

University of Minnesota Law Library: FCIL Collection

July 2010

General information:

The most recent revision of the University of Minnesota Law Library's Collection Development Policy is available at http://library.law.umn.edu/uploads/Nb/-7/Nb-7k_IQvNLGCLIOBublyA/colldev-policy.pdf . Some of the information in this description is taken from that document.

The University of Minnesota Law Library exists to support the teaching and research mission of the Law School. The Law School's varied degree programs, including several foreign exchange programs, mandate a strong collection of international and foreign materials to supplement the comprehensive Anglo-American collection.

The Law Library historically collected with a heavy focus on the law of the United States, Canada, Great Britain, British Commonwealth and former Commonwealth countries, and Western Europe. The international law collection, historically strong in public international law, has been expanded to include private international law and related topics. The scope of foreign jurisdictions represented in the collection with some depth is now much broader than those countries noted above. Materials are collected for Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, China, the Middle East, the countries and islands of the Pacific Rim, and Mexico. The library collects actively in Scandinavian law and has an especially strong collection of Swedish materials. The library prefers materials in the English language but purchases in several other languages. We do not currently purchase materials in Arabic or in Asian languages.

Foreign Law:

The emphasis on European countries remains. We continue to subscribe to case reporters, codes, and some statutes from European countries. We have canceled some Canadian and UK primary subscriptions in reliance on internet sources, though we continue to subscribe to several case reporters and statutes in paper. We buy secondary materials on European and Canadian law, primarily in English. We spend heavily on secondary materials on EU law.

Apart from South Africa, holdings of primary African law are largely from the colonial era, with various exceptions such as the 2000 set of codified Ugandan statutes. The Library buys selected secondary materials on African countries in English.

In about 2004 we increased our budget allocation for Asian materials and we collect English-language materials on Chinese, Japanese, Singaporean, and Korean law. We supplement our Chinese collection with a subscription to iSinoLaw.

For Latin American countries, we periodically buy codes in the vernacular, and collect limited secondary sources. (The Library experiences relatively low demand for Spanish-language materials.)

For many years, the Law Library participated in the Public Law 480 Program, receiving numerous primary and secondary law publications from India and Pakistan. We also received some materials related to Bangladesh and Tibet. The quality and comprehensiveness of these publications vary wildly. A few years ago we ended our participation in that program and now select a limited number of law publications from South Asia.

We subscribe to numerous foreign-language law journals, with European languages predominating. To date, we have not undergone major cancellations of these serials.

Comparative law:

The Library tries to buy most comparative law monographs available in English, and buys a much smaller number of monographs in European languages. We subscribe to the Constitutions of the Countries of the World & Dependencies and Territories. We buy nearly any available English-language overviews of the laws of various countries, such as the International Encyclopaedia of Laws, and including numerous subject collections.

International law:

The Law Library has a historically strong collection of public international law, with an emphasis on trade and human rights. We continue to buy heavily in international law, with the exception of admiralty/maritime law. The Law Library has a special collection of human rights materials, including much ephemera (e.g., NGO publications, conference materials) from the 1960s-1980s. Not all of this material has been catalogued yet. Council of Europe and OAS materials are collected in depth.

The Law Library is not the University of Minnesota's UN depository library; however, we have a Readex UN microfiche collection, including the human rights and trade special collections, and a selected number of UN paper publications. We have a large number of historical treaty series, though many of them are no longer published.

We subscribe to most international law yearbooks, and to international law journals in European languages as well as some in Asian languages. We have purchased from Oxford University Press the Max Planck Encyclopedia of International Law and the international law reports. We also subscribe to the International Law Reports from Justis, Brill's Human Rights Documents database, the Hein Foreign & International Law Resources Database, the Hague Academy Collected Courses Online, and WorldTradeLaw.net.