Introduction

The USF English Department offers broad study in literature, rhetoric, and composition on the undergraduate and graduate levels. The undergraduate program also offers instruction and experience in creative, professional, and technical writing. Graduate studies in English develop literary, critical, and creative knowledge and ability, and prepare candidates for entry into professional fields. The MA and PhD programs emphasize literature and rhetoric. The University of South Florida's graduate program in rhetoric and composition specializes in rhetorical and composition theory. Unlike programs that emphasize pedagogy almost exclusively, this program has an equally rigorous foundation in critical and rhetorical theory. The goal is to strengthen connections among literary studies, composition studies, cultural studies, and philosophy, and the courses reflect this concern in that students are exposed to a broad range of current intellectual history. The PhD program produces teacher-scholars who have a good general knowledge of English and a special knowledge in their fields of concentration. Each student in the program must take courses in teaching college English; these courses include actual teaching experience.

The faculty of the USF English Department conduct research on literature in English of all periods and all nations as well as on world literature, literary theory, rhetoric, writing, and the teaching all these disciplines at the college level. USF English faculty also publish novels, short stories, and poetry.

The library develops and maintains resources that support the undergraduate and graduate curriculum in English and meet more specialized demands from graduate students and faculty for advanced research materials.

Collection Areas

The Collection is evaluated using the following codes:

3c: Advanced study or instructional support level. Supports masters degree-level programs

4. Research level. Supports doctoral and other original research

5. Comprehensive Level. Includes all significant works of recorded knowledge(publications, manuscripts, other forms), in all applicable languages for a necessarily defined and limited field.

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<th>LC Class</th>
<th>Current Collection</th>
<th>Collection Goal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>P 1-1091Philology and Linguistics</td>
<td>3c</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>P 301-301.5 Style Composition Rhetoric</td>
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<td>PE 1-3729 English</td>
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<tr>
<td>PN 1-6790 Literature</td>
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<td>PR 1-9680 English Literature</td>
<td>3c</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 1-3576 American Literature</td>
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Fiction Collection
Scope of Coverage

Chronological guidelines

Material dating from the development of the written and spoken English language onwards.

Geographical guidelines

There are no geographical limits.

Publication data guidelines

Current and retrospective works are of equal importance.

Languages

The primary language of acquisition is English. English translations of foreign language works will also be collected.

Types of Materials Collected

Treatment of subject

Literary criticism and literary biography acquired for the collection range from basic explication to sophisticated and narrowly focused research monographs on literary themes and problems. Research level literary criticism and other non-fiction make up the overwhelming majority of the monographs purchased through the Yankee Book Peddler approval plan. This includes a significant amount of material on composition, teaching methods in composition, and rhetoric. The approval plan profile excludes fiction at the popular level, and most of the genres of mystery, science fiction, and series fiction. Examples of these and other popular genres are periodically selected and purchased from the Library’s small collection of rented popular fiction, or enter the collection as gifts. The approval plan brings in fiction, poetry, and prose from major authors, items reviewed by the New York Times, and the publications of American and British university presses and major American trade publishers. For both fiction and non-fiction, selections are also made from book reviews, best book lists, and catalogs of publishers not covered by the approval plan. Because USF is a relatively young collection, new literary editions are especially valuable and fill gaps that would not exist in an older and larger collection. The preservation of older texts and replacement of lost items are as important as the acquisition of new ones. Overall, the English Department’s goal is a larger, richer, and more comprehensive collection in all formats to support undergraduate instruction and masters and doctoral research.

Format

For both current belles lettres and literary criticism the premiere mode of scholarly communication remains the printed book. However, faculty in the English department have access to two major retrospective literary reference databases, Gale’s Literature Resource Center, and Bell and Howell’s LION. USF has purchased full text databases through LION that provide faculty with an electronic version of the pre twentieth century literary canon in the fields of English poetry and drama. Similarly the Past Masters database provides electronic text of classic literary works. Most of the journal subscriptions that are currently coded to the English Department are only available as print subscriptions, but the department benefits from acquisition of journal packages and aggregated
Acquisitions Strategy

The collection development librarian and the faculty liaison periodically review the Yankee approval plan profile and, in addition, submit orders title by title. They select materials for the English department with priority given to faculty requests and primary texts, such as novels, short fiction, poetry, memoir, and correspondence. Several librarians suggest fiction purchases. The library purchases samplings of literary genres (such as graphic novels and historical fiction) in areas where it does not collect intensively. Resources beyond the scope of the approval plan and book funds allocated to the department are paid for by special program enhancement. Areas that have been supported most consistently by the library include Eighteenth Century studies, (an area in which the department has an endowed chair and sponsors a yearly symposium,) rhetoric and composition, and the publishing history of Victorian serials (for many years the department has published the Victorian Periodicals Review.) In recent years the department curriculum and the library collection broadened to include more literature in English from Africa, the Caribbean, Ireland, Canada, and India.

M. Doherty

10/03 Draft Policy