Collection Development Policy – Physics

01/15/07 recorded (Bill Jacobs)
08/17/19 revised (James Sobczak)

Current Subject Liaison:
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Recommended Citation
Purpose
The purpose of the collection is to support teaching, general study, and research in physics and subfields, especially astrophysics, biological physics, and optics, from undergraduate level through the doctoral level. The primary user group for this collection is the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Physics, but the collection also serves student and faculty throughout the many schools, departments, centers, and programs at the University of Miami. The aim of the Department of Physics is “to enhance the goals and ideals of the University by providing an incisive and enriching education for our students, by making lasting contributions at the forefront of human understanding, and by communicating the excitement of scientific discovery to our fellow citizens.” The Department of Physics offers the following degrees:

Graduate Level:
- Master of Science in Physics
- Master of Science in Physics (non-thesis option)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

Undergraduate Level:
- Bachelor of Science in Physics, with concentrations in one of more of the following:
  - Pure Physics,
  - Marine Science/Physics
  - Applied Physics

The Department of Physics has strong research interests in the following subjects:
- Astrophysics
- Atmospheric and Ocean Optics
- Complexity
- Condensed Matter Physics
- Cosmology
- Elementary Particle Theory
- Plasma Physics

Subject Coverage
The primary holdings for physics are in the Library of Congress QB and QC classifications. However, physics includes many subfields and is an interdisciplinary field of study, so collection development for physics may span other classifications. Collections for other programs offered by the University of Miami, including, but not limited to, engineering, mathematics, and computer science, may influence the composition of the physics collection. Collecting emphasis is placed on core/major publications, faculty recommendations, and publications that support ongoing research within the University of Miami.

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**Language Coverage**
English is the primary language, but materials in other languages are considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Geographical Coverage**
There are no geographical limitations to the acquisition of physics materials.

**Chronological Coverage**
Collection emphasis is on current research, teaching, and developments. The physics collection does have some material related to the history and philosophy of the STEM disciplines, which require some chronological depth, but given the limited collection development budgets, expanding this historic collection significantly beyond its current state is not the primary focus of ongoing collection development efforts.

**Level Coverage**
Collected materials include the following levels basic studies, general academic, advanced academic, and professional. Popular materials are sometime collected upon a case-by-case review. Juvenile materials are not within the scope of the collection.

**Format Coverage**
Journals are collected in digital format. Print journals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are not purchased upon request without a discussion with the requester. The preferred format of reference works is digital. Monographs are primarily collected in print, but e-books are collected upon the request or when physical formats do not exist. Price differences between e-books and print are also taken into consideration when making purchases.
Material Coverage
Monographs, serials, periodicals, electronic databases, journals, reference materials, and University of Miami dissertations/theses are collected. Festschriften, textbooks, outside dissertations, conference materials, technical reports, and standards are acquired on a selective basis. Course reserve materials are subject to review before purchase with textbooks generally being limited to single physical copies. Duplication of resources (both physical and digital) is avoided. Freshman-level textbooks are rarely purchased. Field guides are not collected.

Publication Date Coverage
Emphasis is on current publications although retrospective purchasing may be needed to fill collection gaps. Out-of-print titles will be acquired only if there is a clear need to add the item into the collection and the price is concordant with that need.

Special Collections and Manuscripts Coverage
Several physics faculty personal papers collections are available in Special Collections.

Replacement Policy
Any damaged, lost, or stolen materials may be considered for replacement at the discretion of the subject liaison and/or acquisitions department only if there is a clear need to re-add the item into the collection, and the price is concordant with that need.

Retention Policy
The decision to unsubscribe to materials, store materials off campus, or dispose of materials altogether depends on factors such as past circulation, publication date, relevance of the material, library space priorities, interest of faculty/students, and continued usefulness of the material to their subject areas. Outdated or superseded editions will not be reordered unless there is a specific need.

Budgetary Policy
Beyond the educational mission of the collection, budgetary restrictions also factor heavily in the decision to acquire and retain materials. Budgetary decisions and priorities are established through discussion between the subject liaison librarians and the acquisitions department taking into consideration several factors such as available library funding, priorities of library administration, the larger needs of the University of Miami research and instruction landscape, etc. These discussions happen on a continual basis throughout the academic year with major budgetary revisions occurring at the end of each fiscal year.

Other Resources
Interlibrary loan and document delivery services are available. Some monographs and bound journals are available for reading in the Knight Physics Building, but the UM libraries does not maintain an updated list of these materials.