

# Americana Collection Development Policy

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L. Tom Perry Special Collections  
Harold B. Lee Library  
Brigham Young University

## I. Introduction

The Americana collection supports the study of Mormonism and the American West. Mormon-related books and other printed or published items are collected comprehensively. Western Americana is collected to emphasize the following areas: the History of Utah, the History of Western Expansion in North America, and the general History and Culture the West, especially the Intermountain states (including Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming) but also including California, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii and Alaska. Also included under the heading of “the West” are materials related to the history and settlement of Western Canada and Mexico. Due to their historical connections to Mormon and Utah history, materials related to the history and culture of various Pacific island nations may be collected selectively.

The central purpose of this collection is to support the mission of the university, the library, and L. Tom Perry Special Collections:

In keeping with the vision of Brigham Young University, all undergraduates are encouraged to have a graduate-level research experience at BYU. Special Collections wants to help in this mission by allowing all students the opportunity to research the vast collection of primary sources in its holdings (<https://sites.lib.byu.edu/sc/about-us/>).

Additionally:

The Harold B. Lee Library will actively participate in learning, teaching, and research by identifying and responding effectively to the information needs of students and faculty (<http://lib.byu.edu/about/mission-statements/>).

The following terms, taken verbatim from the HBLL Collection Development Philosophy Document (current as of Oct. 5, 2015), are used to describe collecting levels:

- **Comprehensive**—“Provides for the acquisition, so far as reasonable, all available significant works of recorded knowledge for a necessarily defined and limited field, i.e., a comprehensive effort to acquire manuscript, archival and ephemeral materials, etc. in addition to published sources. This level creates or maintains a special collection.”
- **Research**: “Provides published resource materials required for doctoral degree programs.”
- **Teaching**: “Provides adequate information resources to support the course work of advanced undergraduate and master’s degree programs and sustain independent study.”

- **Representative:** “Provides limited, essential materials for reference purposes and introduces and defines a subject in the minimum number of works which will serve the purpose.”

## II. Positions Responsible for Collecting Decisions

The curators of 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Mormon and Western Americana Publications.

## III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

- Mormon culture, history, doctrine and practice, 1830-Present (**Comprehensive level—for further discussion on specific collection points, see V.b.i).**
- The history of the American West in all its aspects, including works relevant to the history of Native Americans and accounts of the exploration and settlement of the West (**Research level— for further discussion on specific collection points, see V.b.ii).**

## IV. Priorities and Limitations

- Priorities
  - We will collect material that enables undergraduates to have a graduate-level research experience in the study of Mormon-related or Western America-related topics.
  - Published and printed items related to faculty-specific interests will be collected at the discretion of the appropriate curator or committee if they are outside of the scope of the Americana collection.

### b. Limitations:

Other policies govern the collection criteria of the following materials, and are thus not addressed here:

- Manuscript collecting is governed by subject-specific collecting policies.
- Photographs and other images also have their own collecting policy.
- Web content collecting has its own collection policy..
- Film-related materials have their own collection policy, but should be coordinated with the film curator if there is overlap due to subject matter.
- Yellowstone materials, when Yellowstone is the primary subject of the item, have their own collecting policy.
- The collection of BYU-produced materials will be coordinated with the University Archivist.
- The collection of Orson Scott Card publications is governed by the adjunct curator of Cardiana.
- The collection of fine press materials is coordinated with the curator(s) responsible for them.

## V. General Selection Guidelines

### a. Treatment of Subject Depth

- i. The study of Mormonism is supported to the fullest extent possible; see V.b.i.
- ii. Research into the history and culture of the West will be supported in line with specific delimitations; see V.b.ii.

### b. Specific Delimitations

- i. Mormon history, culture and practice:
  1. Materials published prior to 1930 (**Comprehensive level**).
  2. Materials published after 1930 (**Research Level**).
  3. Materials published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or by individuals or groups closely affiliated with it will be collected with the following limitations (**Comprehensive level**):
    - a. Non-English language manuals, pamphlets, hymns and other items prepared by local Church areas (wards, branches, missions and stakes) (**Research Level**).
    - b. Periodicals produced by local units (branches, wards, stakes and missions) (**Comprehensive level**).
    - c. The *Liahona* and other official Church periodicals not published in English (**Representative level**).
    - d. Missionary tracts will be collected to document the activities of the Church and its members, especially when produced in or by local area units (**Research Level**).
    - e. Materials produced by Church Headquarters will be collected in a single copy, in English (**Research Level**). We do not accept 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century official Church-produced materials in other languages due to space considerations. Exceptions may be made on the basis of specific historical significance or specific research needs.
    - f. 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century ephemeral publications (up to 1930) in any language (**Comprehensive level**). Later ephemera will be collected due to its relationship to events such as a newly opened mission or temple (**Research level**).
  4. Family histories, autobiographies and biographies will be collected when they include information associated with members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the discretion of the curator(s) (**Representative level**).
  5. Major publications of Mormon-related religious organizations other than The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (such as

Community of Christ) will be collected extensively but not comprehensively. Minor publications will be collected selectively. Major publications include significant doctrinal works, editions of the standard works, hymn books, missionary materials and periodicals (**Teaching level**).

6. Books or other items with variation in edition, binding, printing or other aspects will be acquired when emendations have occurred or where such items add to our understanding of Mormonism (**Representative level**).
7. Anti-Mormon works (**Research level**).
8. LDS-produced scriptures are collected in all available languages and codings, including all editions containing new copyright dates, revisions in text, or those published by trade or academic presses (**Research level**).
9. Editions of the LDS-produced scriptures on CD or DVD, reenactments, and select CD or Flash Drive editions (**Representative level**).
10. Works of literature which are published by LDS publishers; written by LDS authors; include some reference to the Mormon experience; or were inspired by Mormon history or culture (**Research level**).
11. Works of art related to Mormonism or by Mormon-related artists. This includes fine printing, film, music, traditional and nontraditional art forms, and creative works such as poetry and fiction (**Research level**).

ii. Western Americana

The purpose of the Western Americana portion of the Americana collection is to support research into Utah and other areas in the North American Continental West. Independent of Section V.b.i, materials from Western America with some relationship to Mormon culture, history and settlement (even if that relationship is not specifically noted in the text or item) will be collected with the following delimitations:

1. Utah-related materials published during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (**Comprehensive level**).
2. Post-statehood Utah-related materials (**Research level**).
3. Other Materials on the West
  - a. Works regarding Western migration and exploration of the West (**Research level**).
  - b. Works related to minority/ethnic communities and the refugee experience in Utah (**Research level**).
  - c. Materials related to the history and culture of Pacific Island nations will be collected when the place or people have

- some tie to Mormon history or culture (**Representative level**).
4. Works regarding American Indians will be collected if the work relates to the history and settlement of the West (**Research level**).
  5. Material related specifically to George Armstrong Custer (**Research level**).
  6. Publications from Caxton Printers, of Caldwell, Idaho (**Research level**).
  7. Materials related to Zane Grey (**Research level**).
  8. “Americana” typically refers to items which have some significance to the larger picture of American history. Americana will be added to the collection when the item is too rare to be housed in the regular stacks
    - a. In consultation with the curator(s) of the Fine Press collection, this may include books from fine presses (**Representative level**).
    - b. Also includes books printed before 1825, picture books, limited editions, and other items (**Representative level**).
    - c. Americana related to Mormonism (**Comprehensive level—see V.b.i**).
    - d. Americana related to the American West (**see V.b.ii—typically Research level**)
    - e. Works related to religion in America or elsewhere if they add to our understanding of Mormon or Western history and culture (**Teaching level**).
  9. Works of Western literature.
    - a. Works authored by major authors of the American West (from the West or about the West) (**Research level**).
    - b. Works by other authors of the American West (**Teaching level**).
    - c. Works that capture life in the West (**Representative level**).

### iii. Type

The collection of LDS-related materials of any kind not included in the specific delimitations (such as games or graphic novels) is governed by the general collecting principles noted in V.b.i.1 & 2 (19th century Mormon-related materials are collected comprehensively and post-19th century materials are collected extensively). Printed, published or recorded items that document any aspect of Mormonism or life in the American West fall under this collecting policy, though they may not be collected due to exclusions mentioned above.

### iv. Physical Format

Monographs, maps, audio-only items, movies, television shows, periodicals, printed ephemera, professional scholarship, electronic works, and literature related to Mormonism or the American West fall under this policy.

v. Date

To facilitate research into the early history of Mormonism, texts produced prior to 1830 may be collected selectively. However, this document is expected to apply to Mormon-related materials from 1830 to the present. Works that document the history or culture of the American West in any period will be collected according to the delimitations in V.b.ii.

vi. Geographical focus

1. Mormonism: Collected regardless of location of printing or publishing.
2. Western Americana: Materials related to the history or culture of the West will be collected as described in V.b.ii.

vii. Subject Emphasis

Mormon and Western Americana-related materials.

viii. Languages

1. 19<sup>th</sup> century Mormon-related materials will be acquired in all languages that an item was printed in (**Comprehensive level**).
2. 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Mormon-related materials in English will be preferred over translations in other languages. At the curator's discretion, a copy in another language may be acquired to support research (**Representative level**).
3. 19<sup>th</sup> century Western Americana in any language in which an item was published (**Research level**).
4. 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Western Americana in languages other than English (**Representative level**).

VI. Deaccessioning Guidelines

- a. Acting in accordance with donor expectations and institutional requirements, material may be brought to the Special Collections Coordinating Committee to be deaccessioned by proposal. Such material will typically include books that have never been used and do not meet the present or traditional Americana collecting policies.

VII. Cooperation with other Institutions

- a. Deaccessioned materials may be offered to other institutions.

VIII. Revisions

- a.