

Theatre Collection Development Policy

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY

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1. Introduction

This policy describes the theatre collection development program of the Music & Performing Arts Library (MPAL) and the goals for collecting in specific media as well as in specific subject areas. The policy offers a straightforward description that can serve as a guide for new selectors, as well as being a statement of collecting practice for interested faculty, staff, students, and existing and potential donors. The library has separate collection development policies for music and dance. Each policy is reviewed and, if necessary, updated every two years.

The Music & Performing Arts Library has two central missions: (1) to support the curricula of the School of Music, Department of Dance, and Department of Theatre and (2) to support and encourage faculty and student research, performance, and creativity. In addition, MPAL strives to support dance, music, and theatre making in the Champaign-Urbana community and to support music and performing arts research within the US and globally.

All three of the main constituencies served by MPAL offer degrees at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The Department of Dance offers BFA, BA, and MFA degrees. The School of Music offers BA and BMUS options in composition-theory, performance, jazz, and musicology, a Bachelor of Musical Arts in Lyric Theatre, a Bachelor of Music Education, and a BS in computer science and music. Graduate degrees offered by the School of Music include MMs and DMAs in composition, performance, jazz, musicology, conducting, and pedagogy, a Master of Music Education, Artist Diplomas, and PhDs in musicology and music education. The Department of Theatre offers a BFA in design, technology, and management; acting; and theatre studies; an MFA in acting; or design, technology and management; and an MA/PhD in theatre history and practice.

Other identifiable categories of MPAL users include University of Illinois non-theatre degree seeking students who may be taking classes or participating in ensembles; faculty and students in other departments outside of music, dance, and theatre who are conducting interdisciplinary study and research; residents of the Champaign-Urbana area not affiliated with the University; and out-of-town researchers who use resources on-site, make written requests for reference or reproduction assistance, or submit Interlibrary Loan requests. While MPAL is happy to provide services to these users, the Library does not collect materials specifically in support of any needs beyond those of our three main constituencies.

2. Collection overview and collection development mechanisms

2.1 A brief overview of the collection

The Department of Theatre at Illinois dates back to 1967. In 2008, many theatre resources were transferred from the former English Library to the then Music Library, at which point, the Music Library was renamed to the Music & Performing Arts Library. The theatre collection includes a significant amount of monographs and modern play scripts.

2.2 Mechanisms for collection development

2.2.1 Selectors

Acquisition of material is split between the two MPAL librarians and the English & Drama Librarian at the Literatures & Languages Library. Suggestions from library patrons for additions to our collections are always welcome and can be made in person, via [email](#), or by using [MPAL's Request a Purchase form](#).

2.2.2 Standing orders and approval plans

MPAL has approval plans with Amalivre (for books in French), Casalini (books in Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese), and YBP (English-language books). It has standing orders for a large number of book series and subscribes to several hundred journals.

Materials are acquired through a combination of approval plans, blanket orders, standing orders, and firm orders.

3. Collection management programs for preservation, storage, replacement, deselection, and access

Damaged items may be repaired or digital preservation copies made by the Library's digital content creation unit. Decisions on replacing lost or damaged items are made by individual selectors.

Items that are fragile, rare, or in special formats may be housed in MPAL's Special Collections. Particularly rare and or valuable items are stored in the Rare Books and Manuscript Library.

Circulating materials that are duplicated, have been superseded in edition, or have low use based on specific metrics are regularly considered for relocation to the library's remote storage facility at Oak Street or removal from the collection. In general, the Library does not collect multiple copies of books, scores, or recordings.

The Library has large collections of microfilms, microfiches, CDs, LPs, and DVDs. Equipment is available to enable listening/viewing of these formats.

3.1 Consortial access agreements

Patrons can request items from other libraries within the state of Illinois using I-Share. Materials not available via I-Share can be requested on Interlibrary Loan via WorldCat and Illiad. MPAL also lends library materials to other libraries under the same agreements.

4. Cooperative collecting agreements and consortial agreements

At the moment, the Library has no cooperative collecting agreements with other libraries concerning dance materials. In addition to being a member of I-Share, the University Library is a member of BTAA and receives access to some dance related electronic resources such as e-books and e-journals via consortial agreements.

5. Summary of scope of coverage and formats collected

5.1 General

The Library's collections in theatre consist of several thousand books on drama, theatre history and practice, including production topics such as lighting and costume design, in addition to over 3,000 volumes in the play script collection. MPAL does not actively collect DVDs or other forms of theatre performance materials at present, as this is handled by the Undergraduate Library. The theatre periodical collections include research and current awareness journals such as Contemporary Theatre Review, Text and Performance Quarterly, Costume, and Dress.

5.2 Local or regional artists' or writers' works collected systematically

With the exception of faculty publications, MPAL does not currently collect in this area.

5.3 Pedagogical materials

The Library has a number of books concerning the teaching of theatre and drama and actively collects in this area.

5.4 Geographical areas covered or excluded, in terms of both intellectual content and publication sources

The Department of Theatre offers courses relating to theatre practices across the world, including Asian American Theatre, African American Theatre, Multi-Ethnic Theatre, Modern Japanese Drama, Modern Scandinavian Drama, and Pre-modern Chinese Drama. MPAL supports these courses with appropriate materials.

5.5 Chronological periods and movements or schools covered or excluded

The Department of Theatre has a strong program in theatre history. Courses include Theatre History, Costume History, and American Theatre History. MPAL has a strong collection of materials to support these courses. Theatre history materials prior to the modern era are collected by the Literatures & Languages Library.

5.6 Publication dates covered or excluded

Most of MPAL's collections in theatre date from the 20th and 21st centuries. Special collections include the [Motley Collection of Theatre History and Costume Design](#) and [Portraits of Actors Collection](#), which are held by the [Rare Book & Manuscript Library](#).

5.7 Formats

5.7.1 Electronic formats

Several of the Library's theatre journals are available electronically. The Library also purchases e-books, especially relating to the technical side of theatre. The Library subscribes to the International Bibliography of Theater and Dance in full text, the International Index to the Performing Arts, and several online play script and streaming media collections.

5.7.2 Microforms

The Library does not actively collect in this format.

5.7.3 Manuscripts and early editions

The Library does not actively collect in this format, although some related materials are held by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

5.8 Related subjects and collections

The [Undergraduate Library's Media Collection](#) is a good source for theatre and drama DVDs. A large collection of materials relating to theatre history are held by the [Literatures and Languages Library](#) and a few books on the technical aspects of theatre, such as stage lighting, can be found in the [Grainger Engineering Library](#). Books on theatre architecture are located in [the Ricker Architecture and Art Library](#). Special collections materials are held by the [Rare Book & Manuscript Library](#).

6. Gifts policy

MPAL does not accept gifts without prior discussion and review. MPAL will consider gifts consisting of dance books and videos that are in good condition for addition to our collections. Please be aware that the Library does not collect obsolete formats such as LPs and audio/video cassettes, except in rare instances such as when materials are related to the history of the university. All decisions on retention or disposal of gift materials are made by librarians of the Music & Performing Arts Library. Materials not accepted for whatever reason (typically duplication of already held materials) are generally given away free to patrons or recycled (typically due to poor condition). Due to limitations

of space and resources to process gifts, the Library must be very selective in accepting large donations. To that end, inclusion of funds to assist with processing is encouraged.

Monetary gifts to the Library for collections and other needs are always welcome. You can easily make a gift through the [University Library Office of Advancement](#). If you chose to make a gift by check or money order, please include a memo stating the designation of your gift is the Music & Performing Arts Library.

The Library is forbidden from making appraisals of materials for any purposes including tax. Please see the [library-wide Gifts Policy](#) for additional information.

7. Access policies

Although the Music & Performing Arts Library primarily caters to those pursuing the academic study of music, our collections are also available more broadly for study or recreational use. The University Library access policy may be found at <https://www.library.illinois.edu/geninfo/policies/access/>.