

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTIONS POLICY STATEMENTS

Naval Science (Class V)

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I. Scope

This Collections Policy Statement concerns those materials pertaining to the field of naval science, including naval life, navies (international), naval administration, maintenance, sailors, marines, ordnance, the minor services of navies, navigation (merchant marine), and shipbuilding. The Library of Congress acquires for its permanent collections the important works in naval science, and a representative sample of less important works.

The field of naval science is treated in Classes V through VM in the Library of Congress classification system. These classes cover the following:

- V Naval Science (General)
- VA Navies, organization, description, facilities, etc. VB Naval administration
- VC Naval maintenance VD Naval seamen
- VE Marines
- VF Naval ordnance
- VG Minor services of navies
- VK Navigation. Merchant marine
- VM Naval architecture. Shipbuilding, Marine engineering

Technical topics, administration, and naval organization, for example, can overlap with history and biography. Other related topics include naval bibliographies in Z6834-6837, and significant works in Class D such as military and naval histories concerned with particular wars. Class E should be consulted for American naval biography, history, and naval documents. Class N includes works on marine paintings and drawings important for help with identifying vessel types, shore facilities, and aspects of life at sea. Class C77 is concerned with underwater archaeology.

II. Diverse and Inclusive Collecting Statement

As the nation's de facto national library, the Library of Congress strives to build an expansive, yet selective, collection that records the creativity of the United States and is reflective of the nation's diversity and complexity. The Library's mandate is to have collections that are inclusive and

representative of a diversity of creators and ideas. A priority includes acquiring material of underrepresented perspectives and voices in the Library's collections to ensure diverse authorship, points of view, cultural identities, and other historical or cultural factors. The Library also seeks to build a research collection that comprises a globally representative sample of international materials that are diverse in voice and perspective, relative to their places of origin, further supporting the Library's mission to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for Congress and future generations.

Diverse collecting is mentioned within many of the Library's Collections Policy Statements. In addition, the Library has adopted several specific collection policies in an effort to ensure it is building an inclusive and representative collection. For more information, see the Library's Collections Policy Statements on [Ethnic Materials](#), [LGBTQIA+ Studies](#), [Women's and Gender Studies](#), [Independently Published and Self-Published Textual Materials](#), and [Countries and Regions with Acquisitions Challenges](#).

III. Research Strengths

The Library's collections include a wide range of domestic works that fall into the category of naval science; works produced in non-U.S. countries are less represented, particularly publications of maritime and naval museums that are printed in limited editions. The Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division includes works on naval science, and the Geography & Map Division has a very large collection of maritime atlases and nautical charts invaluable in the study of naval history. The Manuscript Division has significant holdings concerning specific ships, a large collection of papers of distinguished U.S. naval officers deeded to the Library by the Naval Historical Foundation, Royal Navy logbooks, and papers of outstanding officers including John Paul Jones and John Barry (American Revolution), George Cockburn (War of 1812), David Dixon Porter (Civil War), William Halsey (World War II), and others. The Microform and Electronic Resources Center has an extensive collection of U.S. dissertations, reproductions of many monographs pertaining to naval science, as well as certain serials not commonly available from other sources. The Law Library has a rich collection of statutes that cover naval matters as well as Admiralty Court proceedings.

IV. Collecting Policy

The overall context for this policy is the Library's position as the *de facto* national library of the United States. The Library collects scholarly materials in the field of naval science, particularly new research, information, and analysis. Naval history, strategy, customs, and the role of armed forces throughout the world are all pertinent materials for selection. The Library avoids selecting repetitive or derivative publications, as well as popularized treatments suitable for students and general users.

For works in special formats refer to those collections policy statements for more information.

V. Best Editions and Preferred Formats

For guidance regarding best editions for material acquired via the Copyright Office, see: <http://copyright.gov/circs/circ07b.pdf>.

For guidance regarding recommended formats for material acquired via all other means; e.g., purchase, exchange, gift and transfer, see: <http://www.loc.gov/preservation/resources/rfs>.

For information regarding electronic resources, open digital content, web archiving, and data sets, see the following Supplementary Guidelines: <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/electronicresources.pdf>, <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/opencontent.pdf>, <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/webarchive.pdf>, and <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/datasets.pdf>.

VI. Acquisition Sources

Whenever possible the Library attempts to acquire materials through non-purchase means, such as copyright, exchange or gift. The Library of Congress collections are heavily dependent upon materials received through the copyright deposit provisions of U.S. copyright law ([17 USC section 407](#) & [17 USC section 408](#)). For copyright demand, the U.S. regulations allow for the Library to receive analog and some digital materials. When items are offered in both formats the Library’s default is normally the Best Edition print version, unless the publisher has arranged a special relief agreement with the Copyright Office. For materials not available to the Library through copyright deposit, or other non-purchase means, the Library acquires materials through purchase. Purchase is used predominately for non-U.S. publications that are not widely available within the United States. The Library utilizes an array of traditional methods of library acquisition (firm orders, subscriptions, and approval plans) with vendors located in different areas of the world. In addition, the Library uses its six Overseas Operations Offices to broaden its acquisitions opportunities outside the United States.

VII. Collecting Levels

Meeting the Library’s Diverse and Inclusive Collecting Statement (see Section II) and the collecting levels outlined below requires continual evaluation of the publishing landscape, sources of expression, current events, and socio-cultural trends to thus maintain effective collecting policies and acquisitions methods. Changes in publishing or in the creation of materials covered by this policy statement may necessitate collecting efforts not explicitly referenced here. Such efforts will be handled on a case-by-case basis while the Library evaluates the need for policy statement updates.

For explanation of the Collecting Levels used by the Library, see <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/cpc.html>

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
V1-995	Naval Science (General)	4	3
VA10-750	Navies: Organization, description, facilities, etc.	4	3
VB15-955	Naval Administration	4	3
VC10-580	Naval maintenance	4	3
VD7-430	Naval seamen	4	3

LC Classification	Subject	U.S. Levels	Non-U.S. Levels
VE7-500	Marines	4	3
VF20-580	Naval ordnance	4	3
VG20-2029	Minor services of navies	4	3
VK1-1661	Navigation. Merchant marine	4	3
VM1-989	Naval architecture. Shipbuilding. Marine engineering	4	3
Z6831-6837	Bibliographies	4	3

Revised March 2020. Updated by CDO April 2022.