

Music Collection Development Policy

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY

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1. Introduction

This policy describes the music collection development program of the Music & Performing Arts Library (MPAL) and the goals for collecting in specific media as well as in specific subject areas. The policy offers a straightforward description that can serve as a guide for new selectors, as well as being a statement of collecting practice for interested faculty, staff, students, and existing and potential donors. The library has separate collection development policies for theatre and dance. Each policy is reviewed and, if necessary, updated every two years.

The Music & Performing Arts Library has two central missions: (1) to support the curricula of the School of Music, Department of Dance, and Department of Theatre and (2) to support and encourage faculty and student research, performance, and creativity. In addition, MPAL strives to support dance, music, and theatre making in the Champaign-Urbana community and to support music and performing arts research within the US and globally.

All three of the main constituencies served by MPAL offer degrees at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The Department of Dance offers BFA, BA, and MFA degrees. The School of Music offers BA and BMUS options in composition-theory, performance, jazz, and musicology, a Bachelor of Musical Arts in Lyric Theatre, a Bachelor of Music Education, and a BS in computer science and music. Graduate degrees offered by the School of Music include MMs and DMAs in composition, performance, jazz, musicology, conducting, and pedagogy, a Master of Music Education, Artist Diplomas, and PhDs in musicology and music education. The Department of Theatre offers a BFA in design, technology, and management; acting; and theatre studies; an MFA in acting; or design, technology and management; and an MA/PhD in theatre history and practice.

Other identifiable categories of MPAL users include University of Illinois non-music degree seeking students who may be taking lessons or participating in ensembles; faculty and students in other departments outside of music, dance, and theatre who are conducting interdisciplinary study and research; residents of the Champaign-Urbana area not affiliated with the university; and out-of-town researchers who use resources on-site, make written requests for reference or reproduction assistance, or submit Interlibrary Loan requests. While MPAL is happy to provide services to these users, the Library does not collect materials specifically in support of any needs beyond those of our three main constituencies.

2. Collection overview and collection development mechanisms

2.1 A brief overview of our collections

What is now MPAL opened as a branch music library on the second floor of Smith Memorial Hall on the Urbana campus in mid-February 1944. By this date, the University Library had already assembled a collection of about 15,000 volumes of printed music and books about music. The Music Library moved into its present quarters in the north wing of the School of Music building in August 1974, and currently occupies around 23,000 square feet (around 20% of the entire Music Building) on two levels in the north wing of the building. Dance materials were originally in the University Library's "Applied Life" collection, but were transferred to the Music Library in 2004. Some theatre resources were transferred to MPAL from the English Library in the Fall of 2008, at which time the library was renamed the "Music & Performing Arts Library." MPAL is now one of the largest performing arts libraries at a public university, holding over 500,000 items in its local physical collections, and its music holdings in particular are ranked very highly among music libraries in the United States and the world. Most of the core music collections are housed in the Music & Performing Library; however, several thousand additional items are kept off-site at the Library's climate-controlled storage location known as the Oak Street Library Facility.

Music Special Collections include the Renaissance Music Archive, which contains several thousand microfilms of musical manuscripts, and the Historic U.S. Sheet Music Collection, which is comprised of around 100,000 pieces of popular music (as well as some classical) from the early 19th century through the 1970s. Both of these collections are housed in MPAL. Other special and archive collections received by MPAL over the years, such as the Harry Partch, Myron Fink, and Robert Kelly collections, are held by the [Sousa Archives and Center for American Music](#). More information on MPAL's special collections can be found on the [Library's website](#).

2.2 Mechanisms for collection development

2.2.1 Selectors

Acquisition of material in held formats is split between the two MPAL librarians. Suggestions from library patrons for additions to our collections are always welcome and can be made in person, via [email](#), or by using [MPAL's Request a Purchase form](#).

2.2.2 Standing orders and approval plans

MPAL has approval plans with Amalivre (for books in French), Casalini (books and scores, principally Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese), YBP (English-language books), Harrassowitz (books and scores from many parts of Europe), Theodore Front (music scores, primarily North American imprints), and ArkivMusic (CDs and DVDs). It has standing orders for a large number of book and score series, and subscribes to several hundred journals.

Materials are acquired through a combination of approval plans, blanket orders, standing orders, and firm orders.

3. Collection management programs for preservation, storage, replacement, deselection, and access

Damaged items may be repaired or digital preservation copies made by the Library's digital content creation unit. Decisions on replacing lost or damaged items are made by individual selectors.

Items that are fragile, rare, or in special formats may be housed in MPAL's Special Collections. Particularly rare and or valuable items are stored in the Rare Books and Manuscript Library.

Circulating materials that are duplicated, have been superseded in edition, or have low use based on specific metrics are regularly considered for relocation to the library's remote storage facility at Oak Street or removal from the collection. In general, the Library does not collect multiple copies of books, scores, or recordings.

The Library has large collections of microfilms, microfiches, CDs, LPs, and DVDs. Equipment is available to enable listening/viewing of these formats.

3.1 Consortial access agreements

Patrons can request items from other libraries within the state of Illinois using I-Share. Materials not available via I-Share can be requested on Interlibrary Loan via WorldCat and Illiad. MPAL also lends library materials to other libraries under the same agreements.

4. Cooperative and consortial collecting agreements

At the moment, the Library has no cooperative collecting agreements with other libraries concerning music materials. In addition to being a member of I-Share, MPAL is also a member of the BTAA music libraries group, and has obtained access to several database products as part of this consortia. The University Library also receives access to some music related electronic resources such as e-books and e-journals via consortial agreements.

5. Summary of scope of coverage and formats collected

5.1 Subject and language coverage

The Library's collections are particularly strong in reference materials, historical musicology and ethnomusicology monographs, music education materials, performance materials, and sound and video recordings. Monographs are typically collected as comprehensively as possible across academic levels; however, MPAL typically does not collect at the general audience level. In the area of popular music the Library collects core titles and materials at the advanced academic level. The Undergraduate Library and Residence Hall Libraries also collect popular music materials in various formats. MPAL collects material about music business and music technology selectively and does not collect materials on music therapy. For music composition, MPAL collects materials related to the compositional process while the Undergraduate Library collects materials related to sound recording/editing.

The Library's book and journal collections are primarily in English, French, German, Italian, or Spanish, although materials in other languages such as Polish or Dutch are occasionally selected. Slavic language materials are collected by the International and Area Studies Library, as are Asian and African language materials. The verbal texts accompanying printed music are collected in all languages.

The School of Music has its own collection of choral, orchestral, and band parts that are separately administered.

5.1.1 Pedagogical materials

The Library collects music education materials (books, scores, recordings, and kits) to support the academic mission of faculty and students in the Music Education Department. It also has an Early Childhood Music Education Collection, purchased some years ago with special grant funds and occasionally updated. MPAL does not systematically collect "how to" tutorial books for voice or instruments.

5.1.2 Local or regional artists' or writers' works collected systematically

MPAL does not have a collection of music produced within the local community; however, the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music actively collects in this area. MPAL does try to collect recordings and publications made by faculty in the departments the Library serves.

5.2 Geographical areas covered or excluded, in terms of both intellectual content and publication sources

MPAL's collections are strong in both Western and non-Western music, reflecting the School of Music's research and teaching strengths in ethnomusicology.

5.3 Chronological periods and movements or schools covered or excluded

MPAL aims for comprehensive coverage within the boundaries of the educational mission of the School of Music.

5.4 Publication dates covered or excluded

MPAL's collections mainly comprise material published from the 18th to 21st centuries. Older materials are usually stored in the Rare and Manuscript Library.

5.5 Formats

5.5.1 Printed and recorded music

MPAL actively collects published printed music materials and recorded materials on CD and DVD format. While MPAL has a large collection of recorded materials in other formats, such as LPs, these are not actively added to the collection.

1. Western art music

a. Composers collected systematically

MPAL has excellent collections of composers' complete editions, and anthologies (M3 and M2), and outstanding holdings of chamber music and songs. MPAL's collection of 20th and 21st century scores is also extensive, as is our collection of opera vocal scores. Our score approval plans with Harrassowitz and Theodore Front enable us to keep up to date with new material as it appears.

b. Emphases or exclusions according to performing medium

MPAL does not buy orchestral and choral performing parts (the School of Music administers its own collections of such material).

c. Emphasis or exclusions according to intended use of the music

MPAL does not buy music therapy material. The Library does have an early childhood music collection of scores and recordings.

d. Geographic and cultural emphases or exclusions

Non-Western music is generally difficult to obtain except in the form of recordings, but MPAL does have rich collections of recordings from music across the world.

2. Music from other traditions – ethnic music, world music, jazz, popular music

a. Styles collected or excluded

The University of Illinois has a strong and developing jazz program and supports this through monographs, scores and recordings, although the Library does not generally collect parts/lead sheets, as the School of Music administers its own jazz library.

5.5.2 Journals

MPAL has subscriptions to periodicals in all subject areas within our collection's scope and has extensive collections of journals in both print and electronic formats.

5.5.3 Electronic formats

University Library policy is currently to provide electronic access to journals where fiscally possible. The Library also collects e-books, both through packages and by individual title. MPAL provides electronic access to music scores and parts through Library Music Source, and to audio and video content through packages, including, but not limited to, Classical Music Library, Database of Recorded American Music, and Smithsonian Global Sound.

5.5.4 Microforms

The Library still occasionally purchases large microform sets and individual microfilms. MPAL also houses the Renaissance Music Archive, which consists of over 3,000 thousand microfilms of music from Europe and elsewhere.

5.5.5 Manuscripts and early editions

MPAL occasionally purchases for its own holdings or recommends purchase of manuscripts and early editions to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. MPAL has an extensive collection of music facsimiles of manuscripts and early prints.

6. Gifts policy

MPAL does not accept gifts without prior discussion and review. MPAL will consider gifts consisting of music books, scores, and recordings that are in good condition for addition to our collections. Please be aware that the Library does not collect obsolete formats such as LPs and audio/video cassettes, except in rare instances such as when materials are related to the history of the university. All decisions on retention or disposal of gift materials are made by librarians of the Music & Performing Arts Library. Materials not accepted for whatever reason (typically duplication of already held materials) are generally given away free to patrons or recycled (typically due to poor condition). Due to limitations of space and resources to process gifts, the Library must be very selective in accepting large donations. To that end, inclusion of funds to assist with processing is encouraged.

Monetary gifts to the Library for collections and other needs are always welcome. You can easily make a gift through the [University Library Office of Advancement](#). If you chose to make a gift by check or money order, please include a memo stating the designation of your gift is the Music & Performing Arts Library.

The Library is forbidden from making appraisals of materials for any purposes including tax. Please see the [library-wide Gifts Policy](#) for additional information.

7. Access policies

Although the Music & Performing Arts Library primarily caters to those pursuing the academic study of music, our collections are also available more broadly for study or recreational use. The University Library access policy may be found at <https://www.library.illinois.edu/geninfo/policies/access/>.