1. Overview

General coverage of subject in OULS

OULS acquires publications relating to South Asian and Tibetan and Himalayan studies, as extensively as funds permit, both in the general humanities and social sciences, regardless of the language or of place of publication. The collection covers the history and culture of these regions from pre-history to the present day. The fields of language, literature, religion, history and politics are particularly strongly represented. Responsibility for the South Asian research and teaching collections is shared between a number of OULS libraries, including the Bodleian and its dependent libraries, the History Faculty Library, the English Faculty Library, the Sackler Library, the Social Sciences Library, the Taylor Institution Library and the Theology Faculty Library.

OLIS (searchable via SOLO) is the online catalogue which lists most books and journals in the OULS teaching, learning and research collections. Significant parts of 19th and 20th century printed collections (particularly in South Asian languages) have yet to be transferred from card catalogues on to OLIS.

Legal deposit

Legal deposit material relating to the history, languages, culture and current affairs – political, economic and social – of South Asia and the Himalayan countries of Inner Asia is housed in the Indian Institute Reading Room. Rhodes House Library holds the OULS collection of legal deposit material relating to pre-independence Sri Lanka.

Electronic resources

OxLIP+ is the interface for electronic resources, such as bibliographic databases. Oxford University e-Journals provides access to e-journals. Both include subscription resources and selected open-access resources.

The Social Sciences Library purchases a number of political, economic and general social science full-text and statistical databases that include coverage of the region which can be accessed through OxLIP+.

A major electronic resource for the study of Inner Asia is provided through subscription to the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Centre’s Core Text Collection series. Each volume (to 2008 five have been released) contains over 1000 volumes of texts from the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Centre’s collection of texts. The Core Text Collection series can be accessed through OxLIP+. 
Notes about particular formats or collections

Film

Film Studies is a growing academic discipline in Oxford, with collections dispersed across a number of OULS libraries. The OULS Subject Consultant for Film Studies has overall responsibility for these collections and a separate Collection Policy is available. In general, monographs relating to South Asian film are purchased by and housed in the Indian Institute. South Asian film on DVD and VHS is purchased by the Taylor Institution Modern Languages Faculty Library for its European and World Cinema collection.

Grey Literature

The Refugee Studies Centre Library has a specialist grey literature collection of 2,500 items documenting forced migrant and refugee flows in South Asia. This reference collection is primarily in English and comprises conference and seminar papers, newsletters, field research, working papers and policy documents. The date coverage ranges from the early 1980s to the present day.

Government Publications & Newspapers

The Bodleian’s Indian Institute Reading Room holds a representative collection of South Asian newspapers and extensive collections of government documents, including statistical series and annual departmental reports, both current and historic. The Social Sciences Library holds government statistical series dating back to the 1960s for a number of South Asian countries.

Languages

The Indian Institute collection covers publications relating to South Asian and Tibetan and Himalayan studies regardless of the language. The collection has a particular focus on languages of the region that relate to current and historic research and teaching interests of the Sub-Faculty for South and Inner Asian Studies. These include Tibetan; the classical Indian languages, Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali; and the modern Indian languages Hindi and Urdu. The Oriental Institute Library collects mainly European, South and Inner Asian language material. The Eastern Art Library collects mainly European language material, while the Social Sciences Library, the History Faculty Library and the English Faculty Library collect mainly English material. Some Japanese language material on South Asian Buddhism is collected by the Bodleian Japanese Library.

2. Teaching collections

The History Faculty Library, the English Faculty Library, Oriental Institute Library and the Social Sciences Library provide the main lending collections for OULS.

The English Faculty Library collects works on post-colonial Indian and Pakistani English literature and works of criticism on major South Asian authors writing in English to support the Faculty’s teaching interests.
Lending and teaching collections relating to the history of the Indian sub-continent are held primarily at the History Faculty Library, in support of the History Faculty’s teaching syllabus. The emphasis is on colonial and post-colonial Indian history.

Lending and teaching collections relating to the languages and literature of the Indian sub-continent are held primarily at the Oriental Institute Library, in support of the Oriental Faculty’s teaching syllabus.

Lending and teaching collections relating to the religions of the South Asian are held at the Theology Faculty Library and the Oriental Institute Library, in support of the Theology and Oriental Faculties teaching programmes.

The Social Science Library collects English language material relating to South Asia within the context of its support for the research and teaching activities of the Department of International Development.

**Text books**

The English Faculty Library collects works on post-colonial Indian and Pakistani English literature and works of criticism on major South Asian authors writing in English to support the Faculty’s teaching interests. Book selection is guided by Faculty Reading lists.

In the selection of textbooks, the History Faculty Library is first and foremost guided by the History Faculty’s reading lists and degree programmes. In addition to the main reading list for which provision is made, Special Subject *India, 1919-1939: Contesting the Nation*, history of South East Asia is increasingly taught in other courses as part of colonial and world history. Generally speaking and subject to funding, the History Faculty Library aims to purchase as many titles as possible on reading lists, unless, particularly in the case of interdisciplinary topics or substantial reading lists, the books are completely unrelated to History. Reading lists can be over 50 pages long and a degree of informed selection is therefore necessary. Where appropriate and necessary, staff will liaise with other libraries over selection and provision. The History Faculty Library will selectively buy newly published critical monographs on History, provided they are suitable for undergraduate and postgraduate level.

The Oriental Institute Library lending and teaching collections relating to the languages and literature of the Indian sub-continent are selected in accordance with Faculty Reading lists (where these exist) and otherwise on recommendation of Faculty teachers.

The Social Science Library collects English language material relating to South Asia within the context of its support for the research and teaching activities of the Department of International Development. Global political and Western foreign policy works are also collected in support of the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Lending and teaching texts relating to the religions of the South Asia, with particular emphasis on Buddhism and Hinduism, are purchased by Theology Faculty Library and the Oriental Institute Library guided by Faculty Reading lists.
Journal articles

The Social Sciences Library provides copyright cleared copies of individual journal articles for teaching purposes on request.

Levels of provision

The Bodleian Library would normally acquire one reference copy of each title, where possible, making them available on open shelves in the New Bodleian Reading Room or the Indian Institute Reading Room.

If the History Faculty Library, English Faculty Library, Oriental Institute Library, Social Science Library or Theology Faculty Library select a textbook from a reading list for purchase, then normally one lending copy will be bought in the first instance. If the title is for a highly subscribed course or should evidence from enquiries, circulation and reservation activities indicate high use, then additional copies will be bought, sometimes over time, to support the higher demand. Provisions and usage of titles in other OULS libraries will also inform a decision about how many copies to purchase. It is assumed that reference copies are held by the Bodleian’s Indian Institute Reading Room.

Other

Primary source materials

The study of primary sources is the main purpose for historians and the Oxford history degree course places much emphasis on teaching students how to interpret and understand the sources.

In addition to the vast collections of the Bodleian Library, the History Faculty Library attempts to buy for the lending collection as many relevant modern and affordably priced editions of source material as possible.

Set Texts

The HFL holds a Reserve Collection of Set Texts for the History Faculty’s course India, 1919-1939: Contesting the Nation. These are selected primary source materials which students are required to study in detail for the Honour School of Modern History (Gobbet papers).

As a policy but subject to financial constraints, one confined and two lending copies are purchased. Additional copies will be purchased over time if high demand is evident.

Document Packs

Selected sources are made available as photocopies to support the History Faculty’s course India, 1919-1939: Contesting the Nation. The Document Pack is a compilations of copies of out-of-print, scarce or fragile source material, and some copyright cleared material.

Copies are available for sale to students and provided free of charge to tutors. Bound sets are available in the HFL (2 lending sets and 1 reference set) and in the Upper Camera (1 reference set). It is planned to create and maintain this collection in digital format and make it available through the Faculty or HFL WebLearn space.
3. Research collections

Include general statement about where research collections are held.

Research books

The Bodleian’s Indian Institute Reading Room, holds comprehensive research collections of printed material on the languages, history, culture and political, economic and social development of all of South Asia and the Himalayan countries of Inner Asia. It also holds research collections on Hindu and Jain temple architecture and archaeology.

The Sackler’s Eastern Art Library holds comprehensive research collections on South and Inner Asian Islamic and secular architecture, painting, sculpture, crafts and textiles.

The English Faculty Library also supports research in post-colonial literature from South Asia and the South Asian diaspora.

The Social Science Library collects English language material relating to South Asia within the context of its support for the research of the Department of International Development.

Monograph serials / standing-orders

The Bodleian’s Indian Institute Reading Room has substantial numbers of standing orders for major monographic series in South and Inner Asian studies.

The Social Sciences Library has standing-orders for World Bank, IMF and OECD publications, key international and country statistical publications, and working paper series.

Journals

The Bodleian’s Indian Institute Reading Room and the Sackler’s Eastern Art Library both hold substantial collections of journals, both current and non-current, received by legal deposit, subscription and donation.

Core journals for development studies are held in the Social Sciences Library.

4. Special Collections

The Bodleian’s Oriental Department has one of the most important collections of Mughal paintings in the world and is repository of some 8,700 Sanskrit manuscripts, the largest known collection of Sanskrit manuscripts outside the Indian sub-continent. The Bodleian also has collections of manuscripts in other Indic languages, though the holdings are small in relation to the Sanskrit collections, with some 200 Hindi manuscripts and with just over 100 manuscripts in Tamil, Prakrit, Marathi, and Pali respectively. The Oriental Department also holds a collection of over 200 Tibetan manuscripts and xylographs. The Bodleian only seeks to acquire new South Asian and Inner Asian manuscripts, whether by purchase or donation, where the provenance is proven.
Both the Bodleian’s Special Collections and Western Manuscripts Department and its Oriental Department hold collections of papers and photographs of individuals who worked in South and Inner Asia.

The Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House holds the historic archive of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, which contains extensive collections of material relating to Christian missions in India in the 19th and 20th centuries.

5. **Subject coverage of selected purchased material**

In addition to the legal deposit intake and general works, OULS will purchase non-deposited material in the following specific subjects:

The Bodleian acquires publications relating to South Asian and Tibetan and Himalayan studies, as extensively as funds permit, both in the general humanities and social sciences, regardless of the language or of place of publication.

The Sackler’s Eastern Art Library purchases on South and Inner Asian Islamic and secular architecture, painting, sculpture, crafts and textiles.

The Oriental Institute Library purchases publications relating to the languages and literature of the Indian sub-continent and both the Oriental Institute and the Theology Faculty Library purchase publications relating to the religions of South Asia, with particular emphasis on Buddhism and Hinduism.

The English Faculty Library purchases publications on post-colonial literature from South Asia and the South Asian diaspora.

The Social Science Library buys works on development, globalisation, and international relations.

In addition to works on general history of especially the Indian sub-continent, the History Faculty Library will buy selectively works for economic, social and political history; Imperial & colonial history; race & race relations; nationalism & intellectual history; historiography; contemporary travel & description; theory of colonialism, nationalism & post-colonialism.

6. **Name of subject consultant(s) responsible for collections**

Isabel Holowaty (History collections)
Louise Clarke (Social Science teaching collections)
Gillian Evison (South and Inner Asian research collections)
Mark Janes (Social Science research collections)
Vanya Murray (Film Studies)
Sarah Rhodes (Rhodes House and Refugee Studies collections)
Sue Usher (English collections)
Hilla Wait (Theology collections)

*Date 10.12.08*