Collection Policy: Geography

# Introduction

The Library supports the instructional and research needs of faculty and students working within the Department of Geography.

Geographic literature is defined as literature relating to the discipline of geography, including exploration and discovery, general geographic description and analysis, the history of geographic thought, geographic bibliography, historical geography, place-names, regional geography, and the various themes encompassed in the subfields of physical and human geography.

Cartographic literature includes literature relating to the discipline of cartography, including cartographic processes (data collection, compilation, design and painting), aerial photography and map librarianship (including map collecting and map conservation).

The Department of Geography at Lakehead University offers a broad undergraduate program of study covering physical, human, applied and regional geography, as well as a number of courses on the techniques in geography. Research interests and teaching specializations of the faculty reflect not only the breadth of geography, but also a variety of scales ranging from local to regional to global. The following programs are offered by the department:

* Bachelor of Arts (Geography Major)
* Honours Bachelor of Arts (Geography Major)
* BA (Geography Major)/Honours Bachelor of Outdoor Recreation (Specialization in Leadership/Specialization in Parks/Specialization in Tourism)
* Bachelor of Science (Geography Major)
* Honours BSc (Geography Major)
* Honours BSc (Geography with Geology Minor)
* HBES (Environmental Studies and Geography Majors)
* HBESc (Environmental Studies and Geography Majors)
* Geography Minor Program
* Certificate Program in Mapping Sciences
* Concurrent Programs with Education
* Interdisciplinary Minor Program in Northern Studies
* Interdisciplinary BSc and Honours BSc (Geoarchaeology Major)
* Master of Environmental Studies & Northern Environments

The Chancellor Paterson Library is the main location for the geography collection. Materials relating to the geography of the North are housed in the Northern Studies Resource Centre. The Education Library holds a substantial number of monographs of interest to the department, particularly (but not exclusively) in the area of Canadian geography.

The Chancellor Paterson Library has been a depository for federal government publications since 1967 and for Ontario government publications since 1972 and therefore has an extensive collection of government documents. These publications are housed as a separate collection in the Library but can be easily accessed through the Library’s online catalogue. Access to full-text of electronic government publications is also through the Library’s online catalogue. In addition, the Library is a participant in the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI), which provides access to Statistics Canada data files and databases. As well, members of the university community have access to a number of digital map resources as a result of the Library’s participation in Statistics Canada’s DLI, membership in the DMTI Spatial Data Acquisition Consortium and the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) and status as a map depository (along with the Geography Department Map Library).

The Lakehead University Map Library, located in the Geography Department, houses collections such as the National Topographic Map Series of Canada, photomaps of Northern Ontario above the 51st parallel, the Provincial Series focusing on Thunder Bay, the Ontario Base Map (O.B.M.) collection also focusing on Thunder Bay and its surrounding area, a collection of atlases, and hand drawn maps.

The Lakehead University Library Archives are also of interest to researchers in the area of geography. The Archives include Regional History Records, Manuscript Records and General Historical Records, as well as University Records.

# History of the Collection

The geography collection is solid. In early years geography was part of the Department of History and Geography, but became a separate department in the early 1970s.

Over the past five years the average figure for enrolment in the BA/BSc programs was 235, for the HBA/HBSc programs 90, and for the HBES/HBESc programs 45. In addition the average number for course enrolment for the latest five years was 1269 (in 2006-07 this number was 1359).

With new programs being added to the Department and changing directions in the curriculum, the collection has been adjusted to reflect these changes. For example, materials relating to environmental studies, northern geographies, travel and tourism and urban geography are actively sought.

# Languages

English is the primary language of the collection. With the addition of the new Masters Program in Environmental Studies and Northern Environments, other northern languages including French will be of interest.

# Chronological Guidelines

Primary emphasis is on current publications and access to current materials.

# Geographical Guidelines

Publications acquired are primarily from Canada, the United States and Great Britain. English language books from other areas such as China, Australia and Western Europe are also of interest.

# Types of Material

**a. Physical** The preferred format for monographs is print although the Library has access to NetLibrary electronic books, some of which are pertinent to geography, tourism, recreation and particularly environmental issues. Microfilms are acquired particularly for newspapers such as the Globe and Mail, the New York Times and the London Times originally acquired in print format. The Library subscribes to print and online journals and indexes/abstracts.

**b. Publication format** (monographs, journals, conference proceedings) The major focus is on monographs and journals. Selection of reference materials, specifically atlases, handbooks, encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, directories, indexes and abstracts is shared with Reference & Information Services, The Chancellor Paterson Library.

# Subject Areas/Levels

(four levels: basic, initial study, advanced study and research).

The subject organization below follows the Library of Congress Classification Outline. Core materials fall into classes G, GA, GB and GF.

| **LC CLASS** | **SUBJECT** | **CURRENT** | **TARGET** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| G 70.4 | Remote sensing | Initial | Advanced |
| G 141 | Historical geography | Basic | Basic |
| G 149 – G 180 | Travel, voyages & travels | Basic | Basic |
| G 200 – G 336 | History of discoveries, explorations and travels | Initial | Initial |
| G 369 – G 503 | Special voyages and travels | Initial | Initial |
| G 575 – G 890 | Arctic and Antarctic regions | Advanced | Advanced |
|  | **MATHEMATICAL GEOGRAPHY** |  |  |
| GA 3 – GA 23 | History and general works | Basic | Basic |
|  | **CARTOGRAPHY** |  |  |
| GA 103 – GA 108 | General works, treatises, and advanced textbooks | Basic | Initial |
| GA 125 – GA 155 | Map drawing, modeling, printing, reading, etc. | Basic | Initial |
| GA 201 – GA 288 | History. General by period, globe-making, globes | Basic | Basic |
| GA 341 – GA 1776 | History. Maps. By region and country | Basic | Basic |
|  | **PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY** |  |  |
| GB 51 – GB 54.5 | General works, treatises and advanced textbooks | Basic | Basic |
| GB 111 – GB 398.7 | By region or country | Initial | Advanced |
| GB 400 – GB 649 | Geomorphology, landforms, terrain | Initial | Advanced |
| GB 651 – GB 2998 | Hydrology, water | Advanced | Advanced |
| GB 5000 – GB 5030 | Natural disasters | Initial | Advanced |
| GE 1 - 350 | Environmental sciences | Initial | Advanced |
|  | **HUMAN GEOGRAPHY** |  |  |
| GF 13 – GF 23 | History and philosophy | Basic | Initial |
| GF 31 – GF 50 | General works, treatises and advanced textbooks | Initial | Advanced |
| GF 51 – GF 95 | Environmental influences on man | Initial | Advanced |
| GF 500 – GF 895 | By region and country | Initial | Initial |
| GF 101 – GF 127 | Settlements | Basic | Basic |
| HT 101 – 395 | Urban groups. The City. Urban sociology | Advanced | Advanced |
| HT 401 – 485 | Rural groups. Rural sociology | Basic | Initial |
| HD 101 – 1395.5 | Land Use | Initial | Advanced |
| HD 1401 – 2210 | Agriculture | Initial | Initial |
| HD 2321 – 4730.9 | Industry | Advanced | Advanced |
| HD 4801 – 8943 | Labor. Work. Working class | Advanced | Advanced |
| HD 8045 – 8943 | By region or country | Initial | Advanced |
| HD 9000 – 9999 | Special industries and trades | Initial | Advanced |
| QC 851 – 999 | Meteorology. Climatology | Advanced | Advanced |
| QH 540 – 549.5 | Ecology | Advanced | Advanced |
| TA 501 – TA 616 | Surveying | Initial | Initial |

# Interdisciplinary Activities

At present the Department of Geography has cross-listed courses with Environmental Studies and Northern Studies. In addition, students in other disciplines such as Engineering, Education, Biology, Environmental Science, forestry, ORPT, geology, kinesiology and history (especially Asian history) enrol in courses offered by the Department.

# Strengths/Weaknesses

The Department spends a larger proportion of its budget on serials than on monographs; as well, access is available to a substantial number of electronic journals through the Library’s participation in the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) including subscriptions to suites of electronic journals offered by publishers such as Blackwell Synergy, Elsevier Science Direct, SpringerLINK and Taylor & Francis. Users also have access to JSTOR, a searchable full-text archive of academic and scholarly journals. Access is available to eHRAF Collection of Ethnography which contains text and graphics covering descriptive information on cultures and ethnic groups of the world.

The Library’s particular strengths are in environmental geography, urban geography and physical geography, especially with respect to northern environments.

For the environmental studies programs library holdings in the areas of agriculture, biology, geology, indigenous learning, environmental economics, and environmental engineering bolster the Department’s collections of monographs and journals. The Department is itself actively collecting in the area of environmental studies and is interested in acquiring anything relating to the north. Also of interest are materials relating to northern Asia.

The collection needs some strengthening in the area of cartography to support the Certificate Program in Mapping Sciences. The cartography collection was strong prior to 1990 after which very little was ordered until recently. Materials relating to cartography are now actively sought.

Currently the Library’s collection includes a large number of titles in the Library of Congress subject heading “Special Industries and Trades”. However, the collection needs updating, and materials particularly relating to food supply are actively sought.

# Thunder Bay and Regional Resources

The collections of the Thunder Bay Public Library and the Challis Resource Library of Confederation College provide support at the undergraduate level. The Challis Library’s collection is particularly strong in the areas of tourism and recreation, and includes a number of video recordings. The collection of the Thunder Bay Public Library is fairly substantial in the areas of environmental issues and tourism. The Archives of the City of Thunder Bay are also of interest. The City Archives preserves and makes accessible the historical records of the City of Thunder Bay (established in 1970) and the former Cities of Fort William and Port Arthur. Holdings include, among other things, all aspects of municipal government such as planning, finance, recreation and protective services.

# Internet Resources

The Library maintains links to geography resources on the Internet at its website.

# Liaison

The Geography Department is responsible for selecting appropriate library resources. The departmental library representative communicates with a designated Collections Development Librarian with respect to its library budget, the acquisition process and cancellation projects. It is the responsibility of the Collections Development Librarian to ensure that relevant information regarding new publications is forwarded to the department’s library representative for consideration. The Library welcomes donations of books and journals, which fall, within its collection scope. Tax receipts are issued on request only and only if the item is added to the collection.

# Weeding

Weeding will be done on an ongoing basis to preserve the quality, currency and strength of the collection. Collection Development Librarians are responsible for weeding the collection in their respective subject areas. When appropriate they will work with teaching faculty to make informed decisions about the value of potentially discarded materials.

**May 2007**

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Library Representative Collection Development Librarian

Department of Geography

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