Collection Development Policy for South and Inner Asian Studies

1. Overview

General coverage of subject in the Bodleian Libraries

The Bodleian Libraries acquire publications relating to South Asian and Tibetan and Himalayan studies, as extensively as funds permit, both in the general humanities and social sciences, regardless of the language or place of publication. The collection covers the history and culture of these regions from pre-history to the present day. The fields of language, literature, religion, history and politics are particularly strongly represented. Responsibility for the South Asian research and teaching collections is shared between a number of Bodleian Libraries, including the central Bodleian, the Bodleian Oriental Institute Library (OIL), the Bodleian History Faculty Library (HFL), the English Faculty Library (EFL), the Eastern Art Library (EAL) at the Sackler Library, the Bodleian Social Science Library (SSL), the Taylor Institution Library and the Philosophy and Theology Faculties Library (PTFL).

SOLO (http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk) is the online catalogue which lists most books, journals and electronic resources in the Bodleian Libraries’ teaching, learning and research collections. Records for significant parts of the 19th and 20th century printed collections (particularly in South Asian languages) have yet to be added to SOLO. However, the card catalogue for these sections is still available for consultation and is located at OIL. Retrospective cataloguing continues as a high priority, and new records are being regularly added to SOLO.

An online guide to the South Asian collections is available at http://ox.libguides.com/southasia. This provides a collection overview, a virtual new books display, links to selected free online resources, and a detailed guide to the historic South Asian newspapers collection.

Legal deposit

Legal deposit material relating to the history, languages, culture and current affairs – political, economic and social – of South Asia and the Himalayan countries of Inner Asian is selected for the central Bodleian and SSL. Legal deposit material relating to pre-independence Sri Lanka forms part of the former Rhodes House Collections, now part of the central Bodleian. Other legal deposit titles are housed in the Book Storage Facility (BSF) from where they can be requested to most of the Bodleian Libraries Reading Rooms.

Electronic resources

SOLO lists all electronic resources purchased by the Bodleian Libraries, such as bibliographic databases, e-journals and e-books. These include subscription resources and selected open-access resources.
The Bodleian Libraries purchase a number of political, economic and general social science full-text and statistical databases that include coverage of the region, which can be accessed from SOLO.

The Tibetan Buddhist Resource Centre’s Core Text Collection series is a major electronic resource for the study of Inner Asia; currently Core Text Collections 1-12 are available. Access is via SOLO or Oxlip+, the Bodleian Libraries’ platform for bibliographic databases and online collections.

Notes about particular formats or collections

Film

Film Studies is a growing academic discipline in Oxford, with collections dispersed across a number of Bodleian Libraries. The Film Studies Subject Consultant has overall responsibility for these collections, and a separate collection policy is available. In general, monographs relating to South Asian film are purchased by the Modern South Asian Studies Subject Consultant. South Asian films on DVD are purchased by the Taylor Institute Library for its European and World Cinema collection.

Grey literature

SSL has a specialist grey literature collection of 2,500 items documenting forced migrant and refugee flows in South Asia. This reference collection is primarily in English and comprises conference and seminar papers, newsletters, field research, working papers and policy documents. The date coverage ranges from the early 1980s to the present day.

Government publications and newspapers

The Bodleian Libraries South Asian collections contain a representative collection of South Asian newspapers (including online access to the Times of India via subscription) and extensive collections of government documents, including statistical series and annual department reports, both current and historic. The most heavily used government titles – gazetteers, census publications, and Indian parliamentary debates – are shelved in the David Reference Area in the Weston Library, for ease of access and usage. The remainder are shelved at OIL where they are being catalogued, before being sent to the BSF; some catalogued material is already stored there. SSL holds government statistical series dating back to the 1960s for a number of South Asian countries. A list of major historic South Asian newspapers – with information about date ranges and formats – can be found on the South Asia LibGuide (http://ox.libguides.com/southasia).

Languages

The Bodleian Libraries South Asian collections cover publications relating to South Asian and Tibetan and Himalayan studies regardless of the language. Lending collections relating to Tibet (including Tibetan-language materials) are held by OIL, and form the Aris Collection; they are purchased by the Tibet Subject Consultant. The Bodleian Libraries South Asian collections have a particular focus on languages of the region that relate to current and historic research and teaching interests of the University Faculty of Oriental Studies. These include Tibetan; the classical Indian languages Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali; and the modern
Indian languages Hindi and Urdu. As well as Tibetan material, OIL collects mainly European and South Asian language material. EAL collects mainly European language material, while HFL, EFL and SSL collect mainly English language material. Some Japanese language material on South Asian Buddhism is collected by the Bodleian Japanese Library (BJL).

2. Teaching collections

OIL, HFL, EFL, SSL and PTFL provide the main lending collections.

OIL holds lending and teaching collections relating to the languages and literature of the Indian sub-continent and Tibet, in support of the Oriental Faculty’s teaching syllabus.

HFL holds lending and teaching collections relating to the history of the Indian sub-continent, in support of the History Faculty’s teaching syllabus. The emphasis is on colonial and post-colonial Indian history.

EFL collects works on post-colonial South Asian English literature and works of criticism on major South Asian authors writing in English to support the Faculty’s teaching interests.

SSL collects English language material relating to South Asia within the context of its support for the research and teaching activities of the Department of International Development and the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies. Global political and western foreign policy works are also collected in support of the Department of Politics and International Relations.

PTFL and OIL hold collections relating to the religions of South Asia, in support of the Theology and Oriental Faculties teaching programmes.

Textbooks

OIL’s lending and teaching collections relating to the languages and literature of the Indian sub-continent are selected in accordance with Faculty reading lists (where these exist) and otherwise on the recommendation of Faculty lecturers.

HFL is first and foremost guided by the History Faculty’s reading lists and degree programmes. In addition to the main reading lists for which provision is made, the special subject From Gandhi to the green revolution : India, independence and modernity, 1947-73 and the further subject Post-colonial historiography : writing the Indian nation, the history of South Asia is increasingly taught in other courses as part of colonial and world history. HFL aims to purchase as many titles as possible on reading lists, unless, particularly in the case of interdisciplinary topics or substantial reading lists, the books are completely unrelated to history. HFL will selectively buy newly published critical monographs on history, provided they are suitable for undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Book selection at the EFL is guided by Faculty reading lists.

SSL provides lending copies of reading list material for the MSc in Contemporary India, and will continue to do this when the course becomes the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies in
Michaelmas 2017. The Modern South Asia Subject Consultant purchases this material with the assistance of SSL acquisitions staff.

PTFL and OIL purchase lending and teaching texts relating to the religions of South Asia, with particular emphasis on Hinduism and Buddhism, guided by Faculty reading lists.

Levels of provision
Reference copies are available in the central Bodleian, Upper Camera, OIL and SSL. Recently acquired material for the central Bodleian is generally stored at the BSF from where it can be requested to numerous reading rooms.

If OIL, HFL, EFL, or PTFL select a textbook from a reading list for purchase, then normally one lending copy will be bought in the first instance. If the title is for a highly subscribed course or should evidence from enquiries, circulation and reservation activities indicate high use, then additional copies will be bought, sometimes over time, to support the higher demand.

SSL aims to provide a minimum of two print copies (one reference and one lending), or one online copy of every core text. Additional copies are purchased in the light of user needs, requests and usage patterns.

Other
Primary source materials
The study of primary sources is the main purpose for historians and the Oxford history degree course places much emphasis on teaching students how to interpret and understand these. In addition to the vast collections of the central Bodleian, HFL attempts to buy for the lending collection as many relevant modern and affordably priced editions of source material as possible.

3. Research collections
Research monographs
The Bodleian Libraries South Asia collections include comprehensive research collections of printed material on the languages, history, culture and politics, economic and social development of all of South Asia and the Himalayan countries of Inner Asia. It also holds research collections on Hindu and Jain temple architecture and archaeology.

EFL also supports research in post-colonial literature from South Asia and the South Asian diaspora.

EAL holds comprehensive research collections on South and Inner Asian, Islamic and secular architecture, painting, sculpture, crafts and textiles.
SSL collects English language material relating to South Asia within the context of its support for the research activities of the Department of International Development and the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies.

**Monographic series/standing orders**

The Bodleian Libraries South Asia collections include substantial numbers of standing orders for major monographic series in South and Inner Asian studies, and major South Asian government statistical series.

SSL has standing orders for World Bank, IMF and OECD publications, key international and country statistical publications, and working paper series. Many of these are now available online, and searchable via SOLO.

**Journals**

The Bodleian Libraries South Asia collections and the EAL both hold substantial collections of journals, both current and historic, received by legal deposit, subscription and donation.

Core journals for development studies are held by the Bodleian SSL. Most journals are now available online, searchable via SOLO.

**4. Special collections**

The central Bodleian’s Oriental section has one of the most important collections of Mughal paintings in the world and is the repository for some 8,700 Sanskrit manuscripts, the largest known collection of Sanskrit manuscripts outside the Indian sub-continent. The central Bodleian also has collections of manuscripts in other Indic languages, though the holdings are small in relation to the Sanskrit collections, with some 200 Hindi manuscripts and with just over 100 manuscripts in Tamil, Prakrit, Marathi, and Pali respectively. It also holds a collection of over 200 Tibetan manuscripts and xylographs. The central Bodleian only seeks to acquire new South Asian and Inner Asian manuscripts, whether by purchase or donation, where the provenance is proven.

Both the Weston Library Special Collections and Western Manuscripts Department and its Oriental section hold collections of papers and photographs of individuals who worked in South and Inner Asia. Of further interest is the historic archive of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, which contains extensive collections of material relating to Christian missions in India in the 19th and 20th centuries.

**5. Names of subject consultant(s) responsible for collections**

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