

Collection Policy for History of Medicine

This policy describes in general terms the purpose and scope of Oxford's collection relating to the History of Medicine and the constituencies served.

Separate policies exist for related collections, e.g. History (British and Western European) and History of Science, Technology and Mathematics.

1. Overview

1.1 General coverage of History of Medicine in Bodleian Libraries

The collections for history of medicine are primarily held in the Bodleian Library and History of Medicine Library (formerly known as the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine Library) on a reference-only basis. Researchers also benefit from access to manuscripts, archives (medieval to modern), early printed works, microform collections, and modern printed monographs and journals held in the Bodleian Library.

Supporting the work of the Oxford Centre of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology (OCHSMT), the History of Medicine Library primarily provides for the needs of the University's postgraduate students and researchers in the history of medicine. Its holdings comprise c. 9,000 monographs, serials and theses on various aspects of medical history. Particular strengths include history of nursing, tropical medicine, hospitals & hospital movements, infectious diseases and national & local public health administration within the UK.

Related collections are also held elsewhere in Oxford, most notably in the History Faculty Library (HFL), but also the Radcliffe Science Library (RSL), Tylor Library for Social and Cultural Anthropology and the Bodleian Health Care Libraries. Research into the history of medicine is often very interdisciplinary in nature, requiring resources from a wide variety of libraries. Researchers focussing on specific geographical areas may also draw on the Bodleian Library's collections in the Commonwealth and African Studies, the Vere Harmsworth Library at the Rothermere American Institute, Bodleian Library South Asian collections and the Oriental Institute Library.

The Bodleian History Faculty Library (HFL) is the prime lending library for history of medicine collections.

[SOLO](#) is Oxford's discovery tool to locate the vast collections of books, journals and databases in the Bodleian Libraries.

1.2 Legal Deposit

The long history of legal deposit, stretching back to 1610, provides a wealth of primary source material on medicine. Key sources are held on the open shelves in Upper Reading Room, Old Library, and otherwise are held offsite in the Book Storage Facility.

New legal deposit titles on the History of Medicine are usually displayed for a month in the Upper Reading Room, Old Bodleian Library.

UK titles published within the last year are actively claimed, wherever possible, by the staff in the Bodleian's Legal Deposit Operations. If despite a claim a title fails to arrive and the claim is signed off, then generally the title will be



purchased in order to complete the collections. However, delays, often of some months, in the receipt of UK publications may occur.

Electronic Legal Deposit

On 6 April 2013, new legislation came into force allowing the Bodleian Libraries and the other Legal Deposit Libraries in the UK and Ireland, to access electronic books, articles, web pages and other electronic documents published in the UK. The 2013 Regulations 2013 are being implemented gradually over several years, as the Legal Deposit Libraries agree collectively to accept electronic versions from each UK publisher.

More about electronic Legal Deposit can be found here:

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/about-us/legaldeposit/electronic-legal-deposit-non-print-publications>

1.3 Electronic resources

A range of electronic resources for the history of medicine are available. They offer 24/7 remote access to research and teaching materials (unique or alternatives in print) and a range of discovery tools. Resources are typically bibliographical databases, collections of primary source materials, electronic alternatives to journals and/or books or research aids for biographical or reference research. The use of full-text searchable text opens up new avenues of research for students and researchers in the history of medicine. For instance, electronic resources increasingly provide access to digitised manuscript, text, audio and image archives from around the world.

Electronic resources (databases and electronic journals) are accessed through OxLIP+, the interface for electronic resources, and OU E-Journals portal, which provides access to e-journals.

Examples of some important resources are as follows:

Bibliographical databases

- Historical Abstracts
- Medline
- SCOPUS
- Index Islamicus
- Bibliography of British and Irish History
- International Medieval Bibliography
- Catalogue of Scientific Papers, 1800-1863 (via <http://gallica.bnf.fr>)

Primary or full-text databases

- Library of Latin Texts
- Medieval SourcesOnline
- Early English Books Online (EEBO)
- Early European Books Online
- Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)

Reference and biographical databases

- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (DNB)
- World Biographical Information System (WBIS)
- Who's Who
- Oxford Reference Online
- Cambridge Histories Online: The Cambridge history of science

Electronic journals

- JSTOR
- Oxford Journals Online
- Cambridge Journals Online



Electronic books

ACLS Humanities eBooks
EBSCOhost eBooks Collection
Oxford Scholarship Online
E-Book Library (EBL)

1.4 Languages

The Bodleian Library's collections cover titles in English and European languages, esp. German, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch as well as Latin and Greek and oriental languages. The Wellcome Unit Library collects mainly English language titles.

2. Teaching collections

2.1 Undergraduate teaching collections

The HFL provides set text and reading list items for the undergraduate further subject 'Medicine, Empire and Improvement, 1720-1820'. See the *Collection Policy for History (British and Western European)* for further details.

Additionally, undergraduates make extensive use the Bodleian's collections, which are held to a smaller degree on the open shelves in the Bodleian Library (Upper Camera, Upper Reading Room, Gladstone Link) and otherwise in the Bodleian Library's remote storage.

Set book chapters and journals articles that are available in print in Oxford and covered by the Copyright Licensing Agency License will be digitised and made available to students via the HFL's WebLearn site.

2.2 Postgraduate teaching collections

Where possible, items listed on reading lists for postgraduate MSc/MPhil courses in the History of Medicine are purchased by the Bodleian Library and/or the History of Medicine Library and any legal deposit copies are made available in the Bodleian Library. Additional lending copies of popular titles may also be purchased by the HFL. In some cases, texts do not directly relate to the history of medicine and would be more suitably housed in another library, such as the HFL, VHL, etc. In this case, the Librarian-in-Charge of the History of Medicine Library will liaise with the relevant subject librarians to ensure provision of material.

Set book chapters and journals articles that are available in print in Oxford and covered by the Copyright Licensing Agency License will be digitised and made available to students via the HFL's WebLearn site.

3. Research collections

The majority of the research collections relating to history of medicine are held in the Bodleian Library and History of Medicine Library.

They are supplemented by holdings in other libraries in Oxford, including the HFL, Bodleian Library's collections for Commonwealth and African Studies, the Vere Harmsworth Library at the Rothermere American Institute and the Social and Cultural Anthropology Library.

3.1 Research books

The Bodleian Library aims to collect new research books relevant to the subject of history of medicine primarily of Great Britain and Western Europe.



The Bodleian Libraries' Oriental section aims to collect new research books relevant to the history of medicine in the Near and Middle East, South and South-East Asia and the Far East.

The History of Medicine Library aims to purchase new research books that are relevant to the current interests of the OCHSMT researchers.

A degree of duplication between the History of Medicine Library, Bodleian Library and the HFL is deliberately but selectively practised in order to support students and members of the Faculty in their work.

Monographs received via legal deposit in the last three years, and not placed in the Upper Camera Reading Room, are usually shelved in the Gladstone Link. Important publications or earlier legal deposit monographs of particular relevance to the History of Medicine are available on the open shelves in Upper Reading Room, Old Library, and otherwise are in the remote storage of the Bodleian Library. Oriental monographs received via Legal Deposit in the last three years are usually shelved in the Bodleian Oriental Institute Library, the Chinese Centre Library or the Bodleian Japanese Library. Important oriental publications or earlier legal deposit monographs of particular relevance to the History of Medicine are available on the open shelves in these libraries.

3.2 Monograph serials / standing orders

The Bodleian Library has standing orders for some series, including Brill's *Studies in intellectual history*, *Studies in Ancient Medicine* and *Brill's History of science and medicine library*.

3.3 Journals

In addition to journals received under legal deposit, the Bodleian Library subscribes to a selection of journals (print and electronic); the Wellcome Unit Library purchases one print journal (*Nursing History Review*). Use of, and subscriptions to, electronic journals is actively encouraged by library and academic staff.

History of medicine journals in the Bodleian Library are shelved in the Gladstone Link in the main History section, unless they are available electronically and/or designated a core title.

Print runs from the early nineteenth century onwards of scientific and medical journals, such as the *Lancet*, are available in the Radcliffe Science Library.

4. Special collections

The Bodleian Library and its Special Collections Department provide diverse primary sources across a wide range of books, manuscripts and papers. These include:

- Early manuscript and books collections, such as the Matteo Luigi Canonici manuscripts;
- Early modern scientists' papers, such as the papers of William Musgrave, John Bainbridge, Thomas Sydenham and the Radcliffe Trust;
- Late 18th and 19th century papers, such as Sir Henry Wentworth Acland's, Regius Professor Of Medicine, and the physiologist, F.A. Dixey's papers;
- 20th century archives, such as the papers of the Nobel Prize winner, Dorothy Hodgkin, E.P. Abraham, biochemist, John Kendrew, molecular biologist, and David Philips, biophysicist;



- Papers of the Overseas Nursing Association and the Medical Missions of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel;
- The archive of Oxfam, containing extensive material on the development of medical facilities and the response to emergencies in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America in the second half of the 20th century and early 21st century;
- College archives, including Nuffield (Lord Nuffield's correspondence) and St Hugh's (World War Two patient records and head injury research).
- The History of Medicine Library holds a small number antiquarian texts and other more recent archive material. This includes a selection of glass slides from a leprosy mission and a photo album on the British blood transfusion service during World War Two;
- Oriental language early manuscript and book collections, e.g. Arabic medical manuscripts; Sanskrit (Chandra Shum Shere collection Ayurvedic) and Sinhala medical manuscripts; Tibetan editions of classical texts from the Arura medical foundation.
- Indian official publications from the 19th century, which cover a broad range of health issues, and official publications from African and Commonwealth countries relating to medical provision.

5. Subject coverage of selected purchased material

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

Primary and Secondary material for History of Medicine		
Subject	Period coverage (BOD & others)	Period coverage (WEL)
Epidemiology and history of diseases	All periods from late Antiquity (selectively)	All periods from late Antiquity
Public health (especially cities)	All periods from late Antiquity (selectively)	All periods from late Antiquity
Military and naval medicine	All periods from late Antiquity (selectively)	Early modern onwards
Colonial/imperial/tropical medicine	Early modern onwards	Early modern onwards
Psychiatry and psychology	All periods from late Antiquity (upon request)	Early modern onwards
Veterinary medicine	All periods from late Antiquity (upon request)	Early modern onwards
Pharmacology	All periods from late Antiquity (upon request)	Early modern onwards
Nursing	All periods from late Antiquity	Early modern onwards
Hospitals	All periods from late Antiquity (selectively)	Early modern onwards
Surgery	All periods from late Antiquity (selectively)	Early modern onwards
Indian medicine	All periods from late antiquities (selectively)	Early modern onwards
African, Commonwealth & Caribbean medicine	All periods from late antiquities (upon request)	Early modern onwards



American medicine	All periods (upon request); VHL buys routinely those titles on wider social aspects of history of medicine (e.g. during Civil War, slavery, etc.)	Early modern onwards
European and British medicine	All periods from late antiquities	Early modern onwards
Near and Middle East medicine	All periods from late Antiquity (selectively)	
East Asian medicine	All periods from late Antiquity (selectively)	Early modern onwards
Women's health and children's health	All periods from late Antiquity	Early modern onwards

Auxiliaries	
Specialised bibliographies & reference works	Inventories of relevant archives
Historiography, historical method	Biographies of key figures in medicine

Within the subjects, some periods, areas, etc. are collected more selectively than others.

6. Names of those primarily responsible for the collections

Isabel Holowaty, Bodleian History Librarian
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Karine Barker, Life Sciences and Medicine Librarian
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Manuscripts

Martin Kauffmann (Medieval mss)
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Mike Webb (Early modern mss)
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01865 (2)77164

Lucy McCann (Modern mss)
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Rare Books

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Oriental Collections

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Isabel D. Holowaty
Bodleian History Librarian