



VCU

Libraries

Guidelines for Criminal Justice

Updated May 2024

Table of Contents

1. Purpose
 2. General Collection Guidelines
 - A. Language
 - B. Chronology
 - C. Geography
 - D. Publication Date
 - E. Treatment of Subject
 - F. Types of Materials and Formats
 3. Area Resources
 4. Related Subject Policy Statements
 5. Subjects and Collecting Levels
-

1. Purpose.

The collection in Criminal Justice supports research and teaching in the undergraduate criminal justice program that includes a concentration in Forensic Crime Scene Investigation and a Minor in Criminal Justice as well as the Master of Science in Criminal Justice. The major objective of the Bachelor of Science program is to prepare students for effective professional careers in criminal justice, forensic crime scene investigation, public service and other helping professions, and/or prepare them to pursue studies in law and other related graduate programs. Study in the master's program expands upon this objective and can also lead to students earning a post-baccalaureate certificate in criminal justice. Specific areas of program concentration in criminal justice are: law enforcement, juvenile justice, corrections, legal studies, and forensic science.

2. General Collection Guidelines.

A. Language.

English is the primary language of the collection.

B. Chronology.

Collection emphasis is primarily on current materials; however, certain areas such as comparative justice systems and legal studies will require materials dealing with earlier periods.



VCU

Libraries

C. Geography.

Emphasis is on the United States but some international and comparative criminal justice systems material is collected.

D. Publication Date.

Primary emphasis is on current materials. Some retrospective purchasing takes place to fill in gaps and replace missing items.

E. Treatment of Subject.

Selection is tied directly to the criminal justice curriculum on comparative justice systems, legal studies, corrections, juvenile justice, law enforcement, and forensic science. Primary sources, such as statutes, administrative codes, regulations, and case law, are collected selectively at a federal level and more broadly on a regional and local level. Secondary sources such as digests, citators, reviews, and legislative histories are collected selectively at a national level and more broadly on a regional and local level. Some introductory and general legal readers, casebooks, and almanacs. Upper-level texts are selectively purchased. Practitioner-oriented materials, such as guides, policy statements, procedural and technical manuals are selectively purchased. Biographies and collections of legal opinions may be purchased. Undergraduate texts, juvenile and popular texts are not acquired.

F. Types of Materials and Formats.

Monographs and serial publications in digital format are the principal resources acquired. Transactions, proceedings, dissertations, and streaming media, and data sets are selectively purchased. Major digital collections are acquired selectively if they significantly serve to strengthen present collections and if funding permits. The publications of the United States and Virginia governments are of primary interest and are acquired digitally through the Federal Depository Library Program and the State Publications Depository Program.

3. Area Resources.

Students and faculty should be aware of other libraries in Richmond that also support this program and are accessible to VCU affiliates. They are the University of Richmond Law Library, the Richmond Public Law Library, and the Library of Virginia.

4. Related Subject Policy Statements.

See Forensic Science, Government Documents, Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Public Administration, Social Work, and Urban Studies and Planning.



VCU

Libraries

5. Subjects and Collecting Levels.

Resources on Criminal Justice relating to the areas of studies in the department are collected at the research level (4). These include but are not limited to the Criminal Justice System, Forensic Science, Criminology, Juvenile Justice, Organized Crime, Law Enforcement, Corrections, and Transnational Crime.