



NAGLE LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2019

INTRODUCTION

St John's College has had a library since the original building was completed and occupied in 1863. William Wardell designed the library rooms as one element of a triad of principal spaces – Chapel, Hall and Library – which embody the three functions of a traditional college: worship, fellowship and study.

In 2018, the St John's College Library was named the Nagle Library in honour of Justice John Nagle (1914-2009) whose bequest enabled the complete refurbishment of the Philosophical Room and the Reading Room.

The objectives of the Library are:

- to conserve printed material relating to the history of St John's College and its historical context broadly conceived;
- to make such material accessible for researchers and other interested persons;
- to make available resources for the broader education and intellectual development of the College's students beyond the scope of their immediate courses of study;
- to provide a physical environment conducive to study.

PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES OF THIS POLICY

Purpose

The purposes of this Collection Development Policy are to:

- guide those engaged in stock acquisition, maintenance and disposal
- provide information to all readers for guidance on working practice
- provide transparency of Library procedure to the Library's stakeholders.

Guiding principles

- Selection of materials is based on relevance to the Library's existing collections
- Materials are provided as a resource collectively for the whole College community
- Materials may be made available to the wider community upon request
- The Library is responsible for the condition and content of its collections
- The intake of new material will depend on adequate space being available
- The fulfilment of the policy will depend on adequate resources being available

COLLECTIONS

The Nagle Library collections comprise:

- a General Collection,
- a Law Collection,
- several Special Collections.

The Library's priority is to build on the strengths of these collections through targeted collecting of printed materials.

General Collection

The General Collection, kept in the Reading Room, is arranged in Dewey Decimal Classification order and has works across various core humanities disciplines including (but not limited to):

- Australian history, biography and politics
- Australian geography and sociology
- medieval and modern European history
- world history
- history and philosophy of science
- Australian literature
- literature in English
- European languages and literatures
- fine arts
- philosophy
- sacred scripture, theology and church history.

Further acquisitions will be made in the above areas as appropriate. In addition, it is intended to extend the collection into other areas of contemporary relevance including (but not limited to):

- international relations
- international political economy in the Indo-Pacific region
- social impacts of science and technologies
- history, geography and cultures of East Asia and South-East Asia.

Law Collection

Australian and English law reports, kept in the O'Reilly Room, including sets of law reports donated by Judge John O'Meally AM RFD, William Walsh and other old members of the College.

Further acquisitions by donation or gift will be considered on a case by case basis.

Special collections

The Library holds several special collections, some of which are *formed* (no further items are accessioned to these), and some *continuing* (further items may be accessioned to these). The special collections are held in the Philosophical Room. Numbers of items are those catalogued at 2019.

(a) Formed special collections

The Brennan Collection of Greek and Latin Literature

The scholarly library of Greek and Latin classical texts of Professor Christopher Brennan (1870-1932), purchased by H M Moran in 1925 and donated to the College.

Since 1977 this collection has been housed in the Rare Books and Special Collections Department of the University of Sydney Library, where conditions are suitable for long term conservation. *Approximately 694 items held in Fisher Rare Books.*

The Fitzherbert Collection of Greek and Latin Texts

Professor John Aloysius Fitzherbert (1892-1970, SJC 1910-13), Professor of Classics at the University of Adelaide 1928-1957, bequeathed his professional library of classical antiquity to the College. In 1973 his former student Christopher Flynn completed a handlist of the collection. Part of the collection has been deposited on loan with the University of Sydney Library. *548 items.*

(b) Continuing special collections (in order of priority)

Items are accessioned to the first mentioned category applicable.

1. *Early Printed Books*

68 items

Criteria for accession of items to this Collection:

- Books printed before 1801;
- Books printed in Australia before 1851.

2. Liturgical Books

80 items

This collection has two parts:

- a. Liturgical books of the Roman rite prior to the reforms which commenced in 1965;
- b. Liturgical books of the Roman rite according to the reforms which commenced in 1965.

Criteria for accession of items to this Collection:

- Books containing the official rites of the Catholic church printed by ecclesiastical authority, principally rites for the Mass (Missal), sacraments (Roman Ritual) and Divine Office (Breviary, Liturgy of the Hours)
- Includes books for the use of officiating clergy (e.g. altar missals) and others (e.g. hand missals)

3. Rare books

56 items

Criteria for accession of items to this Collection:

- Items judged to be rare on generally accepted criteria of rarity, for example:
 - Limited or notable editions
 - Signed by the author
 - Significant provenance
 - Scarce holding in Australia

4. The University of Sydney

78 items

Criteria for accession of items to this Collection:

- Official publications of the University, including Calendars, biographical registers and pamphlets
- Items relating to the history of the University
- Textbooks used prior to 1920 by identified students, especially students of St John's College

5. St John's College

319 items

Criteria for accession of items to this Collection:

- Books and pamphlets published by the College
- Items relating to the history of the College
- Works by Rectors or designated associates (e.g. C J Brennan)
- Works which include biographical material relating to ex-students
- "Association copies" owned by Rectors, Fellows or designated associates which are judged to be of special interest

6. The Australian Church

160 items

The subject matter is the history of the Catholic Church in Australia since 1788 and the major influences thereon – Rome, together with the Church in England and in Ireland.

Criteria for accession of items to this Collection:

- Works relating to the Australian Church published prior to 1950
- The Catholic Church in England to 1900: Newman (Oratorian Fathers), Wiseman, Manning
- The Irish Church in relation to Australia

7. The Nagle Collection of Australian History

241 items

The core of this collection is 100 volumes relating to the early history (including legal history) of NSW received from the estate of John Nagle. To this has been added other works relating to colonial history and Federation already in the Library or subsequently donated.

Criteria for accession of further items to this Collection:

- Items relating to the discovery, settlement, exploration, geography or history of Australia printed before 1920
- Items relating to the history of the federal movement and federation, and the law of the federal constitution and institutions, printed before 1950
- Official histories of Australia in the wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45

8. Ancient languages additional

62 items

This collection enables additional works to be shelved in proximity to the Fitzherbert Collection.

Criteria for accession of items to this Collection:

- Works of Greek and Latin authors in the original languages
- Translations of ancient authors published prior to 1921
- Grammars and lexicons of the Greek, Latin and other ancient languages
- The Bible in Hebrew and the Hebrew language
- The New Testament in Greek
- The Fathers in Greek and Latin

Note: the following are held in the General Collection:

- Translations of ancient authors published from 1921
- The Bible in translation
- Biblical studies other than works concerned with the original languages
- Patristics other than works concerned with the original languages
- Medieval and renaissance works in Latin
- General linguistics.

9. Nineteenth century books

78 items

Criteria for accession of items to this Collection:

- Books printed 1801-1850
- Books printed in Australia 1851-1900

SELECTION AND ACQUISITION

Decisions regarding selection of materials for acquisition will take account of their relevance to the core strengths of the existing collections, quality and condition of the materials, format and price.

General Collection

Recommendations for acquisition are collated by the Librarian from:

- selections from the Library Profile platform set up with our preferred book supplier (GOBI)
- selections from other book suppliers
- suggestions and requests from students, staff and tutors
- suggestions from the wider College community.

Law Collection

Recommendations for acquisition are made where materials strengthen the existing collection or fill gaps.

Special collections

Recommendations for acquisition are based on the Criteria for accession of items to the special collections listed in *Continuing special collections* above.

Budget

The Librarian will recommend allocation of the available General Collection acquisitions budget for approval by the Rector.

Purchases for the Law Collection and Special collections are unusual and infrequent and are considered on a case by case basis.

Freedom of expression

The Library will not exclude from purchase material on the grounds of an author's race, nationality, sex or opinions, nor because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval. The acquisition of a publication does not imply any endorsement of the views or opinions stated therein. Books expressing opinions or containing illustrations that might be regarded as blasphemous, offensive or distasteful, and which form part of the existing collections, will not be discarded solely on those grounds.

Donations

Offers of donations or gifts are welcomed and accepted where they will enhance the Library's established collections. Accepted gifts are acknowledged in writing by the Librarian.

Decisions on whether to accept proposed gifts will be judged on the same criteria as for other acquisitions. Not all gifts are appropriate additions to the Library, and selectivity must be practised.

The Library actively encourages current and old members of the College to donate a copy of their own publication(s) to the Library in order to maintain a long tradition of “St. John’s Authors” and provide biographical representations of its members. In all other cases it is Library policy that:

- if possible, the books should be assessed for usefulness prior to their arrival at the Library
- if this is not possible, it is appropriate to agree with the donor or his/her family only to accept part of a proposed donation
- books offered in poor physical condition will not normally be accepted unless there is some compelling reason for their being so.

Gifts are normally accepted only if they are made without conditions as to their binding, cataloguing, shelving or future disposal, but in exceptional cases the Library has discretion to accept gifts with conditions attached.

It is not Library policy to accept collections or individual items on temporary deposit or loan.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection evaluation and de-selection (weeding) is carried out periodically to maintain a relevant collection and to reduce pressure on space in the Library.

Retention

Where material still meets the acquisition criteria set out in section 3 above, they will be retained. Where they do not, they will:

- be offered as a donation to other libraries
- be offered to the University of Sydney Chancellor’s book fair
- be offered to charities for re-use or sale
- go to recycling.

Weeding

The criteria for weeding the different collections will vary.

General Collection

In deciding which works in the General Collection may be considered for disposal, the Librarian considers the following criteria and aims to discard:

- materials that are no longer fit for purpose
- materials which no longer fit the collection profile
- materials which are no longer of contemporary relevance
- superseded editions, except for first or notable editions

- duplicate titles unless a proven demand exists for multiple copies
- items in poor condition that are beyond reasonable preservation efforts.

Law Collection

Material accessioned as part of the Law Collection will remain there permanently except in exceptional circumstances. These may include where the cost of conservation outweighs the value of the item. The decision to dispose of an item must be approved by the Rector.

Special Collections

Material accessioned as part of special collections will remain there permanently except in exceptional circumstances. These may include where the cost of conservation outweighs the value of the item. The decision to dispose of an item must be approved by the Rector.