

LIBRARY**Special Collections – Collection Development Policy**

Effective Date: March 2022

Originating Office: Library Administration

Supersedes/Amends Policy Dated: May 2019 **Policy Number:** T-12

Preamble

Concordia University Library's Special Collections is home to vibrant primary and secondary source materials that support the University's academic programs, inspire intellectual discovery, and encourage knowledge creation. It houses and provides access to an array of rare books, periodicals, archival materials, maps, photographs, and other items that require special handling and preservation due to their rarity, fragility, unusual format, uniqueness, artistic value, and cultural significance.

Our mission is to support the teaching, learning, and research needs of the Concordia University community by ensuring access to engaging primary and secondary sources and building collections for the advancement of knowledge. We also support the research needs of scholars and other users from outside the University. Our goal to acquire and preserve materials is coupled with a commitment to outreach and access.

Current Collecting Priorities

Special Collections acquires materials in support of teaching, learning, and research at Concordia University and welcome gifts that complement existing collections and contribute to the growth and development of our holdings. Special Collections also acquires new materials in anticipation of or in response to changing academic needs and interests at the University.

Current collecting priorities include:

- Quebec poetry and spoken word
- Artists' books and the art of the book
- Canadian literature
- Community and citizen action in Quebec
- Communication studies
- Counterculture and avant-garde cultural production in Quebec
- Working life and conditions in anglophone Montreal
- English-speaking Black community organizations in Montreal
- Black history in Quebec
- The Holocaust (including the history of anti-Semitism) and genocide
- Improvised music in Quebec

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- Irish in Quebec
- Irish literature and history
- Jazz and nightlife in Quebec
- Journalism and documentary film
- LGBTQ+ literature
- Political science
- Radio dramas
- Theatre and cinema
- Visual Arts and photography

Future Collecting Priorities

Future collecting priorities will respond to demonstrated demand by Concordia faculty and students. They may also be shaped by significant donations. Generally, we will not duplicate holdings of local institutions or enter into competition with them for collections or resources. We will normally not collect in areas that are well-represented at other institutions. Future collecting priorities will be determined in consultation with the University community, including members of the Special Collections Acquisitions Advisory Committee.

Gifts to Special Collections

Special Collections welcomes gifts of books and other materials that support the Library's vision, mission, and strategic directions; contribute to the growth and development of the Library's collections; and that are aligned with current collection development priorities.

Special Collections is not able to accept all offers of gifts-in-kind. Materials will be reviewed prior to the time of donation to ensure they meet the needs of the Concordia University community and adhere to Special Collections policies and guidelines. Donations of more than a few items are brought before the Special Collections Acquisitions Advisory Committee for consideration. This committee meets twice per year, in the fall and winter semesters. Consult the Library's [Gifts-in-Kind Policy](#) for more information.

Purchasing Materials for Special Collections

Special Collections purchases very selectively within its current collecting priorities.