

Collection Policy for Classics

1. Overview

General coverage of Classics in OULS

Oxford University Library Services may justifiably be considered to hold one of the world's greatest research collections in Classics. The Bodleian Library has an exceptional depth of coverage across the subject area. The Sackler Library's research collections have made the Library into a major research centre for the study of the history and material culture of the Ancient World. The Classics Lending Library has expanded in the five years it has been housed within the Sackler Library to become a comprehensive multiple copy lending collection, serving all the undergraduate courses on offer for Classics in Oxford. Other important resources complement these core collections, in particular the unparalleled manuscript, incunabula, and rare book holdings of the Bodleian Library. The Sackler Library is home to the Oxyrhynchus Papyri project and a specialised papyrology Library to support the study and interpretation of Classical texts preserved on papyrus. In Philosophy, the Bodleian holds an important collection of ancient Philosophy monographs, including both original texts and modern interpretations. The Philosophy Faculty Library offers a lending collection open to those undergraduates taking Philosophy options, as well as to other Classicists with an interest in ancient or modern Philosophy.

In Oxford as in other Universities, the study of Classics has expanded in scope in recent years, becoming increasingly multidisciplinary in character, and a large number of students at both undergraduate and graduate level are studying Classics in conjunction with other Humanities subjects. The Bodleian and Sackler Libraries, with their large and varied collections, combined with the various faculty and lending Libraries across OULS, are invaluable for those reading for multidisciplinary degrees. Furthermore, Classics scholars interested in aspects of the subject that are wider than its traditional scope can benefit from the historically comprehensive holdings of the Bodleian, which range across all disciplines and subject areas.

OLIS, Oxford's online catalogue, lists almost all printed monographs and journals held by OULS and college libraries. Both OLIS and separate catalogues for manuscripts and some special collections can be accessed via OxLIP+, the interface for electronic resources.

Legal deposit

The agreements of 1610 between Sir Thomas Bodley and the Stationer's company, the Copyright Act of 1911, and the later Legal Deposit Acts, have allowed the Bodleian Library to acquire a near-comprehensive collection of material published in Britain and Ireland in all subject areas. As a result of Legal Deposit, a core collection of Classics books has been acquired, which has also been developed and complemented over the years by donations and purchases of foreign material. There can be no doubt that Legal Deposit has been of great benefit to Classics as a subject area, not least because it guarantees that books published by two most important publishers of Classical scholarship in the English Language – the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses – are, and

have been, deposited in the Bodleian Library. This arrangement allows the Library to purchase more foreign material than would otherwise be the case. The main consequence of Legal Deposit for Classics is that the collections in the Bodleian, both British and foreign, are comprehensive and of international importance.

The Classics Librarian surveys the Legal Deposit intake weekly, and decides where each individual item should be housed. The Copyright Receipt Office in the Bodleian is alerted to any gaps and delays in legal deposit supply.

Much of the Legal Deposit material in the Bodleian is held on closed access, and can be ordered to the main reading room for Classics in the Bodleian. Some Legal Deposit material is held on the open shelves in the Classics section of the Lower Reading room, and some has, in recent years, been sent to the Sackler Library. Thus, the three locations of Legal Deposit material in Classics in Oxford are:

- Bodleian Bookstack: Classics material, now with a focus on Greek and Latin languages and literature, not selected for open shelves (see below).
- Lower Reading Room, Old Bodleian Library: primary texts and translations, periodicals, reference works, selected Ancient History and Ancient Philosophy monographs.
- Sackler Library: since 2005, Legal Deposit material has, where its subject matter coheres with the existing collections, been sent to the Sackler Library. Thus, a number of monographs specialising in Ancient History and Classical Archaeology received on Legal Deposit have been transferred to the Sackler and integrated with the main Library collection. As Legal Deposit material these items cannot be borrowed and are confined to the Library.

Electronic resources

Among the Humanities subjects Classics has been a pioneer in the use of electronic texts. The *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae* was founded in 1972 to create computerized databank of Greek Literature, and the first searchable CD of the database was issued in 1985. It became one of the first “electronic resources” in the Humanities used in the University. Initially, the Faculty purchased and managed such resources, but as more became available and their management more complex, the Libraries took over this responsibility. At present, we have access to a number of electronic packages of specific interest in Classicists, as well as the vast amount of general bibliographic and other resources available to University members.

OxLIP+ is the interface for most electronic resources, including subscription and selected open-access resources. . In the Classics section, we provide links to *L'Année philologique*, *Bibliotheca Teubneriana Latina*, *Cetedoc Library of Christian Latin Texts*, *Database of Latin Dictionaries*, GNOMON - *Bibliographische Datenbank*, *In Principio*, *New Pauly Online*, *Patrologia Latina Database*, *Perseus Project*, and *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae* – to name only the resources of immediate interest to mainstream Classicists. We also have stand alone CD-Roms of the Packard Humanities Institute collections of Latin, Epigraphy and Documentary Papyri. These are available either by request at the Sackler Library, or are loaded onto a dedicated computer in the Bodleian Lower Reading Room.

Oxford University e-journals is the package that provides access to e-journals, and a large number of Classics journals, mainly from American and British publishers, are available in full text via the e-journals webpage.

Languages

The Bodleian and Sackler, as major research Libraries, collect a wide range of Classical monographs, series and journals in English (published throughout the world), Western European languages (mainly French, German, Italian, Modern Greek, Spanish and Dutch), and other languages where scholarly need requires their purchase. Primary research material in classical archaeology (such as excavation reports and catalogues of museum collections) tends to be in the language of the country of origin, so that material in, for example, Turkish, Arabic, Russian and a variety of eastern European languages is regularly acquired.

All major new editions of Classical Greek and Latin authors are acquired. Translations of Classical Greek and Latin authors into English and the principal Western European languages are selectively collected according to scholarly merit and value. Translations into other languages are acquired judiciously, according to expressed need or request by individual readers. Medieval, late and neo-Latin texts and commentaries (where they have not already been acquired by another subject area) are purchased selectively.

Most of the material in the Classics Lending Library is either in the original ancient languages, or in English. However, where it is required for teaching purposes, other language material is acquired for this collection.

2. Teaching collections

The Classics Lending Library (CLL) is the main teaching collection for Classics in Oxford. The collection is located on the ground floor of the Sackler Library. This is a multiple-copy lending collection, aimed at supporting undergraduates reading for all the Classics degrees offered in Oxford. It is also used by graduates reading for taught degrees. The policies for teaching collections in Classics given below (2.1, 2.2 and 2.3) relate to the Classics Lending Library, unless otherwise specified.

The open shelf collection in the Bodleian Lower Reading Room, while not aimed directly at undergraduates, provides primary texts, translations and commentaries which are useful for all readers, as well as a number of monographs in Ancient History and Philosophy which appear on reading lists and bibliographies. The Philosophy Faculty Library provides a lending collection which includes Ancient Philosophy.

Text books

The Classics Lending Library aims to collect both primary texts and secondary works, covering subjects specified on the Faculty syllabus and reading lists, and also more widely across the main areas of study in Classics. Purchasing takes into account developments in the subject area and new teaching initiatives and courses. The material is periodically reviewed and new editions acquired to replace old ones where possible.

Journal articles

An extensive collection of photocopied journal articles exists in the Classics Lending Library, which is added to as necessary. Due to the increased availability of electronic journals, the use of much of this collection has declined in recent years. Where an article is not available electronically and appears on a reading list or bibliography, a copy is added to this collection where possible.

Levels of provision

Where possible, a copy of most books on Faculty reading lists and bibliographies is available in both the Bodleian, the Classics Lending Library, and often in the Sackler Library as well. For material in very heavy use, multiple copies are purchased for the Classics Lending Library. "Hot lists" or reports of the most heavily borrowed books each term are used to decide on the level of provision required for each item. Extremely popular texts are often made reference only in the Sackler Main Library to ensure that a copy is always available in the Library building, even when all the CLL books are on loan.

3. Research collections

The main research collections for Classics are accommodated in the Bodleian and Sackler Libraries. In the Bodleian, primary texts, translations and commentaries, reference works, indices and concordances are made available on open shelves in the Lower Reading Room. However, the vast majority of the research collections for Classics in the Bodleian are held in the Bookstack. In the Sackler, the main research collections are held in the Main Library, on the lower ground, ground, and first floors.

Research books

The main focus of the research collections in Classics in the Bodleian Library is in the study of Classical Greek and Latin Language and Literature. Every effort is made to ensure that, within the available resources, the Bodleian holdings in this area are comprehensive and inclusive.

The primary focus of the Sackler Library research collection in Classics is the study of the history and material culture of the Greek and Roman world. We endeavour to ensure the comprehensiveness and excellence of the Sackler holdings in this subject area. Major works of reference are acquired when possible; and there is a strong emphasis on acquiring recently published research, whether in the form of site reports, studies of collections of objects, recent exhibition catalogues, and analyses of texts or more synoptic studies. Many of these are doctoral theses re-worked for publication: unpublished theses are also occasionally acquired.

It is difficult to delineate strictly between the studies of the history or art, on the one hand, and the literature, on the other, of the Classical world. Where possible, the core collection focus is complemented in both libraries by collections in a variety of other areas. These collections have a dual purpose. They facilitate research in the core subject area of the library in question, but they also function as individual collections in their own right, providing resources for research in specific areas of interest. For example, a collection of primary texts, translations, and studies of Greek and Latin literature is held on the lower ground floor of the Sackler Library; this complements the main collections in Ancient History to be found on the ground floor. However, this collection is also useful for scholars of

Greek and Latin Literature in its own right. Similarly, while the primary purpose of the Bodleian collection is to support research in Greek and Latin Literature, its historic breadth of coverage also provides a good selection of material for Ancient Historians. It should be stressed that, while the Libraries are physically separate, their collections together provide readers in Oxford with a comprehensive resource for the study of all areas of Classical studies.

Monograph serials / standing-orders

In the past, the Bodleian Library held a large number of standing orders for monograph serial publications in all subject areas. Often this resulted in the receipt of books which were either unwanted or which were better housed in other Libraries. Over the past few years, we have been attempting to rationalise these standing orders, and to ensure that each item we receive can go to the Library where it will be of most use. Both the Bodleian and Sackler receive a number of major series on standing order, but where a series publishes across a number of subject areas, it is often preferable to purchase items individually and place them where most appropriate for their subject matter.

Journals

As the Bodleian and Sackler Libraries are both major research Libraries, and most periodicals cover the areas of interest of both Libraries, a number of major journal titles are held in full in both. Where a periodical is identified as essential to research in Classics, without which a Library dedicated to research in Classics would be deficient, two print subscriptions have been retained. Where a journal clearly relates to one or the other of the Libraries' core areas of interest, that journal will be held in that location only. Every effort is made to promote the awareness and use of electronic journals instead of print where they are available. It should be stressed, however, that a large percentage of major research periodicals in Classics are published in Europe and are not yet available in online form.

4. Special Collections

4.1 Bodleian Library

The classical papyri owned by the Bodleian Library are less extensive than those deposited at the Ashmolean Museum, but include a number of major items. The collection covers the full date-range from the Ptolemaic to Byzantine periods, mostly in Greek but with a few Latin pieces. Most are documents relating to the public or personal business of Graeco-Roman Egypt: nearly all were acquired directly or indirectly from Egypt between 1878 and 1934. In 1810 the Bodleian had already acquired a small group of carbonized papyrus rolls from Herculaneum, together with transcripts of many other rolls which had been opened and copied at Naples.

Besides the *unica* amongst its literary papyri, the Bodleian owns a few medieval manuscripts of classical texts which are famous either as paramount witnesses (Plato, Euclid, Catullus) or even as sole text-carrier (the Oxford Juvenal, with its 36 unique lines). However, the strength of the Library's holdings lies in the broad coverage of many classical authors in a host of secondary witnesses, of greater or lesser importance for their respective texts. Assessed alongside those preserved in other comparable libraries, such manuscripts are of value not only as sources of readings for modern editors but also as evidence for the history of their authors' medieval transmission and intellectual influence. Further sources for these topics

are to be found in marginal glosses and in the separate commentaries and other secondary scholarship by medieval and later scholars.

Sources for classical scholarship from the 16th century onwards survive in the Bodleian in several classes of material: collections of inscriptions from, and drawings of, ancient monuments; scholarly commentaries and notes on classical topics and authors; academic correspondence; and marginal notes, including collations, in early printed editions of classical texts. The working papers, manuscripts, and printed books associated with editions of classical texts printed at Oxford in the 18th and 19th centuries were given to the Bodleian by the Clarendon Press.

The Library is now largely dependent on gifts and bequests to augment its manuscript collections. It ventures into the market only to try to secure items which are very closely connected to its existing holdings, or of commanding potential importance for research in the University.

4.2 Sackler Library

The Sackler Library accommodates the Oxyrhynchus Papyri project (<http://www.papyrology.ox.ac.uk/POxy/>), run under the auspices of the Egypt Exploration Society. The papyrology rooms provide space in which the papyri may be consulted, as well as a special collection of texts and monographs to support research on Greek and Latin papyrological texts.

Other collections: The Sackler Library holds the unpublished papers of a number of eminent Oxford classicists, the emphasis being on archaeological material generally and on Roman Britain in particular. These include JGC Anderson, WM Ramsay, WH Buckler, JD Denniston and Percy Gardner; and (on Roman Britain) FJ Haverfield, RG Collingwood and IA Richmond. Those of Haverfield and Richmond constitute extensive (and widely used) topographically based archives.

5. Subject coverage of selected purchased material

In addition to the legal deposit intake and general works in Classics (Greek and Latin Language and Literature, and Ancient History), OULS will purchase non-deposited material in the following specific subjects:

- Reference works, encyclopaedias, grammars, dictionaries, concordances, and lexica
- Editions, translations, commentaries, and studies of all Greek and Latin authors of the Classical period
- Monographs and studies of all aspects of the history and culture of the Greek and Roman worlds
- Greek and Roman art and archaeology
- Ancient Philosophy
- Epigraphy, Numismatics, Papyrology, and Palaeography
- Byzantine history and literature

- Ancient rhetoric
- Ancient law and jurisprudence
- Ancient science, technology and medicine
- Greek and Latin religion and mythology
- Studies of ancillary ancient languages (e.g. Etruscan, Oscan, etc.)
- Prosopography and chronology
- Medieval, late and neo-Latin studies (selectively)
- Reception studies
- Essays, Festschriften, and kleine Schriften by, or in honour of, Classical scholars
- History of Classical scholarship and literary criticism
- Classics and IT
- History of the teaching of Classics in the modern world
- Biographies and autobiographies of Classical scholars
- Multi-media, electronic and audio-visual resources to support teaching and research in all areas of Classics.

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

Charlotte Goodall (OULS Classics Librarian)

Graham Piddock (Sackler Librarian-in-charge and Archaeology subject consultant)

Diane Bergman (Griffith Librarian – Egyptology and Ancient Near East Studies)

Martin Kauffmann (Curator of medieval manuscripts, Bodleian Library, and subject consultant for palaeography and manuscript studies)

Hilla Wait (Philosophy and Theology Librarian)

(last edited) 24th November 2008