

# Resources for College Libraries

## Subject Scope Notes



Resources for  
College Libraries

*Resources for College Libraries* (RCL) is the core bibliography of essential resources for undergraduate teaching and research. Co-published by Choice/ACRL and ProQuest-Clarivate, it includes over 90,000 print and electronic resources in 62 curriculum-specific subject areas. See RCL subject scope notes below.

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## AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

African American Studies is an interdisciplinary field of scholarly inquiry that encompasses the global African experience. The growing focus on the African Diaspora has led to a name change among the leading African American Studies departments in the Academy. 'Africana Studies' is the preferred moniker as new scholarship and critical interpretations move beyond the borders of the Americas. In addition to expanded scholarship in African Americana, this new edition includes fresh ethnographies that reveal the African presence in other areas of world. Bi-racial studies, gay/lesbian studies, and queer studies are included in the traditional areas of sociology and history.

Revised editions of classic works are included to ensure solid grounding at the undergraduate level. New scholarship and innovative research provide unique perspectives to basic subject areas such as women's studies, health, sports, military science, technology, the arts, and the broader African Diaspora studies. Preference has been given to resources currently available in print.

Selected resources reflect the focus of African American Studies undergraduate curriculum at key institutions. Course syllabi, reading lists, professional reviews, research trends, conference proceedings and current market offerings are also examined for appropriate materials. When possible, actual works are examined and the credentials and research specialties of authors are examined. This list includes resources that exemplify the evolution of African American studies into a mature discipline that examines the African influence and experience in the world, i.e., Africana Studies. Supportive works are also found in related academic disciplines.

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## AFRICAN HISTORY, LANGUAGES, AND LITERATURES

The African History, Languages, and Literatures section is comprised of resources critical to the needs of undergraduate course offerings and scholarship in the field of African Studies. The emphasis is on African history, languages and literatures but the cross-disciplinary nature of the field has been considered in the selection process. Therefore, African society, arts, culture, politics, environment, gender, and health are also represented in this section; diaspora resources are excluded. The linguistic diversity of Africa means that not all languages can be covered in this section so efforts are made to include only major languages. Selected literary criticism and works are found in the literature subsection, but for more comprehensive coverage see the "Other Literatures in English" section.

The most relevant works for undergraduate study have been selected, regardless of publication date and country of origin. Secondary works are the main focus of this section, but due to the importance of primary sources in historical study, some primary source web resources are included. Titles selected have most often been professionally reviewed in notable review journals. Other priorities for inclusion are works aimed at teaching and beginning study, more advanced texts are included for upper-level undergraduates and teaching faculty. All materials are in English, whether original or in translation.

The entries are organized by subject in the taxonomy. The history subsection relies on broadly accepted categories found in many undergraduate African history course syllabi. It includes general works covering large parts of the continent, and are divided by time period; specific works divided by region and then by country. The



general and reference category mostly provide overview and a strong base for the more specific collection. The special topics category reflects the interdisciplinary topics and themes that often receive attention in upper-level undergraduate courses.

Classics and seminal works are listed, but the focus of the bibliography is on the most essential works published in recent years. Out of print and dated titles especially on African history, are maintained in the bibliography when they are deemed to be relevant and essential to the undergraduate curriculum. *Last updated August 2023.*

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## AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture section is designed to serve the needs of undergraduates and four-year colleges; there are also items that are specifically aimed at community colleges, which often have specialized programs in such fields as horticulture, food service and technology, and fire technology. Materials included also meet the needs of general audiences as well as students, faculty, and researchers in the subject areas.

Many academic programs focus on the broader areas of natural resources, which is now much more interdisciplinary. Publications cover traditional agriculture, conservation, crops and soils, plant biotechnology, entomology, and pest management. Other key subjects are animal science and veterinary medicine, fisheries, forestry, fire management, and rangeland science.

There is a considerable overlap with the fields of environmental science and it was difficult to make a clear distinction. In the interest of making sure no significant works are excluded, we have put in many titles that relate to soil, water, and wildlife conservation, as well as the economic aspects of the environment.

Food science and technology has been incorporated under agriculture since much of it is interrelated and selections from the Library of Congress classes TP and TX are included here.

Classic works are still listed, but as a rule the focus has been on the most important works published in recent years. As much as possible, the latest edition of each title is given. Although some books are out of print, they are included because they are still significant and are heavily cited. When appropriate, electronic equivalents are given as alternate editions. Web sites have been selected based on their currency, reputation of the agencies that created them, and intended audience.

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## AMERICAN LITERATURE

The American Literature section comprises scholarly and creative works useful for study at the undergraduate-level. This section is designed to represent the diverse array of literature studied in the undergraduate English curriculum, representing works by canonical American authors along with literature of marginal and emerging literary communities. Literary works included in the bibliography are supported by major critical, biographical, and literary-historical works devoted to individual authors, forms, periods, and regions of American literature. No effort was made to include the complete works of every author, and selection in general tended away from,



rather than toward, the inclusion of bibliographies of critical works, concordances, and other materials more appropriate to a research collection than one supporting the undergraduate curriculum. Although critical works tend to be more recent, an effort was made to include the most valuable older works. For additional coverage of literary criticism and theory, see also the General Language and Literature section of RCL.

Particular attention was paid to the inclusion of works by writers of color and women writers. These individual writers and works were selected based on both recognition through major literary awards and their inclusion in the undergraduate curriculum. For additional coverage, see also the African American Studies; Asian American Studies; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Studies; and Latino Studies sections of RCL.

Where possible, works are recommended in their newest, most reliable edition. Some works are available only as reprints, while a few are out of print, though still recommended. *Last updated May 2023.*

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## AMERICAN STUDIES

American Studies is an interdisciplinary field whose students and practitioners employ a range of scholarly approaches, methods, and theories. This list of recommended materials reflects the field's intersectional approach and emphasizes items used in undergraduate American Studies programs. Sources are included when they regularly appear in class lists, are frequently required reading in current American Studies classes, or are recent American Studies books that have received awards and/or exceptional reviews.

This list reflects both established territory and evolving areas within the discipline of American Studies. An interdisciplinary field established in the interwar period to explore American culture in national and global contexts, American Studies expanded in the post-war period, emphasizing the study of race, class, gender, and empire. Most recently, as the field has deepened its focus on questions about the meaningfulness of "America," scholarship is fueled by intersections of fields focused on particular groups (LGBTQ, Asian Americans, Indigenous peoples, women, to name a few) and theoretical and topical approaches (gender and queer studies, race and ethnic studies, folk and popular culture, colonialism, and so on).<sup>(1)</sup> This list reflects the field's historic and current trends.

There remains some unavoidable duplication with other multidisciplinary subject lists. This one includes only those qualified materials that intersect with the study of American culture. *Last updated August 2022.*

1) <https://www.theasa.net/about/history>

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## ANCIENT HISTORY

The Ancient History section covers the history of the ancient Near East (Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Syria, Palestine, Persia, and Egypt), Mediterranean, Greece, and Rome. The reference and general works sections cover general histories, encyclopedias, bibliographies, and the like covering more than one ancient civilization. The major civilization of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East are covered geographically. Egypt, Greece, and Rome are subdivided by topic and period. "Sources" sections under Greece and Rome include both general discussions of



primary source materials and collections of them. Works of the Greek and Roman historical writers may be found in the author listings under Classical Languages and Literatures. *Last updated June 2021.*

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## ANTHROPOLOGY

An emphasis on the group aspects of human behavior defines the anthropological perspective. It is an inclusive perspective, encompassing social, cultural, biological, and ecological aspects of human groups, past and present, and is represented by what is called the “four-field” approach to anthropology. The Anthropology section reflects the four-field conception of human beings in groups binding biological anthropology, linguistic anthropology, archaeology, and social or cultural anthropology into one discipline. Each of these fields is a primary taxon in the classification scheme of this section. The reader will find more than four main taxa because each anthropological subfield that combines or crosses any of the four primary fields, such as medical anthropology, is given its own heading.

Basic usefulness in the undergraduate curriculum guides selection. Anthropology is a synthesizing discipline. That means that many titles to be found in other sections -- works in human geography, history, area studies, gender studies, and human genetics to name a few -- will also be effective parts of the anthropology collection. The study of non-human primates and their evolution can be found in the Biology subject. *Last updated May 2022.*

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## ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

To develop a resource collection about Asian / Pacific Americans and the field of Asian American Studies, one has to be cognizant of the historical events that have shaped the formation of the people as well as the discipline. The Civil Rights Movement and the Third World Liberation struggles of the 1960s created the environment that enabled the collective identity formation of Asian/Pacific Americans. The field of Asian American Studies likewise emerged out of the struggle for the establishment of an Ethnic Studies program at San Francisco State College. Since then, the number of departments and programs has grown, both in the United States and Canada. More importantly, the amount of scholarly and popular works by and about Asian/Pacific Americans has increased in quantity and quality within the last decade, covering a wide array of topical issues such as: mixed races, transnational and migration studies, gender / sexuality, and colonialism, to name a few. In addition, the notion of who is an Asian American has been debated both in the community and the academic discipline. For instance, while the term Asian American Studies is widely used in departments and programs, one is likely to encounter a more inclusive term like Asian/Pacific American Studies in some programs to reflect the complexity of this Asian American community.

It is within this historical context that the current taxonomy has been developed for the discipline whose purpose is to provide a critical understanding of the Asian/Pacific American experience in the United States emphasizing the racial, class, and gender dynamics. In searching this section one will discover that the categories include more traditional categories like history, literature, sociology, politics, as well as terminologies germane to the Asian/Pacific American immigrant experience. Hence you will find in this section headings and

subheadings like internment camps, cultural studies / popular culture, diaspora / migration / transnationalism, colonialism / imperialism, and ethnic groups to reflect the major areas of research that has become international in scope. The section contains a number of edited books organized under the heading general works because of the diversity of topics included. The ethnic groups section is further subdivided into specific heritage to reflect the numerous works published in each of these groups. Of importance is the section under Hawaiians and Pacific Islander which represents a growing study on indigenous studies and sovereignty rights that may be overlooked under the term Asian American Studies.

In developing this section the emphasis has been on works published from the 1980s to the present to include a few out of print titles. A few older titles have been included because of their importance in the field.

#### Notes:

Hirabayashi, Lane Ryo and Alquizola, Marilyn C. Asian American Studies: Reevaluating for the 1990s. In *The State of Asian America: Activism and Resistance in the 1990s*. Edited by Aguilar-San Juan, Karin. Boston, MA: South End Press, 1994, pp 351 -361.

Spickard, Paul. "Whither the Asian American coalition." *Pacific Historical Review* 76:4 (November 2007): 585-604.

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## ASIAN HISTORY, LANGUAGES, AND HISTORY

The Asian History, Languages, and Literatures section is primarily intended to reflect the needs of college course offerings and academic fields of study classified under "Asian Studies." Asia in this case is South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), Southeast Asia (Kampuchea, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam), and Inner Asia (China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Tibet). Asian studies generally includes language and literature along with history, and increasingly, cultural studies and multidisciplinary studies. Religion is addressed as a part of cultural history or literature, not as a topic in its own right. Similarly, titles on geopolitical issues are only included if they are primarily about Asia, not comparative government or international relations (see the Political Science section for such titles). Titles on the Asian Diaspora are only included if they focus mainly on Asian culture, history or language and are not considered part of Asian American Studies.

The section is organized as many undergraduate courses are organized: by regions and by general themes or time periods. With a few exceptions, only titles in English are listed. Some works not necessarily for general readers have been included because they are essential for upper level course offerings. Others are accessible to readers at any level but deal with specialized topics. Some classic works are retained not because they are still definitive, but because there is no replacement for them as entry points. Primary sources, reference works, and standard series are given preference, as they are likely to be of lasting value. Titles on current events are added to the bibliography as they join core reading lists. *Last updated August 2022.*

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## ASTRONOMY



Astronomy is an ancient, yet dynamic, scientific discipline where new discoveries have led to dramatic paradigm changes in recent years. The emphasis on this list is therefore on contemporary astronomy resources that reflect the current state of knowledge on a topic. The list includes some essential historical and cultural astronomy titles to support qualitative lower-level research. Whenever possible, the newest editions of resources are listed. Some classic, highly-cited older works were retained, but the reader must be aware that some of the information contained in these volumes is obsolete.

Resources include textbooks, guides, atlases, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and websites aimed at serving the needs of an undergraduate liberal arts curriculum. The list is a mixture of introductory materials, suitable for lower-level students, and more advanced texts that are useful to upper-level students and faculty. Many well-known advanced texts were omitted from this list as they are more appropriate for graduate students and above. Additionally, the section includes books written at the popular level to introduce students to the exciting discoveries and controversial questions that make astronomy a vibrant field.

The topics covered in this list include the history of astronomy, biographies of significant individuals, astronomical instrumentation, astrophysics, cosmology, planetary sciences, as well as emerging subfields such as astrobiology and extrasolar planets and amateur astronomy resources.

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## BIOLOGY

Achievements and breakthroughs in biological research are measured by the production of the information and data created. During a time of explosive growth in biological publications, the titles in the Biology section represent an attempt to select the most significant titles appropriate for college library collections from such a large inventory.

Selection and revisions for the section on biology take into account several monumental “explosions” in the biological world over the past twenty years. First, many titles represent entirely new sub-disciplines that are spawning off of the fields of molecular and structural biology and genetics. This is the core of a “New Biology” of genomics, bioinformatics, proteomics, chemical biology, and systems biology. Research in these areas share a common goal to identify, organize, and analyze the genetic data of genomes in organisms ranging from viruses to humans and deciphering the nucleic acid sequences and the resulting proteins they encode. Investigators in New Biology endeavor to discern the precise mechanisms by which genomes direct the structure and function of the genetic codes and the biochemical, physiological, anatomical, and cellular processes they direct.

Publication and production of data in biology are changing not only the traditional STM Literature (Science, Technology, Medical) but also influence biology curricula and teaching at all educational levels. The New Biology has ramifications in other aspects of biological and life science research and teaching, cutting across the disciplines to produce modern hybrid studies of molecular ecology, species-specific genomics, microbial genomics, and proteomics of oncology for example.

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## BRITISH LITERATURE

The British Literature section contains works regularly taught in undergraduate programs in English literature, including not only canonical works by British, Irish, Scots, and Welsh authors, but also newly recovered works by women authors and more recent authors of note (e.g., winners of the Costa, Man Booker, Women's Prize for Fiction). Special attention has been paid to authors who are represented in standard undergraduate literary anthologies (e.g., Longman, Norton). Authors from present and former English-speaking colonies and dependencies of the British Empire (e.g., Australia, Canada, India) are excluded and can be found in RCL's Other Literatures in English section. This policy supports the inclusion of women authors, people of color, and those authors affected by the colonial and postcolonial project of the former British Empire in the British Literature section of the RCL database. The Library of Congress classification system has been the determining factor for this principle of selection, as well as for classification of individual authors and time periods (i.e., LC Classes PR1-PR6126).

Primary sources are supplemented by critical and biographical works devoted to individual authors, particular genres, and traditional literary-historical periods. No effort has been made to include the complete works of every author (though authors' primary works, especially those of women authors, have been included). In general, resources rarely used at the undergraduate level [e.g., collections of letters (unless they are a major part of an author's oeuvre), bibliographies, most biographies, diaries and journals], and other materials more appropriate to library research collections supporting graduate study and faculty research have been excluded. Although preference has been given to titles currently in print, classic texts (both primary and secondary sources) have been included because of their influence on the canon and on the study of British literature as a whole. (The availability of books from second-hand book dealers has made the acquisition of these out-of-print works more readily obtainable.) The focus, however, has been on newer critical works and the most highly regarded and reliable critical editions. Some attention has also been given to adding works by well-known critics and scholars who have influenced the field.

Electronic resources have been included when they fall within the scope of the criteria noted above. Freely available websites are listed if they show evidence of continual revision and emanate from scholars in the field, scholarly societies, and/or college or university academic departments. Commercial databases whose coverage encompass, but are not limited to, resources on British Literature are included in the section on General Language and Literature. Other RCL sections that may be relevant to students of British Literature include: Drama and Theater, Film Studies, General Language and Literature, Medieval Studies, Other Literatures in English, Renaissance Studies, and Victorian Studies. *Last updated May 2023.*

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## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

In selecting Business Administration resources, an attempt is made to focus on the great and essential works in the various disciplines within business. The selection process aims to include works that show the historical development of various fields, the influences that shaped the dominant paradigm, and important alternative views. The items included here will inform the introductory reader or the advanced undergraduate of the comprehensive breadth of all of the major disciplines within business. This collection includes core reference books, monographic works, and electronic resources.





The approach to classification here allows for the inclusion of both practical and scholarly works. Inspired by the ABI Inform index subject classification, the taxonomy reflects the broad range of topics that could be researched in an academic library by undergraduate business students. The subjects are divided into five areas: business environment, management, companies/industries, career/vocational guidance, and general/reference. The business environment section includes such current and important topics as business ethics, globalization, cross-cultural business, and gender and multiculturalism in business.

The majority of items selected however are indexed in the broad “management function” subject area. This area includes the disciplines that may often be found in degree concentrations within undergraduate business programs: general management, finance, accounting, operations, human resource management, and marketing. The additional subject areas of companies/industries, career/vocational guidance, and general/reference round out the classification system and results in a pertinent and timely collection that is not dominated only by scholarly and theoretical works.

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## CHEMISTRY

The field of chemistry has often been argued as “the central science” for the way it bridges fields like mathematics and physics to the fields of biology and engineering. The taxonomy and selection of materials for the RCL subject of Chemistry was developed in light of this.

There is a core set of materials under a “General and Reference” heading. Here are the broadest reference works, data compilations, and treatises, as well as materials related to biographies, history, vocational guidance, safety, and the study and teaching of chemistry. The next major cluster of materials can be found under main headings related to the traditional division of chemistry as it pertains to curriculum and research. This includes “Analytical Chemistry,” “Inorganic Chemistry,” “Organic Chemistry,” and “Physical and Theoretical Chemistry.”

Narrower or specialty main headings include “Biological Chemistry,” “Environmental Chemistry,” “Industrial Chemistry,” and “Polymer Chemistry.” These headings are not as comprehensive as the previous headings because they overlap with other areas within RCL. Major works are included in each of these areas, but for a more comprehensive collection, other relevant RCL subjects like Biology, Environmental Sciences, Physics, and Technology and Engineering should also be consulted.

There are works included that are suitable for the general public and lower-level undergraduates. With continued emphasis on undergraduate research, there are also materials for upper-level undergraduates in more specific headings as a way to provide a collection that can complement advanced programs or independent study. Materials selected include representative and classic textbooks, data compilations, lab manuals and protocols, and traditional reference works (encyclopedias, abstracting and indexing, handbooks, etc.). Web sites are selected on a more conservative basis given the changing nature of the Internet.

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## CLASSICAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES



The Classical Languages and Literatures section primarily covers the Greek and Latin languages and literatures; see also the sections on Greek and Roman history in the Ancient History section for additional coverage of classical cultures.

The general and reference works category includes dictionaries of Greco-Roman civilization, histories of literature, and similar works dealing with ancient Greek and Roman cultures and literatures as a whole. Greek language and literature are covered, with various subsections covering major genres and individual authors. Latin language and literature receive similar treatment. Focus in these sections is on basic works for undergraduate education (including some more advanced works which will be used primarily by faculty in course preparation); these include editions, translations, commentaries, and key secondary works. Works are included in print whenever possible, although there are a few essential out-of-print works. Generally, each listing for an individual author includes editions of major or commonly taught works, along with selected translations and major secondary works accessible to undergraduates. While the list includes selected volumes from major series of texts and translations, larger libraries may well consider acquiring all volumes of the Oxford Classical Texts series and the Loeb Classical Library volumes from the Penguin Classics and Oxford World's Classics series. Chronological coverage currently runs from Homer to the sixth-century C.E.

A separate subsection treats Medieval Latin. This includes introductory and bibliographical works, the most commonly used anthologies, and a limited selection of editions, commentaries, and translations of individual authors of value for undergraduate study. *Last updated June 2020.*

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## COMMUNICATION AND MASS MEDIA

The Communication and Mass Media section contains works pertinent to the study of communication and print and broadcast journalism including: advertising, mass media, public opinion, public relations and telecommunication. In addition to works on theory and criticism are works more practical in nature and intended for the professional preparation of future media professionals.

The collection of titles reflects the multidisciplinary nature of communication and journalism as well as how the field has developed and changed in recent decades. The Mass Media section now includes titles on law and ethics, online graphics and design and special topics such as investigative journalism, sports journalism, war reporting, convergent journalism, and the role of the Internet in print and broadcast journalism. The Communication section reflects the importance of the mass media on society and in the undergraduate curriculum; and the significance of new media and technology in areas such as telecommunication, advertising, and mass media.

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## COMPUTER SCIENCE

The RCL Computer Science section is composed of the most critical resources that comprise the subject of Computing. These include the sub-discipline areas of Computer Engineering, Information Systems, Information Technology, and Software Engineering as defined by ACM and IEEE. In 2005 and 2008 a joint task force of ACM



and IEEE created and subsequently updated a Computing Curriculum. The selection of the materials and the structure of the taxonomy are heavily influenced by these documents.

The RCL Computer Science taxonomy is an abridged version of the ACM Computing Classification System 1998. Due to the current budgetary climate, many libraries need to know that they have fulfilled the core requirements to support undergraduate programs in a particular subject area. The collection put together here will facilitate in the selection and updating of core resources in computing. Most computer science programs concentrate on C++, Java, and Scheme. There have been several additional materials added since the last update; particularly in the area of Java and new editions containing important updated materials.

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## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Criminal Justice section is organized to reflect the major subdivisions in the field of Criminal Justice: Criminal Justice Systems and Processes, Criminology, Law Enforcement, Law and Courts, and Corrections. The specific subjects included are based on undergraduate curricula at U.S. colleges and universities with well-respected criminal justice programs. Criminal Justice is an interdisciplinary field with materials drawn from related subjects such as sociology, law, gender studies, social welfare, public administration and policy, and psychology.

Resources selected for this RCL section are suitable for undergraduate study, research, and teaching. Many high-quality specialized resources are excluded as more appropriate for graduate level work. While the emphasis is on resources which focus on the United States, selected international and comparative materials are included. The field of Criminal Justice relies heavily upon journal literature and government documents at the international, national, state, and local level. Most of the government documents are freely available on the Internet.

Some overarching issues such as administration of criminal justice, policy issues, legal issues, capital punishment, etc. do not fit within one subdivision of the field and are therefore placed under Criminal Justice Systems and Processes. The Law Enforcement section includes only a limited selection of forensics materials suitable for general knowledge about law enforcement investigation. While there is necessary duplication between the Criminal Justice section and several other RCL sections on related topics, such overlap has been kept to a minimum. *Last updated August 2022.*

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## DANCE

The Dance section represents a core selection of the most authoritative and noteworthy works of print and non-print literature from an emergent field of scholarship. It is appropriate for use by librarians, faculty, and students in an undergraduate college setting, in building and evaluating library collections that support broad-based curricula in dance. This listing can also be used as a point of departure in developing collections to support more focused curricula. Although juvenile literature is not included, secondary education materials can be located through a specific selection process.

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of dance, many of the works are cross-referenced in more than one category. However, the majority of titles are individually placed in the section most relevant to the major emphasis of the work.

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## DRAMA AND THEATER

The Drama and Theater section attempts to breach the traditional gap between the study of drama and theater and bring them together as a single heading, reserving the heading of Theater Production for works which focus explicitly on the art of theatrical production and its many aspects, including how-to works. As a rule, the Theater Production heading does not include broad historical overviews of theater, unless they focus on stagecraft, while the Drama and Theater heading is used for all aspects of drama and theater except those explicitly concerned with stagecraft and how-to resources.

The underlying philosophy of the section is that of inclusion of non-Western and non-traditional works, even though major traditional works and authors have also been included. An attempt has been made to balance canonical works with those by emerging or previously neglected periods, genres, countries, and authors. Some specific scope considerations include the following: the subheadings of Individual Works are used for single works by one author, while collected plays by one author are included under Country, Period, or Genre. Collections of Plays is used for collections of works by multiple authors. Periods is used for critical works and anthologies encompassing multiple periods in the development of Western or non-Western drama and theater. The Avant-garde is used for both the historical European avant-garde of the early 20th century and the mid-20th century American avant-garde.

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## ECONOMICS

The Economics section includes materials related to the study of economics and is classified in a system based on the American Economic Association's classification scheme. Materials and classification take into account the growth of interdisciplinary inquiry in economics, including for example, socioeconomics and the psychology of economics. The works of major theorists and practitioners are present in representative rather than comprehensive titles. This section represents a collection sufficient for basic study of the discipline of economics at the undergraduate level, as well as providing support for other allied disciplines, e.g. business administration. Comparative and industry studies are largely excluded.

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## EDUCATION

The Education section covers the field of education, using the Library of Congress subject classification scheme as a general base and modifying it to reflect more current trends. Excluded from consideration within the education category are topics such as medical education, physical education, and children's literature, which are covered elsewhere (medicine, sports and recreation, and literature, respectively). The education taxonomy reflects the impact of technology on education, the political aspects of high-stakes testing, initiatives such as the Common Core State Standards, and recognition of evolving changes in family and social structures.



The Education section reflects the increasing emphasis on outreach, service learning, and global interaction in all areas and at all levels of education. Traditional areas such as history and philosophy of education reflect more of an American focus than in previous editions where Plato's theories or European development of universities were emphasized. With an increase in attention to different needs of various populations, and of special services, areas such as multicultural education have been expanded, as has special education.

While web sites were incorporated where relevant, users are cautioned that these selections are intended to guide undergraduate education students and their instructors, but cannot provide a listing of every resource students are apt to need as they prepare for classroom practice. Materials such as educational videos, lesson planning tools, and instructional kits are out of scope for this section.

Selection of materials for inclusion was done by subject selectors practicing in the field of education and/or librarianship. Selectors assumed that most colleges will have programs in elementary and secondary education. These selections reflect the needs of a college audience in seeking information about a diversity of educational subjects related to learning, teaching, and intellectual growth. *Last updated August 2020.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Environmental sciences is a multifaceted, interdisciplinary subject -- the study of which may well be crucial to the length of our future. It is the study of the impact of living organisms, especially humans, on the natural processes and resources on, in, and surrounding the Earth. Environmental sciences involve biology, chemistry, physics, geology, mathematics, modeling and analysis, engineering, technology, and management. It has especially developed from the realization of pollution of air, water, and soils, perhaps beginning with Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*. It impinges on medicine with toxicology, contamination, epidemiology, and public health. Agriculture and forestry are inextricably involved with water, pesticides, desertification, deforestation, biodiversity, and biotechnology issues. This holistic nature of environmental sciences has given rise to new coinage such as biogeochemistry and bioremediation, brownfields, and green chemistry.

The intent of the Environmental Sciences section is to complement the Environmental Studies section, mainly concentrating on the scientific and technical aspects of the environment, so most of the material is at a more specialized level. Engineering is well represented in this collection. Included are resources in energy, climatology, pollution, waste, conservation, toxicology, and epidemiology. The content was selected using environmental sciences thesauri, topical concerns in the media, and class syllabi, besides book reviews and special listings. A few classics, not found elsewhere in RCL, have been added, as well as resources on environmental disasters.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Environmental Studies provides students with an interdisciplinary background for studying environmental issues. The impetus for the discipline arose from citizen action movements that lobbied to "protect the earth" during the 1960s and 1970s via traditional groups like The Nature Conservancy (founded in 1917) and more



provocative ones as in Earth First! (founded in 1979). The advocacy efforts influenced both governmental policies and trends in higher education. Throughout the 1980s, environmental studies settled into academic respectability where the hard sciences dominated course offerings.

By the 1990s, universities began recognizing the importance of the social sciences and the humanities to environmental studies. This more comprehensive approach and shift in emphasis informed many of the title choices in literature, philosophy, religion, economics, history, political science and sociology found listed here. The aim was to find titles providing appropriate historical background on many fronts with some approaching "classic" status, currency and readability accessible to undergraduates. Please check under RCL's Environmental Science section for substantive titles relating to biology, chemistry, engineering and technology, although some of those titles appear here as well. Where possible, works are recommended in their newest, most reliable edition.

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## EUROPEAN HISTORY

The world has changed greatly in recent decades, and so have the questions we ask of history. The collapse of the Soviet bloc in 1989 recast the historical landscape in far-reaching ways, as once-closed archives started revealing their secrets and long-suppressed peoples began reclaiming their history. The fading of old divisions between "East" and "West" Europe, meanwhile, refocused challenges to the heavily Western-oriented approaches that informed so much historical writing of the last century. Still other trends, notably the accelerating rush of globalization, have greatly broadened the frames of reference by which another twentieth-century construct, Western Civilization, might be revisited and reconsidered.

All of this bears upon the bibliographies that follow for European history. Western Europe still casts the longest shadows, but the peoples and regions of Eastern and East Central Europe have gained new definition and clarity, in part through a greatly modified taxonomy more attuned to that historical experience. The introduction of some new fields, such as communications and media, reflects the continued drift of social history onto more cultural tracks. Other fields, including imperialism and postcolonial studies, women's history, and studies in race and ethnicity, have been greatly expanded and reworked, in keeping with their growing curricular importance. Major events like migration crises, Brexit, the rise of far left and far right political groups and the resurgence of populism, as well as burgeoning social justice movements are being contextualized with their historical precedents.

Alongside this revamped taxonomy, the RCL European History selections offers a substantial core list for undergraduates, with a degree of turnover that varies according to region and subject matter. The sections for Russia and former Soviet lands, for example, draw heavily from more recent literature, reflecting the new historiographical directions made possible over the past decade or so. This collection includes a wide range of works, most of which fall under one of these categories: historical monographs (the great majority of titles); essay collections; primary documents; and select novels and other fictive works. *Last updated January 2022.*

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## FILM STUDIES

The Film Studies section is intended as a core collection for college students majoring in film, cinema, media, communications, or any discipline that makes use of film to teach. The main focus of the collection is on critical and theoretical writings, reference materials, and practical filmmaking guides.

Film Studies covers subjects of interest to film students, including analysis and criticism, theory, history, national cinema, society and politics, genre, the motion picture industry, filmmaking, and filmmakers. Filmmakers are limited to collective works with only the giants of cinema receiving individual attention. Reference materials include research guides, bibliographies and filmographies, indexes and abstracts, and dictionaries and encyclopedias. Individual films and DVDs are not listed.

Film Studies is international in scope, covering over 1,000 English-language books, databases, and relevant and current web sites. The vast majority of the books listed are in-print, but a handful of seminal publications now out-of-print are included.

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## FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The French Language and Literature section provides a selection of titles appropriate for language and literature study at the undergraduate level. The scope of this selection reflects the continuing growth of women's, gender, and sexuality studies over the past two decades, and includes major works of literature, literary history, biography, and criticism. Particular emphasis has been given to the expansion of the francophone (outside of France) sections (especially Caribbean and African) and to language, reflecting the growing importance of these fields in particular. The French section also includes accessible critical guides and major works in English translation.

Where possible, works are recommended in their newest, most reliable editions, with preference for compendious collected editions. Some works are available only as reprints, while a few are out of print, though still recommended. *Last updated May 2023.*

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## GENDER STUDIES

The Gender Studies section is developed to support undergraduate courses in gender studies or women's studies. Major subject divisions within the section are feminism, sex/gender roles in society, feminist and gender theory, and history, as well as related areas crucial to the study of gender such as literary criticism, psychology, social issues, activism, politics, and the arts. Incorporated within each of these divisions are titles that speak to the prominence of race and class in gender studies, as well as contemporary issues that have arisen in the discipline, such as globalization and international development.

Current scholarship on men and masculinity studies is much more evident and interfiled within the section, reflecting the increased interest of the subject in the academy. Since the nature of Gender Studies is



interdisciplinary, many other relevant titles can be located in GLBT Studies and Sociology. Additional titles of interest can be found in nearly every section of RCL.

The Gender Studies section is focused on English-language titles, with some English translations; a selection of classics in the field from the previous edition; and online resources.

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## GENERAL LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The General Language and Literature section contains works essential to the general undergraduate study of languages and literature. It includes: works of literary theory and criticism that are not specific to a single national literature; works on language (including the English language and its history and development); and works treating special topics allied to the study of literature, such as book history and translation.

Given the centrality of theoretical works to the study of literature at the undergraduate level, this section may contain more advanced works of criticism than can be found in the various literature sections. It also attempts to present a balanced retrospective collection of criticism. These works are essential to a historical understanding of criticism although they may be rarely cited in current scholarship. Works may also be found in related RCL subject collections, including Linguistics, American Literature, British Literature, and Other Literatures in English.

Works are recommended in their most relevant edition; usually this is the newest edition, but sometimes an older edition is foundational. Some works are available only as reprints, and some are out of print, though still recommended. *Last updated May 2023.*

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## GENERAL SCIENCE

Science is the driving force of progress in modern society. Scientific advances contribute to lengthening lifespans, provide new medicines to alleviate disease, increase access to basic necessities such as food and water, and enable the vast majority of communication and entertainment options that exist today. Despite this, mistrust of science and anti-scientific propaganda abound. Access to excellent general scientific resources is more important than ever.

College-level general science courses are rare, but there are many interdisciplinary and general science resources that are critical for a strong academic collection. Though selection is partially based on Library of Congress classification numbers, there are also sometimes interdisciplinary materials that are classified in other areas but appropriate for inclusion here. The general science collection spans a wide variety of works including reference items, early classic works of science, history, philosophy, methodology, information theory, biographies, societies, communication, education, and the cultural, sociopolitical, and geographical aspects of science. Occasionally titles of high importance are listed as General Science because they are not listed in more specific scientific categories elsewhere. *Last updated May 2022.*

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## GEOGRAPHY

As an interdisciplinary field, Geography examines the role of space and place in history, sociology, anthropology, biology, and a number of other disciplines. Geography also studies the physical and earth sciences. The coverage of the bibliography list illustrates Geography's interdisciplinary nature by covering the history of and the general subject areas in geography.

Every attempt was made to include the best works in all fields. Moreover, reference works that are essential for undergraduate work, such as atlases, have been given a great deal of coverage. Technical aspects in the field of Geography include remote sensing, geographic information systems, visualization, theory and practice.

Attempts to include generalized selections on these subjects are made; however, due to the complex nature of this area in the discipline, more advanced texts were included to ensure proper coverage. Texts discussing the theory and practice of Geographic Information Science are classed as such while software manuals, etc. are classed under Geographic Information Systems. In efforts to keep with the changing nature of the discipline, a new category for data was created called Geospatial Data Sources.

Every effort was made to find the most recent texts in the field, except texts considered to be essential regardless of age.

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## GEOLOGY AND GEOSCIENCES

The Geology and Geosciences section contains resources related to the study of general geology, as well as specific subjects in the earth sciences. It includes resources related to the study of the earth, its history, surface and subsurface features, rock types, resources, processes, past life, as well as references to the geology of world regions.

The resources on this list include textbooks commonly used in undergraduate earth science courses, reference works, including encyclopedias and dictionaries, web sites and general titles on hot topics, such as earthquakes, volcanoes and natural hazards. Most of the section falls within the Library of Congress Classification/Class Q subclass -- QE Geology, with a few minor exceptions. These are Oceanography, Meteorology, and Mining (petroleum and ore). These are part of the Geology section as courses in these areas are routinely part of Geology undergraduate programs.

Where possible, the most recent edition of a title is recommended, although some classic titles that are only available as reprints and a few out of print titles are also included on the list. *Last updated March 2020.*

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## GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The Germanic Languages and Literatures section includes titles for German studies from Germany, the former German Democratic Republic, Austria, and Switzerland. The scope of the section additionally includes major authors/works from other Germanic and Scandinavian languages and literatures: Dutch, Flemish, Afrikaans, Old



Icelandic, Old Norwegian, Modern Icelandic, Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish. Furthermore, the section provides dictionaries, other reference works and classic texts on language history, grammar, and etymology.

Languages and literatures are treated chronologically from the earliest periods to the present. Medieval and Early Modern literature is covered selectively with major authors and works. From 1750 to the present, each literary movement is represented with the relevant major authors. The subject contains works frequently taught in the original German, as well as English translations of these titles wherever possible. English critical works on most authors are listed as well. Other Germanic and Scandinavian languages and literatures are treated similarly.

The Germanic Languages and Literatures section includes titles to support the needs of undergraduate majors in German. On the other hand, the other Germanic and Scandinavian areas are not intended for majors, but instead afford a solid introduction to the subjects.

Works have been recommended in their latest editions. Some titles are available only in reprints, and, unfortunately, a number of key titles are out of print. *Last updated May 2020.*

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## HEALTH SCIENCES AND MEDICINE

The Health Sciences and Medicine section includes a range of topics core to the undergraduate pre-professional majors, nursing, allied health, public health, and a wide range of arts and humanities interests. There is a special focus on supporting the curricula and teaching of Pre-Med, Pre-Dental, Pre-Pharmacy, Nursing, Public Health, and Nutrition majors. There are discipline-specific texts on ethics, policy, study and teaching, research methods and history as available for each focal subject, as well as core textbooks and monographs of special interest. A significant proportion of the medical and nursing texts are clinical and practitioner-oriented, and will be especially useful to faculty and students during clinical or experiential learning experiences.

Increasingly, there is an interdisciplinary interest at all levels in topics such as health disparities, medical and health ethics, health policy, health economics, medical anthropology and sociology, medical geography, biostatistics, etc. This section includes many titles in such categories, typically from specific medical and public health perspectives, and will be of interest to students and faculty in many majors. A limited selection of consumer health and complementary medical titles are included that will be of interest to general readers as well as those engaged in health sciences studies.

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## ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The Italian Language and Literature section provides a selection of titles appropriate for language and literature study at the undergraduate level and support the undergraduate curriculum for a major in Italian language and literature.



The scope of this selection reflects the continuing growth of women's, gender, and sexuality studies over the past two decades, and includes major works of literature, literary history, biography, and criticism. Particular emphasis has been given to those authors who have influenced the traditions of other western national literatures. The Italian section also includes accessible critical guides and major works in English translation.

Where possible, works are recommended in their newest, most reliable editions, with preference for compendious collected editions. Some works are available only as reprints, while a few are out of print, though still recommended. *Last updated June 2023.*

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## LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

The Latin American History section provides a selection of titles appropriate for the study of history at the undergraduate level. The coverage includes selected pre-Colombian indigenous accounts, colonial period studies, and post-independence country and region histories. The coverage includes the geographical areas of Mexico, Central America, South America, and all the Caribbean Islands. The titles are organized primarily by traditional geographical regions but with additional thematic fields of Gender, Popular Culture, Environment, Civil-Military Relations, Drugs, and Afro-Latin America. The books listed here, while a core English language selection for undergraduates, should be supplemented with important texts in Spanish and Portuguese. Related coverage may be found in other sections of RCL, including Native American Studies and Latino/a Studies.

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## LATINO/A STUDIES

The Latino Studies materials recommended in RCL are appropriate for the undergraduate study of the history and culture of Chicanos/ Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban- and other Caribbean-Americans, and South Americans in the United States who trace their origins to the Spanish, Portuguese, and Indigenous-speaking countries of Latin America. The section is broadly interdisciplinary in approach. It attempts to identify resources that might be overlooked by related disciplines (e.g., American Literature or Sociology).

While most selections are in print, Latino Studies includes a limited number of classic works that are out of print. Even though a significant percentage of resources pertain to the Chicano/a experience in the U.S., every effort is made to strive for balance among the various Latino groups that make their home in the United States. *Last updated June 2021.*

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## LAW

This section recognizes law as a discipline of study at the undergraduate level as well as a reality in students' everyday lives. As such, it includes general interest and scholarly works and selected practical aids designed to help students effectively deal with legal issues they may encounter during their college years.

In his introduction to *The Oxford Companion to American Law*, Kermit Hall states that "law is best understood as a system of social choice, one in which government provides for the allocation of resources, the legitimate use



of violence, and the structuring of social relationships.” The aim of this collection is to provide undergraduate students with that type of understanding. The emphasis is on United States law, recognizing that the United States is the focus of most undergraduate law courses and acknowledging the limits of college library budgets. The collection consists of core reference books and legal websites, general interest and scholarly monographs, and practical guides. It includes classic works, a few other retrospective titles, and a selection of the most important works published in recent decades. Law reflects society and culture and that is evident in range of topics represented in the collection. Many titles have been selected for their balanced perspective on a topic in law. An effort has also been made to include the divergent views and theories prevalent in modern legal scholarship and research. Only a few of the most authoritative and appropriate websites are included. The taxonomy reflects the organization of the “K” (law) section of the Library of Congress Classification schedule.

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## LGBTQ STUDIES

### Purpose

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Studies section of *Resources for College Libraries* identifies titles that form a core collection appropriate for a four-year college. Materials meet the needs of general audiences as well as students, faculty, and researchers in the subject areas.

### Background

The availability of LGBTQ publications continues to expand exponentially while LGBTQ subject matter has become increasingly interdisciplinary. The development of university-based LGBTQ studies programs legitimizes academic study of the community and necessitates the identification of a core collection and development of a unique subject taxonomy representing the interdisciplinary nature of the subject.

### Criteria for Inclusion

1. *Content* — Emphasis is on the “best” LGBTQ materials containing clear and significant LGBTQ content without regard to the sexual orientation of the author. This is particularly evident in the fiction section where authors thought to be homosexual are excluded if individual works lack significant LGBTQ content. Finally, the entries attempt to balance gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, and ethnic/racial diversity.
2. *Date and Availability* — These are not significant factors for inclusion. Although some books are out-of-print, they are included to represent significant contributions to the field and/or provide historical perspective in the development of LGBTQ studies. However, most books are published after 1969, the date generally recognized as the beginning of the American LGBTQ movement.
3. *Publishers* — Type of publisher was irrelevant to inclusion. The result is a mix of university, commercial publishers, and small presses.
4. *Language* — All titles must be in English.
5. *Formats* — Books and web sites are included. Reviews were consulted where available.



6. *Audience Level* – In the RCL’s LGBTQ section the audience level designation “general” applies to any interest level, rather than reading level. Some children’s and young adult novels are included for those libraries with said collections supporting education and English degree programs.

### **Organization**

The entries are organized by subject in a broad taxonomy designed to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of LGBTQ studies. The resultant titles cross over large sections of the Library of Congress classification system.

The primary subject categories are: general and reference works, history, personal identity, religion, relationships, health, economics, sports, education, politics, creative production, and science. Selected areas include subcategories unique to the larger subject area, although general & reference works recur throughout the taxonomy. Occasionally, titles among the categories are duplicated to reflect the scope of each title.

### **Related Subject Areas**

LGBTQ Studies is interdisciplinary in nature; therefore, any subject area may contain works about GLBT issues. Within RCL, the most relevant related areas are Gender Studies; Sociology—Gender and Sexuality; American Literature—History and Criticism. *Last updated July 2023.*

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## **LINGUISTICS**

Linguistics as the study of language and its structure and roles is a social science that intersects with a number of disciplines. At its core, linguistics is concerned with the relationship between sound and meaning: language as a system is generally understood to consist of fields of study such as human articulation and its perception (phonetics); the structure of sounds within and across languages (phonology); larger meaningful units (the morphology of words and their syntactic combinations, as well as their semantics); and how sound, form, and meaning change over time (historical linguistics). Language and its social uses (e.g., communicative, performative) in society is generally covered by the subfields of pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and anthropological linguistics. Language and cognition includes identified fields such as cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics, and neurolinguistics. Linguistics as a field also encompasses the study of signs (semiotics), verbal art and literature (poetics, philology), and philosophy (philosophy of language).

Because linguistics is a relational discipline, titles of interest to students of linguistics will likely be found in other RCL subject sections (e.g., literary studies, anthropology, sociology, education, and foreign language and area studies).

The titles selected here are appropriate for undergraduate education; they are broadly representative of main currents in the past century of Anglo-American linguistics, and include representative works from other tendencies in modern linguistics (in translation). While some of the recommended titles are out of print, they are significant enough that they should be included, if possible, in representative collections. *Last updated July 2020.*

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## MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics section was designed to serve two main functions of a college library mathematics collection: to provide standard textbooks and teaching resources to support the undergraduate liberal arts curriculum, but also to go beyond it in delivering resources that satisfy the independent learner and intrigue the general reader. The General, Reference, and Recreational Mathematics sections provide broad math information and stimulation, from dictionaries to entertaining puzzles at various levels to accessible explorations of recent mathematics research. Textbooks are organized into subject categories roughly corresponding to common curriculum divisions; these reflect recent trends, such as lesser emphasis placed on plane geometry and greater on discrete mathematics, mathematical biology, number theory for computer cryptographic applications, financial mathematics, and fractals and chaotic systems. Most material is aimed at the undergraduate student or general reader with little math background, but some standard graduate-level resources are included for faculty use in preparing lectures and problem sets or for upper-level undergraduate special projects.

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## MEDIEVAL STUDIES

The Medieval Studies section is designed to cover the traditional periodization of medieval studies courses from the fall of the Roman Empire to the beginning of the Renaissance or Early Modern period, while incorporating new approaches which seek a broader understanding of world outside of Europe and a deeper representation of individuals and groups in society. Major fields explored included history, religion, archaeology, economics, politics, literature, science, and philosophy, and the newer field of medievalism, which focuses upon modern use and interpretation of the middle ages. Books and resources are selected with the undergraduate in mind. More advanced works are included on key topics where no work specific to undergraduates was available. While this section highlights interdisciplinary approaches, books written from a specific disciplinary perspective are included when appropriate. The section focuses upon recent publications, especially for topics that have grown in prominence in the last twenty years, while also retaining older titles are often still classics in the field. Additionally, the field of medieval studies has been a leader in digital scholarship, and this section attempts to highlight the most useful online tools and collections for undergraduate teaching and exploration. *Last updated August 2022.*

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## MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY, LANGUAGES, AND LITERATURES

The Middle Eastern History, Languages, and Literatures section covers the geographic area from Morocco to Afghanistan and Armenia. The history section surveys the period immediately preceding the rise of Islam to the contemporary era. It also includes politics, social issues, and popular culture. The languages and literatures section covers those languages associated with the region, both ancient and modern.

Currency of materials was considered important. Given the plethora of available good sources, we often opted for currency when making choices for inclusion. However, much of the earlier corpus includes standard works which are still widely used. These are included.

There is a vast amount of appropriate material dealing with current history, politics and social issues. Decisions to include one title over another were often favored only by the availability of a positive review. An attempt was



made with many areas to include not only what appears on syllabuses, but also a representation of various schools of thought.

Works dealing primarily with Islam as a religion are not included, but Islamic history, women in Muslim societies, and Islam and politics are. Works about the diverse ethnic and religious groups of the region are also included. The section entitled “Ethnography” is not meant to include every possible group (or sub-group) in the region, but only those which represent traditional minority presence. Hence Arabs, Turks, and Iranians/Pesians as the majority ethnic groups of the region are not included in this section. They are assumed to be represented under the broader regional and country headings. Major regional social critics, philosophers, ideologues, politicians, statesmen, historians, and literary authors have been considered primary resources. If their works have been translated they are included. There has been a tremendous increase in recent decades of translations of modern literature, especially Arabic and Hebrew. Ideally, all of it should be included, certainly the works of the major authors. Almost all of it is used in undergraduate courses both for its universal literary value and as a mirror of the cultures. Because of space constraints, it was a matter of choosing a representation. Sometimes choices were arbitrary, but hopefully the seminal works are included.

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## MUSIC

Music as it is taught at the college level today embraces the vocal and instrumental art of all peoples, places, and times—in all its cultural, technical, and critical dimensions. Scholarly productivity in the field has grown explosively during the past decade even as the discipline itself has greatly diversified, with unprecedented attention to genres and traditions outside the Western canon and—even more so—with the constant influx of fresh interdisciplinary perspectives from the social sciences, sciences, and humanities. As a result, a selectively “essential” collection is inevitably going to be significantly larger today than it might have been even ten years ago. The present selection emphasizes current and recent scholarship, but it does retain a large number of classic works from its predecessor, *Books for College Libraries*, as these have not lost their stature in the bibliography of the field merely through the passage of time. Textbooks and books aimed at a popular readership are included only when they are indispensable as introductions to the topic. Notated scores, sound recordings, and videos are excluded unless they are published with the book as an integral supplement. For collection-development guidance with scores and recordings, *A Basic Music Library*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Chicago: ALA, 2021) is recommended. *Last updated June 2023.*

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## NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

Native American studies builds on the usual classic works from anthropology and history to expand the study of the indigenous peoples of North America to include contemporary issues and topics of relevance and importance to understanding the current status of these peoples. Special topics, reflecting common curriculum offerings in Native American/American Indian studies programs, include health and medicine (traditional and western), language revitalization, environmental issues, legal and political issues, women and gender, and literature and film.



Some of these categories are new areas for Indian studies, and the literature on them is growing daily. Future RCL updates will need to pay close attention to this literature, and add new titles as they become core to the field. The RCL sections for more traditional disciplines should be perused for titles pertaining to Native American/American Indian studies.

Since so much of the literature on Indians has been filtered through various non-Indian academic intermediaries and disciplines, several broad, comprehensive Web pages on the contemporary Indian world are included to provide direct student access to Native voices and concerns, offering an alternative perspective to the core literature.

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## OTHER LITERATURES IN ENGLISH

The Other Literatures in English section is comprised of titles from Canadian, Indian, African, Caribbean, Australian, New Zealand, and other national literatures outside the dominant domains of British Literature and American Literature. Titles have been selected for a balance of primary and secondary works that represent the various genres of poetry, drama, short fiction, and the novel.

The concept of “world literature” and an identifiable national literature is evolving and, perhaps, dissolving as authors migrate and interrogate these definitions, but they provide here some important, albeit imperfect, constraints for selecting those literary works available which are most critical to undergraduate study in the discipline. There is particular attention to selecting works of theory addressing postcolonial, comparative, global, and transnational literary studies. Selected theory and criticism titles may be more appropriate for the advanced undergraduate student, but are intended to help initiate students to the scholarly discourse around the major authors and issues.

The subject collection strives to balance the inclusion of canonical works with emerging literature and scholarship. Select web resources are included, with the understanding that the primary online tool for research in this discipline will be the MLA International Bibliography. Related content may be found in the other literature sections of RCL, particularly titles from Francophone African, Canadian, and Caribbean authors (French Language and Literature); Arabic and North African authors (Middle Eastern History, Languages, and Literatures); and Spanish Caribbean authors (Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures). Additional works on translation studies, literary theory, and approaches to teaching literature may be found in the General Language and Literature subject.

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## PHILOSOPHY

The selections in Philosophy reflect primarily material that is classified by Library of Congress as belonging to Philosophy (i.e., has the classification “B”, “BC”, “BD”, “BH” or “BJ” in the LC classification system). Some selections, however, are in other categories that involve philosophically-oriented subjects of an interdisciplinary nature.





The taxonomy approaches the subject hierarchically starting with broad categories. Under “General Philosophy” are included Reference works—dictionaries, encyclopedias, yearbooks, handbooks, bibliographies and databases—dealing with the discipline as a whole, as well as books that discuss the general nature of philosophy. The historical perspective, presented under “History of Philosophy,” includes Ancient Eastern Philosophy, Ancient Western Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy, Renaissance Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, and 20th-21st Century Philosophy. Select key historical philosophers are listed under many of the history subsections. The section on “Divisions of Philosophy” includes the major divisions that are typically taught in undergraduate courses. Under “Philosophical Schools and Doctrines” are the major -isms and philosophical schools to which undergraduates are exposed. The “Individual Philosophers” section provides an additional access point to the major philosophers referenced in the previous sections.

Many of the selections would be read by Philosophy majors, but many would also be appropriate at the introductory level. In general, the Philosophy section avoids textbooks but includes a fair number of general surveys, such as those in the “Cambridge Companions to Philosophy,” “Blackwell Philosophy Guides,” and the “Routledge Philosophy Guidebooks” series. The more recent editions, translations and commentaries of the major philosophers are generally preferred, but older editions are also included that are still widely used.

The selection of electronic resources is generally limited to ebooks in which the print format is unavailable and basic philosophical reference sources such as Philosopher’s Index and the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Though not recommended as essential, the electronic versions of the Gale/MacMillan Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2nd ed., or the Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy are recommended for those undergraduate institutions which can afford one or the other of those encyclopedias in electronic form. There is also a selection of essential general Philosophy web resources.

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## PHYSICS

Traditionally, physics is a discipline for which undergraduates do little reading beyond their textbooks. The RCL core collection for physics aims to serve the undergraduate population and includes: classic works by pioneers in physics; typical textbooks from the physics curricula, to supplement course textbooks; popular level reading material, such as biographies and histories, accessible for all students (in and out of physics); advanced and special topics so that motivated students will have resources beyond their texts. These special topics include, for example, quantum computing, biophysics and environmental physics, phase transitions, and the quantum hall effect. Finally, the list contains a small reference collection for quick facts and background information as needed by students. Very few web sites are included in the list, since the content is typically not substantive enough to be worthy of a monograph status. The selected titles provide a balanced, usable collection with both breadth and depth.

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## POLITICAL SCIENCE

Developing the Political Science section of RCL affords us the luxury of adapting the Library of Congress (LC) taxonomy to a structure that more closely parallels the undergraduate curriculum. Accordingly, entries are



arranged under the four main subfields of Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Government, and International Relations. There is also a heading for General Works on Political Science.

The taxonomy and selections reflect the growing interdisciplinarity of Political Science, including public policy topics such as minorities and politics, sustainable development, and mass media. The International Relations section incorporates timely topics such as terrorism, globalization, and global health in addition to relations between countries and international organizations.

The obsolete LC classification JX was divided between Law, and Political Science/International Relations. Non-technical law resources are included in Political Science as they relate to American government, political issues, and international relations. We also selected for LC class HX, Socialism and Communism, as part of Political Theory/Forms of the State. The Political Science section includes a number of free web sites to enable college libraries to enrich their collections. We selected sites both to provide alternatives to high-cost print publications and to increase ease of access. It is important note, too, that some government documents are available only online.

The selectors strove to choose scholarly, updated materials on the latest issues while retaining classic works important for a foundation in Political Science.

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## PSYCHOLOGY

The RCL section on Psychology comprises a core selection of the most authoritative works from the print and non-print literature, which can be used to build and evaluate library collections that support broad-based undergraduate curricula in psychology. The list can also be used as a point of departure in developing collections that support more advanced study.

The list was compiled by seven bibliographers and includes original and foundational resources that remain useful, along with new works that reflect current scholarship or the growth of new areas of interest. The sources are classified according to the American Psychological Association PsycINFO content classification code system, which corresponds more closely to the undergraduate curriculum and includes interdisciplinary subject headings.

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## RELIGION

The Religion section provides a basic list of scholarly titles and primary texts to support an undergraduate major in religion or religious studies. It attempts to reflect the great diversity of religion-related course offerings in undergraduate institutions, while remaining selective. While a balance of global religions and perspectives is desirable, the list is also shaped by trends in publishing and scholarship. Major world religions are covered, with an emphasis on their history and intellectual traditions. New, alternative, indigenous, and lesser-known religions are also included, as are works employing new approaches to analysis and interpretation. Also included are



works on religious institutions, practices, ethical issues, and the intersection of religion and other subjects. Popular, inspirational, devotional, and applied theological works are mostly outside the scope of this list.

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## RENAISSANCE STUDIES

The scope of the Renaissance Studies section is limited geographically to Western and Central Europe, the Ottoman Empire and the European colonies in the New World. European expansion coincided with the Renaissance, especially in Spain; and the discoveries made were reflected in the culture of the time. The time period used is from the age of Dante in the early fourteenth century to the late sixteenth century. Italy receives more attention for the earlier decades, but the coverage expands in the fifteenth century to include much of the West and the Ottoman impact on Europe. Coverage of European expansion in the New World and its impact begins in 1492. Major fields explored include history, economics, politics, law, religion, philosophy, art and literature. The Reformation and Counter Reformation receive little attention because they deserve separate treatment of a large body of relevant material.

Books, both classics and newer texts, are selected with the undergraduate (usually those more advanced in studies) and the beginning graduate student in mind. Some works were selected for junior faculty who might benefit in preparation for teaching and research. This section often highlights interdisciplinary studies, but it includes texts that specific to traditional subject areas like history. Publications covering topics that have grown in prominence in recent decades are included. Primary sources in translation have been listed. These include translations from Latin, as well as from vernacular languages.

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## RUSSIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Materials have not been included for every country that might be on a map of the region. Availability of material demanded that some countries be excluded. It is by no means a judgment on the literature of a region; it reflects only the difficulty of identifying and obtaining good quality translations for some of the countries that would be represented in a more inclusive source. Literary publications in English for the following countries are included: Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Polish, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. Over half of the titles listed in the literature section are translations of or studies on Russian works. This is a reflection of the frequency with which such translations are published, the publishing output of the country, as well as the undergraduate emphasis, and not any desire to exclude a literature. There are general regional categories of material where useful, such as publications that deal with the Baltic or the Balkans as a region. Country divisions include categories for historical and critical literature, anthologies, works by individual authors and poetry. Critical works about individual authors are included under "individual authors" while history and criticism writ broadly within a country or region are included in a separate section. Émigré publications have not been included except in a few select cases.

The section on languages includes publications on Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Estonian Hungarian, Latvian, Macedonian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian and Ukrainian. Here the distribution of titles is more even, with Russian representing approximately one-fifth of the items. For each language of the region every attempt has been made to identify at least one good basic grammar and a



dictionary. While some textbooks for less commonly taught languages and oriented towards self-study are included, they are mostly excluded from Russian language materials as there is a larger pool of options and the usefulness of these options frequently depends foremost on instructor preference.

Where possible websites have been included for languages and literatures of the area generally. Some of the requirements for inclusion in this resource eliminated some very good resources from consideration. This bibliography is intended for English language speakers and those working primarily with undergraduate students. Those websites with a great deal of text or navigation in the vernacular will be excluded for this reason. Of course, every attempt was made to investigate the authority of those sources that have been included.

Every attempt has been made to classify materials as specifically as possible. Materials have only been classed as "Baltic," "Former Yugoslav Region" or other high-level geographic areas if they span multiple countries or do not adequately fit into a smaller category. There are few general reference works, as this section is oriented to materials which will support study of multiple countries, regions, and subjects. *Last updated September 2021.*

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## SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is generally defined as the study of human societies. Qualitative and quantitative research on human social activities, relationships, and structures is used to design, critique, or reshape the social welfare of societies. Sociology is a broad subject with many subdisciplines including stratification, demography, social history, sociology of religion, social psychology, social media, family life, sociology of health, and community/regional studies. Some areas traditionally treated under sociology have separate sections in this publication including criminal justice and urban studies. Works that are found in the Sociology section may overlap with other subjects such as Asian American Studies, African American Studies, Latino Studies, Native American Studies, and GLBT Studies, and similarly some materials found in other subject areas may be useful and applicable to the study of sociology. Some material has been included that corresponds to an undergraduate level study in social work.

Undergraduate sociology course syllabi from several small to medium sized institutions were studied in putting together the bibliography. An effort was made to avoid out of print materials as well as materials where the cost would be prohibitive for most undergraduate libraries. Some material will be considered classic and required for many sociology students while more recent material has been added to bring RCL up to date from past editions. Much more material is now available about the sociology of different peoples and countries of the world and RCL has been updated to emphasize the added importance on international perspectives in many college curricula. Updates will focus on newly published material that has been added to the various reading lists of sociology programs around the country.

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## SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures section provides a selection of titles appropriate for undergraduate study of the languages and literatures of Spain and Portugal and their former colonial



possessions. The scope of this selection reflects the rapid, continuing growth of Iberian and Latin American studies over the past two decades, and includes major works of literature, literary history, biography, and criticism as well as general works on language acquisition. Particular emphasis has been given to the expansion of the Latin American sections (Spanish America and Brazil) and to languages, reflecting the growing importance of these fields in particular. With an eye toward greater integration across the curriculum, the Spanish and Portuguese section also includes accessible critical guides and major works in English translation.

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## SPORTS AND RECREATION

The academic integration of careers in sports as well as sport-related academic fields of study has continued to evolve in the past decades. Careers in all areas of sport from sport management and administration, to youth sport physicians have been widely incorporated beyond the historic physical education department. Undergraduate majors and minors in sport have a range of program and course offerings.

The selection of subject categories for RCL reflects a combination and compromise of subject headings and course groupings. Textbooks have been included for faculty referral, and because there are times when they provide the best coverage of information on the subject. Programs often include exercise physiology, kinesiology, outdoor sport, parks and recreation, leisure and fitness, sport administration and management, as well as related areas of business administration, health education, and groundskeeping. Recreation leisure, outdoor recreation, adventure, fitness and health, wellness, and physical education and training are complementary disciplines. Sports medicine includes athletic training, drug use, injuries and rehabilitation, as well as content for students in pre-med or biology programs. The sport sciences include biomechanics, motor learning, and exercise science, with subcategories of sport nutrition, sport psychology, exercise training, and physiology. The science of sports includes equipment engineering, as well as physics and mathematics related to sport and sport equipment. Business of sport incorporates politics, economics, management, and legal issues. The increased globalization of sport has impacted international sports, specific sports, and business matters. Sport studies is an interdisciplinary field that may overlap with philosophy, history, literature, sociology, education, and religion; sport-related courses may also be offered in these academic departments. The category addressing minorities in sport serves to highlight the increased number of monographs that focus on history and experiences of “the other.” Individual sports are addressed in the Sports A-Z subheadings.

While there will undoubtedly be variation amongst different academic sports programs and departments, the subjects and selections covered in RCL’s Sports and Recreation subject represent a comprehensive and core collection of the best materials available for undergraduate study. Websites and government documents are included to provide information not available in monograph format.

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## TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

The Technology and Engineering section primarily contains works that support a four-year undergraduate curriculum in engineering. The exceptions are some titles in General and Reference Works, which include popularizations written for the non-engineer as well as reference books. Titles on technical writing, industrial



safety, and preparation for engineering careers are also located in the General and Reference category. Applied Mathematics is another category which includes works of general interest to the engineering population.

Most other books selected for Technology and Engineering are divided into categories reflecting closely the division of academic disciplines within engineering (civil, electrical, mechanical, etc). Materials science is treated as an engineering discipline, since it is usually part of a college of engineering, not arts and sciences. Civil Engineering is divided into transportation, water resources, and structural engineering, and Mining covers the study of all resources extracted from the earth (such as coal and petroleum).

Many of the books selected are undergraduate textbooks, so an effort has been made to include a variety of up-to-date texts on each topic so libraries can make available the material from the perspective of several authors. Although currency is very important in engineering research works, classic treatments of engineering fundamentals do hold up over time. In each case, the most recent edition available is selected, and few works of any type written more than twenty years ago are included.

Outside the scope of this section are the history of technology (covered under General Science), agricultural engineering (covered under Agriculture), architecture (covered under Visual Arts), and software engineering (covered under Computing). Most biomedical engineering titles will be found in Sports and Recreation or Medicine but a few may be located under Mechanical Engineering. Since there is an RCL category for Environmental Science, only books specifically oriented to technological solutions for environmental problems are included under Environmental Engineering. A few websites with strong reputations have been included, but the primary focus is on books.

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## UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN HISTORY

Canonical works of history serve as the basis for this work. Many of the books recommended in previous editions were kept because they represent the core or seminal works in the area and remain valuable to future generations of historians. More recently published books were selected if they reflect new historiographic approaches or cover historical events with fresh perspectives. In-print items were favored, but we also included out-of-print titles if they were deemed still essential for a basic undergraduate collection. We also included significant collections of reprinted primary sources where available.

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## URBAN STUDIES

The Urban Studies section identifies titles that form a core collection appropriate for a four-year college. Materials are primarily intended to meet the needs of undergraduate students. The collection of titles is intended to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of Urban Studies as well as the breadth of topics and approaches that characterize the field. Titles have been selected from a variety of areas that address urban concerns including sociology, history, anthropology, geography, political and policy science, economics, and planning. Urban themes in the arts and literature have also been included.



The Urban Studies section is limited to English-language titles. A majority of titles pertain to the United States, although international coverage is increasing. The section includes major works from the history of urban studies although the emphasis is on recent works. Titles are recommended in their most recent edition. Out-of-print sources, dated sources, and textbooks have not been included except in the case of highly influential works. Web sites have been selected based on their currency, reputation of the agencies that created them, and intended audience.

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## VICTORIAN STUDIES

Victorian Studies emerged as a field in the late 1950s, at a time when literary scholars were turning to the preparation of editions of key Victorian writers and historians were beginning a systematic exploration of the origins and impact of industrialization on British society.

Drawing on pioneering essays on the period by writers like G. M. Young and Humphrey House, the founding of the eponymous journal in 1957 reflected a conviction that only an approach informed by both literary and historical study could adequately take the measure of the world's first fully "modern" society.

This group of core titles focuses, therefore, on works of a distinctly interdisciplinary cast at the expense of some titles with which all serious students of the period should be familiar (standard editions of canonical authors, authoritative social histories, and the like) but that sit squarely within one discipline and are therefore covered under the appropriate RCL sections. Despite its name, Victorian Studies (and this bibliography) looks beyond the Queen's reign to encompass all of the "long nineteenth century," from the 1780s to the end of World War I, in Britain and its empire, but does not include scholarship on America during the same period. The field's early classics are here, as well as the enormously influential studies of women's history that began to appear in the 1970s. These remain accessible and thought-provoking and are included here in the most useful editions available, while the bulk of the list is devoted to a generous sampling of the extraordinary flowering of interdisciplinary work that has appeared over the last twenty years, with an emphasis upon those titles that would work best in the undergraduate classroom. The list also features a sprinkling of primary sources -- memoirs, diaries, journalism -- that are essential windows into Victorian culture but that, due to their non-canonical nature, do not appear elsewhere in RCL.

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## VISUAL ARTS

The Visual Arts section of Resources for College Libraries identifies titles that contribute to a core collection supporting undergraduate majors in art, art history, architecture, and allied disciplines. The arrangement of resources generally reflects the organization of academic programs in the visual arts. The primary subject categories of Visual Arts are General and Reference, Architecture, Arts Management, Cultural Heritage and Preservation, Decorative Arts and Craft, Design, Drawing, Interior and Furniture Design, Landscape Architecture, New Media, Painting, Photography, and Sculpture. Subcategories in each area generally cover reference sources, histories and handbooks, individual artists, and materials, techniques and practices. Some fields will have



subcategories dealing with specialized topics relevant to that discipline. The largest grouping, General and Reference, lists titles that treat more than one medium and topics that apply to all disciplines.

As with other disciplines, the research in the visual arts is increasingly interdisciplinary and draws upon resources from a variety of subject areas. Art historians will explore historical and literary resources outside of the visual arts, just as architects will make use of resources relevant to a building type beyond strictly design literature. To maintain focus, with the expectation that the collective RCL will enrich this interdisciplinary perspective, most titles in the Visual Arts section will likely have subject headings associated with art, architecture, and/or design, and the majority of resources will fall into the Library of Congress “N” classification scheme (“TR” for photography). Print titles in English for the visual arts remains strong and active and an increasingly diverse set of themes, perspectives and geographies are being represented. Preference for inclusion has been given to in-print academic titles ranked as ‘essential’ in Choice or rated as ‘highly recommended’ in Library Journal or other review sources such as from relevant professional organizations. Titles that have received an award, such as ARLIS/NA’s George Wittenborn Award, have been considered.

While books are the predominant format, important web resources have been included, particularly if they are long-standing, hold original or professional content, or are rich sources for images. Periodicals have been excluded unless they were offered in the context of a selected website. Considerations for deselection include making room for non-male and BIPOC artists, architects, and designers while reducing the number of titles representing white, male artists, and those not available in the marketplace. *Last updated August 2022.*

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## WORLD AND COMPARATIVE HISTORY

World and comparative history is a new scholarly field. It can be found in most undergraduate programs as an introductory course and sometimes as an upper-division course. It only recently has begun to build a scholarly literature.

World history is a reaction against the provincialism of what is called Eurocentrism in the old Western Civilization survey and in American history curriculums in general. The West did not always dominate the world. The emergence of world history also reflects the growing importance of the non-European parts of the world for the American economy today. Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and pre-Columbian America have a family relevance for the increasing number of students at American colleges and universities who are not of European descent.

World history is rarely a history of the entire globe. Instead it is a perspective that typically emphasizes encounters and interactions between different geo-cultures (for instance, the medieval West and classical Islam). World history also makes comparisons between societies that lacked direct contact (for example, the role of religion in pre-Columbian empires of the Western Hemisphere and in various societies of Afro-Eurasia). Although comparative history can be found in every historical specialization, in world history it permeates nearly everything.

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