

Subject: Rare Books Collection Development

Title: Rare Book Collection Development Guidelines

Operational Procedure - Date Adopted by the Library Services Faculty: 3/6/79

Administrative Procedure – Date Issued by Administration:

Date Revised: 1/07/2010, 4/1/21

Purpose:

The Rare Book Collection was established as a unit within the Special Collections in 1992 in order to provide protection for library materials of high intrinsic and historic value and to support the curriculum and research needs of the students and faculty of East Carolina University. Over time, the collection has grown to serve varied and diverse research topics. Currently, the collection contains published works from the 1500s to the present featuring travel accounts, atlases, and early American imprints. Subjects covered include education; civil rights; Southern literature; the Civil War; abolition and slavery in the US; military, naval and maritime history; and print and book history.

Collection Development Goals:

The Rare Book collecting goals are to provide materials that support primary research experiences of students and support research programs at East Carolina University, emerging areas of study, and to the extent possible, potential future needs of our users. Collection development will also take into consideration historical gaps in coverage of underrepresented groups and will strive to fill those needs as appropriate to the collecting scope.

Scope:

The collection contains rare books, serials, pamphlets, prints and broadsides from all periods of printing. Traditionally, rare books are defined by demand exceeding supply, usually owing to importance, scarcity, age, condition, physical and aesthetic properties, association, or subject matter. The Rare Book Collection acquires editions of important printed works concerning geographical features and early travel, travelers, and voyages of discovery and exploration, or which include important engravings, prints, lithographs, etchings, and illustrations. Also of collecting interest are volumes illustrating the history of typography, art and fine press, artists' books, and items with a particular or unique provenance. Printed and manuscript maps are covered in the East Carolina Manuscript Collection Development procedure (500.36).

Acquisition:

This collection grows through purchases, donations and transfers of materials from other Academic Library Services collections, in consultation with the relevant collection managers.