

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTIONS POLICY STATEMENTS SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDELINES

Book Jackets

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I. Scope

A book jacket, also known as a dust jacket or dust cover, is a removable paper cover used to protect the binding of a book and, often, to promote the book itself. The Library receives books with jackets through its various sources of acquisition.

II. Collecting Policy

The Library of Congress does not usually collect book jackets accompanying materials destined for its General Collections, nor does it typically acquire book jackets as discrete collection items. The jackets are removed and discarded during the Library's routine processing workflow.

However, divisions with custodial responsibilities have the discretion to set their own policies for book jackets as needed to achieve their collecting goals. For example, the Rare Book and Special Collections Division retains the jackets accompanying titles in the interest of preserving the entire book package. The Prints and Photographs Division will on a case-by-case basis consider adding individual book jackets to its collection due to their significance or distinctive graphic design. The Serial and Government Publications Division retains book jackets accompanying titles in its Pulp Fiction Collection.

The above does not preclude the temporary retention of book jackets for exhibition or reference purposes.

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