



Collection Policy for Film Studies

1. Overview

1.1 General coverage of subject in OULS

Film Studies is a growing academic discipline in Oxford, with a new MSt in Film Aesthetics, a number of permanent post-holders doing research on film, several undergraduate film courses (including the Paper 8 *Anglo-American Film* option in the English Faculty and the Paper XII *European Cinema* option in Modern Languages), and an increasing number of graduate students coming to Oxford to work on film each year. Academic staff are seeking to develop Oxford as a centre for the comparative history of European and World Cinema and theoretical work in film aesthetics.

Current OULS film collections are small and dispersed across a number of different sites, principally in the English Faculty Library (Anglo-American film), the Taylor Institution Modern Languages Faculty Library (European and World cinema) and the Bodleian Library (mainly in its Area Studies libraries such as the Japanese Library, the Indian Institute Library and the Chinese Studies Library).

It is anticipated that all collections will eventually be integrated in the new Humanities library which will house the main teaching collections for film (DVDs, critical works and journals) as well as first-level research material. In the interim period, the Subject Consultant for Film Studies will continue to manage and develop separate film collections in each library (based on current divisions by national cinema), and will establish common OULS-wide policies for film materials regarding borrowing procedures and classification.

1.2 Legal deposit

As a library of legal deposit, the Bodleian provides virtually comprehensive coverage of all British and Irish publications. This includes all scholarly publications in the field of Film Studies but not DVDs/videos. There is a small collection of film books and journals on the open shelves in the Lower Camera; the remaining legal deposit material is held in the Bodleian stacks.

Monographs on narrow or specialised topics will not normally be duplicated in other OULS libraries; titles acquired by the Bodleian which are expected to be in heavy use will be duplicated where possible in order to provide at least one loan copy in Oxford. It is anticipated that some legal deposit material will be transferred to the new Humanities library for reference-use only.

1.3 Electronic Resources

The relevance and availability of networked databases and other electronic resources will be investigated regularly and decisions about acquisitions made accordingly and in consultation with the Film Studies COLP. The University currently subscribes to one database specifically for Film Studies (Film Indexes Online), and film students also have access to other relevant resources including the British Humanities Index, Literature Online and the MLA.

1.4 Notes about particular formats or collections

Collections for Film Studies are in a range of formats from printed books and journals to DVDs and videos [see section 2.4].

1.5 Languages

Monographs written within the main European film cultures (e.g. France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, etc.) and other World cinema cultures (e.g. Egypt, India, Japan, etc.) will be routinely acquired, since one of Oxford's assets as an institution vis-à-vis other universities is that it is multilingual. Foreign material in translation will not generally be purchased, with the exception of key critical works on film theory and aesthetics which will broadly be purchased in the original language for the Modern Languages Faculty Library and in translation for the English Faculty Library. Decisions about what constitutes a key critical work will be made by the Subject Consultant for Film Studies in close consultation with academic staff. Non-English language films will be purchased with subtitles in English wherever possible.

1.6 OULS Collection Management

OULS has several general collection management policy documents which refer to all subjects and collections. These are available on the web and deal with the location, retention, disposal and transfer of library material:

http://www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/collections/collection_management_policy.

2. Teaching collections

The main teaching collections for Film Studies are housed at the English Faculty Library (Anglo-American film) and the Taylor Institution Modern Languages Faculty Library (European Cinema), and are fully integrated with related research collections. Film students and researchers from different faculties can borrow film books from any OULS library.

2.1 Text books

Text books from reading lists will be purchased and housed in the appropriate OULS library. Purchasing takes into account developments in the subject area, and new teaching initiatives and courses.

2.2 Journal articles

Many journal articles recommended on undergraduate reading lists will be found either in print in an OULS library or electronically via OxLIP. Individual articles not held in Oxford will normally be obtained through the Bodleian or Taylor Institution Library's inter-library loan service rather than taking out a new subscription.

2.3 Levels of provision

OULS will endeavour to purchase multiple copies of key reading list books where possible, appropriate to the numbers of students taking a particular course. There should always be one reference copy available of key text books, either in one of the Faculty libraries or on the open shelves in the Lower Camera. It is expected that college libraries will purchase additional copies of key text books and to facilitate this college librarians are kept informed about titles in heavy demand.

2.4 Films on DVD/Video

- ❖ Films will be purchased to support current and future teaching/research needs across faculties, in close consultation with academic staff.
- ❖ The film collection will focus primarily on genre film, key directors and national cinemas; existing gaps will be filled so that the collection will eventually reflect the overall history and development of world cinema from early silent and classic Hollywood film through to the present day.
- ❖ OULS will identify key DVD labels and distributors for purchase (e.g. Artificial Eye, BFI, Criterion, Eureka Masters of Cinema, Fox Studio Classics) as well as researching other distributors for world cinema on DVD.
- ❖ Films will be purchased on DVD (all regions) wherever possible as they have a better image quality than videos and can be played on PCs as well as DVD players. Standard editions of important films are increasingly available on DVD and should eventually replace OULS video collections. New developments in DVD formats will be monitored including online provision.
- ❖ Only one copy of a film on DVD will be purchased unless the film is in particularly high demand, in which case additional copies may be acquired as necessary.
- ❖ Films will occasionally be recorded off-air and added to stock under the terms of the Educational Recording Agency (ERA) Licence. This work will ideally be undertaken by technical support staff.

Film students and researchers from different faculties are able to borrow films across OULS libraries; however DVDs/videos are not generally available to other members of the University wishing to watch films for leisure purposes only.

This is a condition of the EU Rental and Lending Directive 92/100/EEC 1992 which exempts the University from certain restrictions relating to the purchasing and viewing of films on the condition that films are lent for educational rather than entertainment purposes.

3. Research collections

Research collections are housed across a number of OULS libraries, principally the English Faculty Library (Anglo-American film), the Taylor Institution Modern Languages Faculty Library (European and World cinema) and the Bodleian Library (mainly in its Area Studies libraries such as the Japanese Library, the Indian Institute Library and the Chinese Studies Library).

3.1 Research books

- ❖ Given the range of film studies undertaken at both undergraduate and research level, OULS will aim to collect as widely as funds allow: monographs on the theoretical discipline of film aesthetics and the general cultural history of film (by country and director) as well as other specific areas recommended by academic staff.
- ❖ Monographs on film aesthetics will be acquired at both the EFL and the MLFL; otherwise monographs on individual countries and directors will be purchased by library according to subject (e.g. Anglo-American film at the EFL). The MLFL will purchase books on World cinema where certain Area Studies libraries allow reference-use of their collections only.
- ❖ As well as establishing a core monograph collection for Film Studies, OULS will actively identify new academic publications in the subject area (through key publishers' catalogues, book reviews, etc.) and will ensure that current research in Film Studies is reflected in its collections.

3.2 Monograph serials/standing-orders

The OULS Subject Consultant for Film Studies will identify and purchase relevant monograph serials and standing orders, in accordance with research and teaching needs.

3.3 Journals

- ❖ OULS will acquire film journals to support the research and teaching collections for Film Studies, within the current OULS guidelines for journal acquisitions. Journal collections will primarily represent academic film studies, current film criticism, and the film industry. There will be an initial emphasis on journals from countries where academic staff are currently offering graduate supervision.
- ❖ Since the film journal is an important historical object of study in its own right, OULS will aim to acquire complete back issues of a number of key European and Anglo-American film journals.
- ❖ Journals will be reference-use only and any electronic versions will be made available through the OULS-wide portal (currently OxLIP).

4. Special collections

The Bodleian currently houses some special collections for Film Studies including the Raymond Chandler archive and some related material in the John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera. In order for Oxford to differentiate itself as a unique centre for the study of World Cinema and film aesthetics and to satisfy potential future research requirements, it will be important to develop the depth and range of the collections by acquiring primary source materials from as broad a background as possible. All such retrospective acquisitions will be made in close consultation with academic staff. Recent acquisitions have included early Egyptian film journals to support research into the history of Egyptian cinema and film criticism.

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:

- Anglo-American, European and World Cinema (comparative history, directors and films)
- Film theory and film aesthetics

6. Name of subject consultant responsible for collections:

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