Subject Level Collection Statement: Italian

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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 for Italian. The statement supports the teaching, learning and research activities in the Italian Programme in the School of Languages and Cultures 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 Italian programme offers courses in the Italian language, literature, and society and culture. For a complete list of courses, see the Italian programme webpage.

Victoria University first began teaching in Italian in 1923. The Italian Programme currently forms part of the School of Languages and Cultures. The Italian programme offers instruction at all levels, from 100 level to PhD. There are currently three academic staff members teaching in the Italian programme, plus a lector funded by the Italian government.

3. Focus of the Subject

The teaching focus is primarily on Italian language and Italian literature, with courses also offered in Italian film and Italian culture and history.

The research focus of the programme is in the areas of Italian literature, Italian film, and Italian culture. There is also an emphasis on translation, as well as on the links between Italy and New Zealand. The programme has strong connections with the New Zealand Centre for Literary Translation.

Staff research profiles:

Sally Hill
Marco Sonzogni
Postgraduate research topics are varied. Current thesis topics include:

- Anorexia in contemporary Italian women's writings
- Italian translations of Katherine Mansfield's Journal
- Domenico da Piacenza's system of dance notation

4. Overview of the Current Collection

Databases
The Italian programme makes particular use of the following two databases: the MLA International Bibliography database and the Torrossa database.

Journals
There are a small number of journals currently subscribed to for the Italian programme. Most of these are in print only, with some also available in e-format. The Italian programme also benefits from the full-text journal component of the Torrossa database.

AV material
There is a small amount of AV material collected, mainly in the movie genre. As most movies are foreign language titles / non NZ commercial release titles, rating costs are an important consideration.

Books
There are almost 10,000 titles in the Italian language in the library. In both Italian and English, there are approximately 500 titles in the PC1001-PC1984 (Italian language) callmark range, and approximately 4,800 titles in the PQ4000-PQ5999 (Italian literature) callmark range. These are the two most significant collections for the Italian programme in the library. The library also provides access to approximately 4,500 e-books on Italian-related topics (inclusive of the full-text monograph component of the Editoria Italian Online database).

5. Collection Development Guidelines

Section 4.3 and 4.5.2 in the CDMP.
5.1 Languages Collected
Material is collected in both Italian and English.

5.2 Geographical Areas Collected
The main geographical area covered is Italy, but also other parts of the world where there is a recognizable Italian presence (e.g. Switzerland, South America, Australia). New Zealand material on Italy is also of interest.

5.3 Chronological Periods Collected
The research areas of the school are mainly contemporary (1900 onwards), with the exception of Dante (1265 to 1321), taught at 200 level.

5.4 Format Guidelines
Section 4.1(e) and 4.3.2 in the CDMP.

Streaming is the Library’s preference for audiovisual material, but DVD and CD are still collected where necessary. VHS and Cassettes are not collected. If VHS and Cassette are the only available options, permission will be sought to convert to DVD or CD format.

6. Life-Cycle Management Guidelines
Section 4.4.1 in the CDMP

Wherever possible, the potential life-cycle of new materials will be considered at the point of acquisition and accessible notes made as to any continuing historical or research value.

6.1 Relegation Statement
Section 4.1 (b) in the CDMP

Books:
Items which have not been issued within the last 10 years will be relegated to offsite storage, after consultation with academic staff.

Journals:
For currently subscribed print journals, pre-1970 issues will be relegated to offsite storage.

6.2 Deselection Statement
Section 4.4.3 in CDMP

Books:
Grammars and dictionaries more than 30 years old, as well as superseded editions and duplicate titles, will be considered for deselection. Deselection will take place in close consultation with Italian Programme staff.
Journals:
Any print issues of journals for which we have perpetual e-access will be deselected.

*Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements*
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