

# Classics

## Collecting policy

## User profile

This collection statement covers provision for the Department of Classics. The collections serve all staff and students in the Department, and students in other departments whose courses include an element of Classics. Interdisciplinary areas include, particularly, archaeology, ancient philosophy, linguistics and historiography.

## Research interests

There are currently three research groups/networks within Classics, each representing a key strategic area for future development:

- Language, Text and Power
- Space, place and the visual
- the Legacy of Greek Political Thought network

A detailed list of academic staff research interests is maintained on the Department's web site. These include:

- Ancient Egypt
- Ancient linguistics
- Ancient religion
- Ancient trade and navigation
- Animals in ancient thought
- The classical tradition
- Computer modelling as a way of exploring ancient structures
- Ethnic identity and multilingualism
- Greek drama (especially Greek tragedy and its reception), Greek intellectual history, Greek political thought, Greeks and rights, Greek literature of the Roman imperial period, Greek prose literature, Greek lyric poetry, Greek papyri, Greek religion, Greek vases
- Greek and Roman art and archaeology
- Greek and Roman historiography and biography, particularly Herodotus and Plutarch
- Hellenistic history
- History and culture of Thessaly in the Classical and Hellenistic periods
- Late antiquity , early Islam, and Byzantium
- Latin language, literature, and epigraphy of the Roman Republic
- Postcolonial classics

- The reception of antiquity
- Relations with the Near East, the Middle East and Egypt, particularly between Greece and Egypt, Greece and Anatolia and Hellenistic Bactria
- Roman drama, Roman poetry and its reception, Roman verse inscription, and the study of Latin wall inscriptions
- Roman history and archaeology, including Augustan Rome, Roman architecture, Roman libraries, Roman villas, Pompeii, and the City of Rome
- Roman social and economic history
- Women and gender in antiquity

## Dimensions of teaching and learning

The Department runs full and part-time degree programmes. Classics can also be studied as part of a joint honours undergraduate course in combination with many other subjects, including Archaeology, English, Medieval Studies, Museum Studies, and History.

Since 2012 there has been a module focusing on digital reconstruction of ancient places and there are aspirations within the department to more fully integrate digital tools into teaching and learning. Museum learning is also integrated into relevant modules with students often being encouraged to engage with the collections held in the department's Ure museum.

A full list of programmes available is available at:

[www.reading.ac.uk/classics](http://www.reading.ac.uk/classics)

## Current holdings

Most material falls into the 870-889 and 930-939 sections of the classification, but some is found in the arts (700s), social sciences (300s), archaeology (913), religion (290s), ancient philosophy (180-189) and history of medicine (610) sections. For more detail, see the Classics *Finding your way* guide.

### Books and e-books

Printed monographs required for teaching and current research projects are held on open access. A number of lesser-used, research-level items which relate to Classics are housed in closed access or in our off-site store.

In addition to printed monographs, a large number of e-books are available via the Library's catalogue and electronic databases. Access is provided to Cambridge Companions Online, Cambridge Histories Online, Early English Books Online (EEBO), Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), the digital Loeb Classical Library, Oxford Handbooks Online, and Oxford Scholarship Online. Individual e-book versions of in-demand titles, especially relevant to teaching, are made available via aggregators such as MyiLibrary and EBL.

### Periodicals

Classics maintains several current periodical subscriptions in print and online. Around a third of these are shared with other schools and departments, chiefly Archaeology, History, Art History, English Literature, and Italian.

Electronic access to full-text journal articles is provided, most prominently, via JSTOR, Project MUSE and Cambridge Journals Online and is supplemented in certain areas by Periodicals Archive Online (PAO) and JISC Journal Archives.

### **Reference/bibliographic**

The Library has a significant number of Classics reference titles, including encyclopaedias and Greek and Latin dictionaries.

Online access is also provided to:

- Brill's New Pauly: encyclopedia of the ancient world
- Brill's New Jacoby (collection of and commentary on the fragments of 856 Greek historians whose works have survived only in fragmentary form)
- Several classics / ancient history reference titles via general online reference packages, Credo Reference and Oxford Reference online
- Wiley encyclopedia of ancient history
- Wiley Homer encyclopedia

In addition, the Library subscribes to the bibliographic databases: the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (via ISI Web of Knowledge) and *L'Année Philologique*; while relevant quality images are accessible from the Bridgeman Education image database which provides access to the visual culture of classical civilizations. MediaHub also provides access to a wide range of copyright-cleared, high-quality digital images.

### **Multimedia/audio visual**

The Library holds a limited number of videos/DVDs of relevance, which mainly consist of Hollywood films set in the classical period. A few books, particularly those relating to classical antiquities/archaeology, include CD-ROMs.

### **Related special collections**

The Cole Library contains books and papers on the history of early medicine, zoology, comparative anatomy and reproductive physiology. The Overstone Library contains some classical texts from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries which are potentially useful for the study of classical reception.

## **Strengths and exclusions**

Particular strengths in the collection reflect the department's major research interests, especially:

- Ancient literature
- Ancient religion
- The City of Rome/Roman architecture.
- Roman economy
- Sculpture

The collection contains the standard reference material of a classics library, such as Pauly Wissowa; *Thesaurus linguae Latinae*; *Thesaurus linguae Graecae*; corpora of inscriptions; material related to Greek vases; *Bibliotheca Teubneriana*; Oxford Classical Texts and Loeb Classical Library texts. We also have several long (often complete) back runs of Classics periodicals, some of which are provided electronically by JSTOR.

It is desirable to hold parallel texts of classical languages and their English translation. In some instances up-to-date/new versions of texts are purchased in the classical language only. Texts in the original classical language (often with English translation) support students taking Ancient Greek and Latin language modules. Secondary material in languages other than English is not generally collected for teaching, although some of particular research value may be purchased in European languages.

Areas for development include oratory/rhetoric, late antiquity, Egypt in the Graeco-Roman periods, the classical tradition, digital classics, and classical reception in relation to museum learning.

## Collecting level

Support for undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses is a priority. Undergraduates find most of the material they need for their dissertations in the Library and we also aim to hold at least one copy of all items on undergraduate / taught postgraduate reading lists.

Reference materials are purchased as funds allow and, as in the case of Brill's New Jacoby Online, the department may contribute funds to purchase a particularly desirable (and expensive) item.

Material at research level is acquired selectively and only purchased as funds allow, upon the specific request of academic staff members. Researchers / academic staff are able to use Inter-library library loans to access research level material not sufficiently catered for by the Library.

## Alternative access

### **Inter-library loans**

Inter-Library loans for undergraduates (where necessary), postgraduates and staff are funded by the Department. Staff and Research postgraduates in the Department order Inter-library loans online via the Library catalogue. Undergraduates and taught postgraduates continue to use a printed form which can be counter-signed by a tutor or supervisor.

### **Other information resources in the University**

The Department maintains a Resource Room which includes a large number of classical texts and handbooks / reference works on a wide range of relevant subjects. There is some duplication of stock between the Library and Resource Room, but these tend to be key texts which are heavily used for teaching, such as specific titles from the Loeb Classical Library. A proportion of stock held in the Resource Room initially came from the Library as withdrawn stock and space is now limited. The collecting policy for the Resource Room is aimed at undergraduate core texts but is not limited to this.

The Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology houses one of the largest collections of Greek ceramics in Britain. It also contains prehistoric pottery, metal and stone artefacts of Greek and Roman date and a collection of Egyptian antiquities. The small amount of printed material it houses includes the archive of the work of Percy and Annie Ure, the Museum's founders, and features their excavations at Rhitsona (Boeotia). In addition to being open to the public, students on certain modules utilise the collections. In particular, the Museum provides hands-on experience of working with museum objects for students studying the BA Museum and Classical Studies. The use of the Museum's collections in this way plays an

important part in fulfilling the University's aim of increasing the use of its collections for teaching and research.

### **Use of other libraries**

Members of staff regularly use:

- the British Library
- the Institute of Classical Studies Library and the Warburg Institute Library at the University of London
- the Library of University College, London
- University of Cambridge libraries
- the Bodleian Library, the Oriental Institute Library, the Sackler Library and the Taylor Institution Library (University of Oxford)

## **Selection, acquisition and stock editing**

See the General Collection Development Statement for general principles.

The Classics Department's principal objective for selection is that the Library should continue to be the major resource for undergraduates / taught postgraduates studying courses offered by the Department

Multiple copies of some key texts which are heavily used are purchased and/or copies are added to the Course Collection (6 hour loan) to enable access by as many students as possible. The Course Collection holds a selection of key texts for most undergraduate modules for the duration of the term in which they run. Where available, individual e-books are purchased for modules where high demand is anticipated, such as where texts appear as essential reading in module reading lists.

Classics books do not date quickly and the Department has generally been cautious about disposing of 'old' stock. Duplicate copies of books, where usage does not warrant holding more than one, and very old texts which are seldom, if ever, used are the prime candidates for disposal. Little used but valuable material may be relegated to closed access or remote storage. Material published prior to 1850 may be transferred to the Special Collections Service.

*Policy written by Anna Richards, Classics Liaison Librarian, May 2015*