Collection Development Policies for research and taught-course collections in the Bodleian Social Science Library

Internet Studies

1. Overview

1.1. General coverage

The Bodleian Social Science Library (SSL) develops its collections primarily in support of the research and teaching activities of the departments of Economics, International Development, Politics and International Relations, Social Policy and Social Work, and Sociology; and in the Centres for: Criminology, Refugee Studies, Russian and East European Studies, Socio-Legal Studies and African Studies. Each year the library orders from over 470 undergraduate and postgraduate reading lists.

The collections can be searched using SOLO. Books cited on reading lists, recent research texts and key reference works are housed on open-shelf in the Social Science Library in Library of Congress classification order. Most journals are available online; those only available in print are on open-shelf, shelved alphabetically by title.

All members of the University are encouraged to recommend items for purchase. An online suggestions form is available.

1.2 Legal deposit

The SSL is the primary holding library for post-1990 legal deposit books in economics, Western and global politics and international relations, sociology, social policy and social work, and for post-2005 works in international development, Western language Slavonic works, and general social science works. The Library also holds many key legal deposit journals that relate to its core subjects. Other Bodleian Legal Deposit items can be delivered to the SSL from the Book Storage Facility (BSF) on request.

To help preserve the national archive, the SSL avoids transferring Legal Deposit books to its open-shelves if they are cited on core reading lists.

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 will be implemented gradually over several years, as the Legal Deposit Libraries agree collectively to accept electronic versions from each UK publisher.

1.3 Electronic Resources

Where possible and if desirable, resources for the social sciences are made available online in preference to, or as a supplement to, printed versions.

Over 50,000 electronic journals are available, and can be accessed from any site in the University, or outside Oxford using Single-Sign-On. All major publishers are included in Oxford’s portfolio of e-journal packages (which often includes the complete backfiles), and additional e-journal titles are subscribed to on an individual basis if deemed cost-effective.
There is also a growing collection of Internet Studies e-books and online reference works, particularly in support of teaching. Bodleian Libraries provide access to more than 800,000 online books across many subjects, and subscribes to three major platforms: EBL, EBSCO and Ebrary.

There are also over 1000 databases available via OxLIP+ and SOLO, including the Computing Research Repository (CoRR) plus social science wide databases and platforms such as SCOPUS and the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences.

1.4 Statistical Series
As the principal library for social science statistical collections in Oxford the SSL maintains a comprehensive collection of series from major international organizations including the OECD, World Bank, IMF, and the WTO and to a lesser extent the EU.

For each of the G8 nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States plus China and India), the Library will hold the report of the central bank, the yearbook of statistics, and other official statistical office publications as and when deemed appropriate. The purchase and retention of monthly statistics will be reviewed on a regular basis as many are now freely available via the web.

For all other non-G8 nations the Library will increase its holdings over time to include the yearbook of statistics and the annual report of the Central Bank as available.

1.5 Official Publications
In addition to statistical publications the Library will hold and/or provide electronic access to all World Bank, IMF, and OECD publications as well as significant UK official documents and reports of interest to its core subjects.

1.6 Languages
Resources purchased will primarily be English language material. Key research materials in European, and to a lesser extent, other languages, will however be considered.

1.7 Bodleian Libraries Collection Management
Bodleian Libraries aims to support new research areas and taught courses as they arise, and collection policies will be subject to amendment and continuous development in the light of such changes in academic requirements, while having regard to national/international provision in subject areas where the Bodleian Libraries have leading collections.

Bodleian Libraries has a range of Collection Management Policy Documents which refer to all subjects and collections, including the relocation, retention, disposal and transfer of library materials.

2. Teaching Collections for Internet Studies

2.1 Reading list material
In consultation with the Oxford Internet Institute departmental library, the SSL purchases additional material for reading lists prepared by Oxford Internet Institute teaching staff. General items in support of teaching and learning are also provided, especially research methodology texts. Departments should be explicit in their recommendations to students concerning personal purchases of essential books, as the Bodleian Libraries cannot ensure that every student can always access a copy of a textbook at the time they want it.
2.2 Levels of provision
Student numbers, the nature of the item (core reading or background text), price, and the availability of the text in Oxford, are all taken into account when placing new book orders. In general, the Social Science Library aims to provide one additional print copy or and e-version of every core text. Additional copies are purchased in the light of users’ needs, requests and usage patterns.

2.3 Journal articles
The majority of journals are available online. Any journal articles required for teaching that are unavailable in Oxford (online or print) will be obtained through inter-library loan. Providing the terms of the University’s licence agreement with the Copyright Licensing Agency are adhered to, academics may scan journal articles (and book chapters) for use via WebLearn or make the relevant number of multiple copies.

2.4 Courses
The following courses are supported:

MSc in Social Science of the Internet
DPhil in Information, Communication and the Social Sciences

The SSL eReadings service provides digital copies of print-only book chapters and articles cited on reading lists. These scans are created and hosted under the terms of the CLA HE Licence for the courses below:

- Digital social research
- Social dynamics of the internet

Note – it is the responsibility of lecturers to keep the Library informed of teaching requirements. For major course revisions or new courses, the Social Sciences Division requires a supporting letter from the Library Service, and the Department may be required to pay start-up costs.

3. Research Collections for Internet Studies

3.1 Journals
All key journals (i.e. highly cited journals and those relating to the specific interests of the department) in Internet Studies will be provided. Where possible and desirable, new subscriptions will be made available online in preference to print. The Library Service welcomes requests for specific titles not currently subscribed to and is committed to expanding coverage of Internet Studies journals as funds permit.

3.2 Discussion and working papers
The Library retains key discussion and working paper series permanently and a larger selection for five years before discarding. Details of these are available on the SSL website and holdings are reviewed on a regular basis: http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ssl/finding-resources/resources-by-format2/discussion-and-working-papers
3.3 Research books
The Bodleian Libraries welcome suggestions for monograph purchases from members of the Oxford Internet Institute. In addition to this, and the legal deposit intake, the Library Service will pay special attention to the purchasing of non-deposited material in support of the subjects listed in section 4.

3.4 Data
Where appropriate and within budget constraints, the Bodleian Libraries will purchase datasets and data-based reports in support of research. (Data can only be purchased by the Library Service if the contract is acceptable to the University and the data can be made available to all University members).

4. Core Research and Teaching Areas for Internet Studies
Topics include:
Social dynamics of the Internet
Internet technologies and regulation
Digital social research
Internet economics
Online social networks
Law and the Internet
Digital Era government and politics
Subversive technologies
ICT and development
Big Data in society
Learning, the Internet and society

Monthly accessions lists of new items, both purchased and received through legal deposit, are available via the SSL website: http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ssl/quick-links/new-books

5. Contacts
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