

DICKINSON COLLEGE LIBRARY
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
(December 2, 2008)

I. Curricular Programs and Library Collections

A. Middle Eastern Studies at Dickinson

1. Description of the program

MES is a newly established department at Dickinson College. The program's multidisciplinary approach ensures that students acquire a broad understanding of the forces that have shaped the Middle East and North Africa and continue to shape it today, while also focusing on areas of particular interests to them. Students are expected to study Arabic or Hebrew for at least two years alongside courses in history and other social sciences and humanities.

2. Core Courses for MES Major (other than languages)

ARBI 360: Topics in Arabic Language and Culture

HEBR 232: Topics in Hebrew Literature

HEBR 331: Topics in Hebrew Literature and Israeli Culture

HIST 121: Middle East to 1750

HIST 122: Middle East since 1750

HIST 213: The Age of the Crusades

HIST 315: Modern Iran

HIST 371: The Arab-Israeli Conflict

HIST 372/RELG 259: Islam

HIST 404: US-Middle East Relations

JDST 104: Introduction to Judaic Studies

JDST 216/RELG 241: Love, Sex and Hebrew Texts

JDST 216: Jews and Judaism in the Medieval World

JDST 316: Israeli Cinema

RELG 312: Eastern Orthodox Christianity

POSC 290: International Politics of the Middle East

POSC 290: Comparative Politics of the Middle East

POSC 290: Politics, Society and Culture in Israel

B. Brief Description of the MES Collection

1. Print Sources

The library has taken the creation of the new MES department as a unique opportunity to develop a collection focusing on this important region. The relevant materials to date in the library collection are mostly secondary sources on Middle Eastern history and Islam. To better support the needs of the new program, the library has since broadened the scope of the collection to cover all relevant areas in Middle East Studies, in the fields of both humanities and

social sciences. The library also actively collects basic reference works as well as primary materials in support of language learning in Arabic and Hebrew.

2. E-Resources

The library maintains current subscription to major databases that cover Middle East Studies such as JStor, ARTstor, Historical Abstracts, ATLA Religion, ProQuest, and World News Connection. The library also subscribes to specialized databases such as Oxford Islamic Studies Online and Encyclopedia of Qur'an Online.

II. General Collection Guidelines

A. Languages

The college-wide collection guide provides the following guideline on languages: the library collects materials "primarily in the English language," but to "supplement language education, global studies, and advanced studies in other cultures," the library also collects "important works in their original languages." In accordance with the general guideline, the Middle East Studies Collection will focus on the English language materials on the region, and selectively collect language materials in Arabic and Hebrew in support of the curriculum. The library also collects materials in French to support a wider Dickinson community of faculty and students with research interests in North Africa because French is the primary language of the region and much important secondary literature is available in the language.

B. Chronological Guidelines

The collection covers from the rise of Islam to the present day. Particular emphasis is placed on modern and contemporary Islam, Middle Eastern societies and diaspora communities.

C. Types of Materials Collected

Books, periodicals, DVD films and sound recordings are main types of materials for the collection.

D. Subjects Collected

The focus is on anthropology, history, religion, political science, sociology, language and literature. Materials in economics, education, art /architecture, law, and other cross-disciplinary works may also be collected if recommended by interested faculty.

E. Budgetary Considerations

During the years of 2008 and 2009, the MES collection will be additionally supported by the UISFL grant (US\$5000 per year), besides regular library funds. The grant money will focus on acquiring foundational materials such as core reference titles and major scholarly works. It may also be used to collect audio-visual materials (DVDs) to support classroom teaching. The regular library funds will keep the collection up to date with recent publications and maintain subscriptions to relevant periodicals and databases. After the grant expires, the library will continue funding the collection in all aspects of acquisitions so that the collection will adequately meet the needs of the program.