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## **Medicine (Class R and Class Z6658-Z6700)**

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### **I. Scope**

The Collections Policy Statement for Medicine covers class R (R-RZ) and applicable subclasses of Z (Z6658-Z6700). The Library's holdings in class R number in the vicinity of 750,000 items, including monographs, texts and journals. Additionally, the subclasses of Z contain abstracting and indexing services, such as *Index Medicus* and the *Bibliography of the History of Medicine*, historical catalogs of holdings in other libraries, specialized bibliographies, books on medical bibliography and guides or finding aids.

### **II. Research Strengths**

The Library's collections are especially rich in materials for historical research. Although many valuable books and long runs of important medical journals are located in the general collections, one of the most notable collections in the Library is the Joseph Meredith Toner Collection housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. In 1882 Dr. Toner donated nearly 50,000 books, assorted pamphlets, periodicals and papers which constitute a history of medicine in America from its settlement to the end of its first half century. This division of the Library is also home to medical books dating back to the fifteenth century. These older materials are detailed in Chapter 4, "Medicine: The Healing Science," in Leonard Bruno's 1987 book, *The Tradition of Science: Landmarks of Western Science in the Collections of the Library of Congress*. Dr. Bruno describes the Library's treasures in medicine, including three books which constitute the core of its collections in the history of medicine: The 1643 Latin edition of William Harvey's *On the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals*; the first English edition of that same title published in London in 1653; and the 1543 Basel edition of the *Fabrica (De humani corporis fabrica)* of Vesalius, considered by many to be the greatest medical book ever written. The Library has the 1492 Venice edition of Boccaccio's *Decamerone*, detailing the plague of Florence; the first book on eye surgery, the 1583 *Ophthalmodouleia* of George Bartisch; and the 1479 Padua edition of Persian physician Avicenna's five volume *Canon of Medicine*, described as the final codification of all Greco-Arabic medicine. The Library has several editions, beginning with the second Latin edition (Venice, 1495), of the first printed illustrated medical text,

*Fasciculus medicinae*, compiled by the German physician/anatomist Johannes de Ketham. The great American physician Benjamin Rush, who is regarded as the father of American psychiatry, is represented in the Library's collection by a first edition of his 1812 treatise *Medical Inquiries and Observations upon the Diseases of the Mind*, as well as some of his medical lectures, papers and correspondence. The Library of Congress has a first edition of army surgeon William Beaumont's 1833 classic *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice, and the Physiology of Digestion*, which is based on his studies of human digestion in a patient who was shot in the stomach and saved by Beaumont, but left with a permanent abnormal opening leading to his stomach; the original 1897 Russian version of Ivan Petrovich Pavlov's *Lektsii o rabotie glavnykh pishchevaritel'nykh zhelez* (Lectures on the function of the main food-digesting glands); Harvard physician Oliver Wendell Holmes' article on childbed fever entitled "On the Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever," as well as a first edition of his book on the same subject, *Puerperal Fever, as a Private Pestilence*. The Library holds a complete set of the *Comptes rendus* of the Academie des Sciences, Paris, which contain countless articles on medical discoveries by great scientists such as Claude Bernard and Louis Pasteur. The Library's psychoanalytic collections, which include the papers of Sigmund Freud and those of most of his European and American disciples, are among the finest in the world.

The Library's digitized collections in American Memory also hold items of historical interest to researchers, such as advertisements for medicines in the Emergence of Advertising in America Collection: 1850-1920. The Prints and Photographs collection online has the LOOK Magazine Photograph Collection, which contains many photographs of medical topics, such as mental institutions in the 1950's and 1960's.

### **III. Collecting Policy**

The Library of Congress acquires materials in all languages and formats, e.g., print, microform, audio, video, pictorial, and electronic. The Collections Policy Statement for Electronic Resources, the Selection Guidelines for Collecting Electronic Resources, the Collections Policy Statement for Web Capture and Archiving, the Collections Policy Statement for Dissertations and Theses, the Collections Policy Statement for Developing Countries, and the Copyright Office's "best edition" statement are used in conjunction with this policy and the Collections Policy Statement for the History of Science and History of Technology.

### **IV. Acquisitions Sources: Current and Future**

The Library acquires materials which contribute to a knowledge of the social, religious, economic, historical, political and legal aspects of medicine worldwide. The Library also acquires material related to public safety and quality of care provided to the public through health care organizations, such as the publications of the Joint Commission. The bulk of these materials is received through the Library's Copyright Deposit and Cataloging in Publication programs, while a small number of items come through the Overseas Offices and by gift or purchase. These collections support the needs of Congress and the Library's mission to make its collections and reference services available to assist Congress, government agencies, the scientific, academic and library communities, as well as the general public.

The Library of Congress faces a challenge in keeping up with the volume of publications in science,

staying current, capturing those publications that are born digital before they disappear, keeping track of print titles that turn digital, and acquiring e-journals that are not purchased through an aggregated database. As more publications are issued digitally, the Library must ensure that all important and appropriate information is added to the collections and that the data formats represented in the general science collections are maintained to assure continued access to the digital information as technologies associated with them change or become obsolete.

Some e-journal and born digital materials are acquired at a lower level than their print counterparts, because the current Copyright Law does not address the deposit of electronic materials. Also, some of the mechanics associated with the acquisition, storage and display of digital materials have not yet been resolved. As e-journals, e-prints, podcasts, webcasts and new technologies for creating science material proliferate and the Copyright Law includes these types of materials as depository items, they will be acquired at the same level and using the same criteria as their print counterparts.

Abstracting and indexing services have historically provided a means to identify and locate writing, research and other scholarly material in fields of science and technology. The Library of Congress has strong collections of these publications in print and in electronic format. These products are actively evaluated through trials, with many being recommended for acquisition for the Library's electronic resource pages. Materials on medicine and health can also be identified through Library of Congress finding aids and bibliographic guides, which themselves are listed on the Science Reference Section Web pages.

In the field of medicine, the Library currently provides access to a large number of subscription and freely available online databases, e-journals and e-prints through its electronic resources Web page. Subscription titles in the fields of medicine include *Health & Medical Complete*, *ProQuest Medical Library*, *Toxline*, *HerbMed Pro* and *Medline*. Freely available electronic resources collected by the Library that often have materials of interest in the area of medicine include *PubMedCentral*, *National Center for Health Statistics*, and *Bentham Open Access*.

There is also access to born digital materials, podcasts and webcasts across all of the Library's Web pages. For podcasts, the Library has a podcast home page. Webcasts on medical topics in the lecture series presented by the Science, Technology and Business Division can be accessed through the Science Reference Section's Web site, as well as on the Library of Congress home page, and include programs on complementary and alternative medicine with Dr. Stephen E. Straus of the National Institutes of Health, The University of Maryland School of Medicine's Dr. Eve J. Higginbotham discussing glaucoma, and new scientific information on addictions presented by Alan Leshner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Library of Congress generally defers to the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in the area of clinical medicine. NLM has a mandate to acquire the professional literature of clinical practice addressed primarily to professional medical and health practitioners, as well as to acquire standard U.S. examination review guides in the health and medical sciences which serve as aids in preparing for entrance or board certification examinations. (For further examination of the National Library of Medicine's collection policies, its Collection Development Manual can be accessed through the NLM Web site). Although the two national libraries have separate missions and policies, there is a good deal of overlap in their collections, which has increased somewhat in recent years as the Library of Congress has attempted to meet the expanding needs of Congress and other Library constituencies in grappling

with new and increasingly complex health and medical issues and technologies. In this context, many clinical texts, especially in the areas of diagnosis and treatment, are now selected as reference materials. In instances where the Library's Congressional Research Service has required materials held only by the National Library of Medicine, NLM has provided prompt and excellent service.

In addition, the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library have issued joint collection policy statements on topics which concern two or all three national libraries. The joint policy statement on AIDS and HIV, issued by the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine is pertinent to the collection policy on medicine and continues to apply to collection development. HIV/AIDS remains an important issue for Congress in its policy making role and with the many programs it has created to provide medical services to individuals, to compensate state and local governments and to fund research on the disease.

#### **IV. Collecting Levels**

Collecting levels for class R range from the research level to instructional levels for some medical disciplines which are collected comprehensively by the National Library of Medicine.

COLLECTING LEVELS: CLASS R- MEDICINE		
LC Classification	Subject Area	Collecting Level
R5-920	Medicine (General)	4 (Unless otherwise noted below)
R728-733	Practice of Medicine	2
R864	Medical Records	2
R895-920	Medical Physics	3
4RA RA1-1270	Public Aspects of Medicine	4
RB RB1-214	Pathology	3
RC RC31-1245	Internal Medicine	4
RD RD1-811	Surgery	2
RE RE1-94	Ophthalmology	2

LC Classification	Subject Area	Collecting Level
RF RF1-547	Otorhinolaryngology	2
RG RG1-991	Gynecology & Obstetrics	3
RJ RJ1-570	Pediatrics	3
RK RK1-715	Dentistry	2
RL RL1-803	Dermatology	3
RM RM1-950	Therapeutics, Pharmacology	3
RS RS1-441	Pharmacy and Materia Medica	3
RT RT1-120	Nursing	3
RV RV1-431	Botanic, Thomsonian & Eclectic Medicine	2
RX RX1-681	Homeopathy	3
RZ RZ201-999	Other Systems of Medicine	3

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