**Information Policy for the**

**Department of Politics and International Relations (including European Studies and Philosophy)**

**Introduction**

This document presents the Content Development Policy for the Department of PIR. It includes a description of the Library’s existing collections and an outline of current collecting areas. Set within the context provided by an overall Collection Development and Management Policy, its purpose is to ensure that the selection of resources - books, journals, and other kinds of material – whether print, electronic or other format, reflect the teaching and research priorities of the Department and provide best value in both financial and academic terms.

**Collection evaluation**

The Library has collections in the areas of PIR, Philosophy and European Studies, which includes books and journals, in print and digital formats. Most PIR books are shelved in the 320s. Most Philosophy books are shelved in the 180s/190s. All ‘Essential’ and ‘Recommended’ readings from reading lists are held in the *High Use Collection* on the ground floor of the Library. The remaining collection of printed materials is kept in the *General Collection* on the first and second floors. The vast majority of PIR and Philosophy journals are available online, but those print journals in closed sequences, i.e. where we no longer have an open subscription, are retained in Founders Library on the open shelves. Where we have a current, active subscription to the print journal these are located in the stacks on the first floor of the Library.

**Book fund and resource allocations**

Book funds are allocated in June/July each year for the following financial year (August –July). This book fund is to provide for all non-subscription library materials including printed textbooks and research monographs, electronic books, and any other one-off purchase requirements.  
  
For reading list materials, the book to student ratios are as follows:

Essential – 1 book per 8 students, unless there is a multi-user ebook then it is 1 print per 20 students, single-user – treat as print and buy 50/50 single user and print.

Recommended – 1 book per 30 students, unless there is an ebook then it is 1 print per 60 students.

Further – 1 book per 100 students, unless there is an ebook then it is 1 print per 200 students. Only order e-book or 1 copy of print in the first instance and react to demand / staff requesting more. Students will need to request copies to alert us.

Journals and other subscription items are purchased from a separate fund.

**Collection areas**

To support the School’s scholarly and research activities the Library will acquire material published in identified areas of interest to the department.

**Inter-Library Loans**

Although the Library will try to accommodate all requests for purchase, books which lie outside the areas listed above or are out of print can be obtained on loan from another library through Inter-Library Loans. Such books are usually borrowable for up to 6 weeks at a time. Journal articles and other material not available from within the Library’s collections can also be obtained through this service.

**Teaching and Learning**

The Library will support all taught course modules. Multiple copies and / or electronic copies of texts will be purchased or subscribed to as appropriate. Subject to copyright restrictions the Library will digitise materials, for instance book chapters, or journal articles not otherwise available electronically, if required for taught course modules.

Reading lists and estimated student numbers should be sent to the Information Consultant by June 30th and October 30th each year so any new material can be purchased and processed in time for the forthcoming semester.

Reading lists will be added to the Library’s reading list system, Aspire, which provides links to catalogue entries and directly to electronic texts where they are available. Course modules within Moodle can link to Aspire.

**Digitisation**

Subject to copyright restrictions the Library will digitise material according to its Copyright Digitisation of Print Materials Guidance. Priorities include reading list items – book chapters or journal papers.

**Stock editing**

Most stock is kept on the Library’s open shelves. As space is at a premium periodic weeding is used to remove less-well used material. Unused duplicates are disposed of from time to time. When editions are superseded, all old editions will be removed from the shelves. Weeding and withdrawal criteria are described in the Collection Management Policy.

**Donations**

Due to issues of space we cannot take many donations. If academics wish to donate books to the library please contact the Information Consultant first to check if we can accept it.

The Library does run a scheme where donations of books are offered to students for free, called Pass It On.

**Recommendations**

The Library welcomes recommendations for the purchase of books from staff and students of the School. Purchases are normally made if:

* Recommendations fall within the scope of the policy as described above;
* Funds are available;
* The item is not already in stock.

Usually:

* Only a single copy only of a printed book is purchased;
* Books must normally be written in English;
* They must be of an appropriate academic standard.

For reading list texts, multiple copies and electronic versions will be considered as appropriate. Recommendations can be made directly to the Information Consultant or by filling in an online form.

Journal recommendations are considered once a year in November. Because of the forward financial commitment involved journal subscriptions usually have to be balanced by savings elsewhere in the subscription budget. Recommendations should be made to the Information Consultant

**Contacts**

Emma Burnett - Information Consultant for PIR

[emma.burnett@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:emma.burnett@rhul.ac.uk) 01784 443333