1920s and 1930s and two titles were presented by Professor Fiedler in 1940. The pamphlets range in date between 1518 and 1589. 32 are in Latin, the remainder in German. The Luther titles include An den christlichen Adel deutscher Nation (Augsburg 1520), De captivitate babylonica ecclesiae and Von der Freiheit eines Christenmenschens (both Wittenberg 1520) and, not surprisingly, Ein sendbrief ...Von Dolmetzschen (Nuremberg 1530). The library also has a copy of the Low German version of Luther's Bible translation by Johann Bugenhagen published in 1533-1534, in Lübeck, some months before the High German version. This was also acquired in the 1870s.

4.2 Fiedler Collection.
Hermann Georg Fiedler (1862-1945), the first Taylor Professor of German (1907-1937) and for many years a Curator was a constant benefactor to the library throughout his life. After his death his daughter, Herma, gave her father’s fine collection to the library together with funds for further purchases in German. The Fiedler collection now comprises some 4,000 vols (of which 1,675 date before 1901) and reflects Professor Fiedler’s special interests in Middle High German language and literature, major and minor writers of the 18th century and Anglo-German literary relations, particularly German-English translations. Five vols derive from Thomas Carlyle’s library, having been bought at auction by Fiedler in 1932. A copy of subscribers to Carlyle’s lectures on German literature in 1837 was also given to the library by Miss Fiedler together with a large archive of letters and personal and professional papers from her father’s estate. Fiedler was a lifelong friend of Gerhart Hauptmann (who based the character of Professor Geiger in Vor Sonnenuntergang upon him) and letters between the two families are also present. A further 473 pre-1901 titles have been added to the collection (shelf-mark Fiedler Adds.), but though German books are still acquired through the Fiedler fund they are no longer added to the collection.
The Fiedler collection has texts from the 16th to the 20th century, one of the earliest being Aliquot nomina propria Germanorum ad priscam etymologiam restituta (Wittenberg 1544) attributed to Martin Luther. A further 28 items date from before 1700. However, the collection is particularly rich in works of the 18th and early 19th centuries (757 titles in 1,095 vols published before 1851). Early editions of both major and minor writers of this period are accompanied by numerous, often rare, early English or French translations. Examples include Goethe's Schriften (Leipzig 1787-1790), with engraved plates by Daniel Chodowiecki and Angelica Kauffmann. This contains the first published version of Faust as Faust: ein Fragment. Associated with this are no fewer than 80 19th-century translations, adaptations and parodies of the Faust legend (including a Victorian burlesque). Similarly there are two early editions of Goethe's Die Leiden des jungen Werthers (Bern 1775 and Leipzig 1775) and 29 older translations and ‘Wertheriads’. There are early editions of Schiller including Die Jungfrau von Orleans (Berlin 1802) plus some 60 early translations. The same is true for Gottfried August Bürger (especially his Lenore), Salomon Gessner, Klopstock, Kotzebue, Lessing, Jean Paul, Wieland and of the 19th-century authors E. T. A. Hoffmann, Friedrich Heinrich K. Fouqué, and Johann Karl A. Musäus. There is, of course, a first edition of the Schlegel-Tieck translation of Shakespeare's plays (Berlin 1825-1833) and of Thomas Carlyle's German romance (Edinburgh 1827). Travel literature from this period is also represented with accounts of travels by Britons in Germany and Germans in Britain, e.g. Karl Philipp Moritz, Reisen eines Deutschen in England, im Jahr 1782 (Berlin 1783 and 2nd ed. 1785).

4.3 Montgomery collection.
Marshall Montgomery (1880-1930), Lecturer (later Reader) in German from 1920 accumulated a working collection of 1,750 vols given to the library by his widow in 1938. 570 vols date from the 19th century or earlier (2 from the 16th century, 6 from the 17th century, 79 from the 18th century). The emphasis of the collection is predominantly on German literature, philology and history. Some items, e.g. Albrecht von Eyb, Margarita poetica (Basel 1503) and Mitauisches Gesangbuch (Leipzig 1771), handsomely bound in stained red vellum, have been moved to other collections in the library.

5. Subject coverage of purchased material
As with other language specialisms, the volume of useful material received via legal deposit is smaller than in other subjects. As such, purchased material makes up a large percentage of the Taylorian German collections (excluding donations and transferred legal deposit material).

The following table details the subject coverage of purchased material selected for the Taylor Institution Library.

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<th>SUBJECT COVERAGE</th>
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<td>dictionaries and grammars</td>
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6. Name of subject consultant(s) responsible for collections
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