Subject Level Collection Statement: Asian Studies

Subject Librarian: Tony Quinn
Subject Librarian Contact Details: tony.quinn@vuw.ac.nz
Academic Liaison: Stephen Epstein

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1. Purpose of the Statement

The purpose of this statement is to provide a framework to guide the collection development and management activities of Asian Studies. The statement supports the teaching, learning and research activities of Asian Studies within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

This statement is developed in accordance with the principles outlined in the Collection Development and Management Policy (CDMP).

2. Description of the Academic Subject

The Asian Studies programme aims to provide both undergraduate instruction in key concepts in Asian Studies, as well as the opportunity for postgraduate students to pursue more specific topics of interest.

Both the Asian Studies programme and the Asian Studies Institute form part of the School of Languages and Cultures.

Many of the courses available for an Asian Studies major are existing courses with a significant Asian context, offered by other degree programmes: e.g. Japanese language, South Asian religion, Chinese history. For a more complete list, see the Asian Studies website.

There is currently one academic staff member specifically devoted to the Asian Studies programme. However, as noted above, there is a number of staff in other programmes with research and teaching interests in Asia.

The Asian Studies programme offers instruction at all levels, from 100-level to PhD.

3. Focus of the Subject

As noted above, many of the subjects taught for an Asian Studies major are existing courses in other programmes with significant Asian context. Core Asian Studies courses are taught directly from the Asian Studies programme (e.g., ASIA 101 Introduction to Asian Studies, and ASIA 201 Contemporary Asian Society) and are broad in their approach. Areas which the
Asian Studies programme focuses on its core courses include New Zealand / Asia relations, contemporary Asian society, social change in Asia, and nation and identity.

It should be noted that in a 300-level paper (ASIA 302 Selected Topic: Directed Individual Study) students select their own topic of interest – these cover a wide range of topics, and involve a degree of personal research.

The research interests of the current Director of Asian Studies, Stephen Epstein, are in the areas of contemporary Korean popular culture and contemporary Korean literature, as well as the translation of Korean and Indonesian fiction.

4. **Overview of the Current Collection**

The collection parameters for Asian Studies are wide, covering the whole of Asia, across any academic discipline. As such it is impossible to collect in all areas. Asia specialists at the university are relied upon to collect in their area of interest.

**Electronic Resources**

There is one major academic database in Asian Studies, The Bibliography of Asian Studies, which the library subscribes to. The full range of Library databases are used depending on the specific topic at hand, for example, research on an Asian religion would involve a search on the ATLA Religion database.

**Journals**

As with databases above, the use of specific journals follows the specific topic at hand. There are a small number of Asian Studies journals with a broader brief (e.g., Journal of Asian Studies, Modern Asian Studies, etc).

**Audiovisual Resources**

Audiovisual resources are collected mainly in the form of movies and language-learning material. As most movies are foreign language titles / non New Zealand commercial release titles, rating costs are an important consideration. Language-learning material and movies are located in the Language Learning Centre or the Kelburn Library, at the discretion of the Director of Asian Studies.

**Reference Collection**

The coverage of the reference collection is much the same as the monograph collection (described below), with strengths in some areas (e.g., China-related topics) and weaknesses others, due to the need for broad coverage.

**Monographs (print and electronic)**

Books ordered by Asian Studies are housed at a variety of callmark ranges according to their subject area. The collection is enhanced by selections from academic staff in other disciplines on Asian topics.
5. **Collection Development Guidelines**

At the moment the primary responsibility for selection lies with the Director of Asian Studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LC Callmark Range</th>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Current Collection Level</th>
<th>Future Collecting Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DS1-DS937</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL901-PL998</td>
<td>Korean language and literature</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1 **Languages Collected**

Most resource material collected is in the English language. However, material in any Asian language is also considered, as appropriate to research needs.

5.2 **Geographical Areas Collected**

The broad geographical area of interest is Asia. In addition, New Zealand material where it relates to Asia is of interest.

5.3 **Chronological Periods Collected**

A wide range of chronological periods are covered.

5.4 **Publication Dates**

The collection is focussed on currently published material, with occasional key older material required.

5.5 **Format Guidelines**

Electronic journals are preferred, with print journals only required if electronic access is unavailable. The purchase of eBooks will be negotiated with academics on a case by case basis.

5.6 **Budget Guidelines:**

No special budget considerations at present.

5.7 **Classification Guidelines:**

The Library of Congress classification system is used.
5.8 Preservation Guidelines
Asian Studies journals are not bound. Any monographs that are beyond repair should be assessed for re-purchase.

5.9 Digitisation Guidelines:
To be developed 2012.

6. Relegation Statement

From 2012 the following criteria will apply:

Books
- Items which have not been issued within the last 10 years should be relegated to offsite storage.
- Any such titles should be seen by the Asian Studies Programme staff first, to make sure key works are not relegated.

Journals
For currently subscribed journals, pre-1990 issues can be relegated to offsite storage. For cancelled or ceased journals titles, the whole run can be relegated to storage.

Any such lists should be developed in consultation with History, Political Science and the Asian languages programmes.

7. Deselection Statement

Identification of items for relegation to the CONZUL Store will be assessed once the Store is established. From 2012 the following criteria will apply:

Books
Superseded editions and duplicate titles may be considered for deselection. Deselection will take place in close consultation with Asian Studies Programme staff.

Journals
Print periodicals available electronically will be deselected except for key titles identified by the Subject Librarian. In all cases academic staff will review periodicals chosen for deselection. Any such lists should be developed in consultation with History, Political Science and the Asian languages programmes.

Other Guidelines/Considerations
The Asian Studies programme teaches core Asian Studies papers – other approved courses for an Asian Studies major are taught out of other programmes.
Collection in this area poses a challenge, as the scope for collection is broad (Asia), and the quantity of material published is large. Asia specialists at the university are relied upon to collect in their specific area of interest, leaving the Asian Studies programme concentrating on providing selective coverage in the remaining areas.

**Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements**

- [Chinese](#)
- [History](#)
- [Japanese](#)
- [Politics and International Relations](#)
- [Religious Studies](#)