

## SELENA WARREN WHEELER COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY.

The Black Collection of the Durham County Library was established at the Stanford L. Warren Public Library in February, 1942, by librarian Selena W. Wheeler and her staff. In the earlier years, valuable materials of Black interest circulated and were identified by adding "N" to the call number and were filed by the Dewey subject divisions. These volumes, many of which were rare, out of print, and irreplaceable, were to be placed in a separate room and made non-circulating to preserve them and to facilitate research. The collection continues to be housed at the Stanford L. Warren Branch Library. It covers a wide spectrum of experiences with concentrations in reference, history, biography, and literature.

The chief purpose of the Black Collection is to make readily available a range of historical and contemporary materials on the history and culture of Blacks in America. Although it is designated as a special collection, this collection is available to the public for in-library use during regular branch hours. This restriction is to ensure that the materials will be available to interested persons now, as well as for the future. There are also, in the appropriate subject divisions of the regular library collection, copies of many of these books which may be borrowed.

### I. Purpose

- A. To preserve and collect rare and irreplaceable volumes of the Black Experience.
- B. To make readily available a range of historical and contemporary materials on African history and culture as they are directly related to the Black Experience in America.
- C. To furnish high school students, college students, scholars and general readers with information about Black history and culture and with important books by black authors.

- D. To serve as a referral point for selected materials by and about Black people, that may not be available elsewhere.
- E. To promote personal reading enrichment throughout the community.

## II. Selection of Materials

- A. The collection includes materials which serve its stated purpose, such as books (many of which are rare or out-of-print), magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, pictures, and microfilms.
- B. The scope of the collection covers the entire spectrum of the Black experience: Philosophy, religion, social sciences, language, sciences, technology, the arts, literature, history, biography, fiction and reference.
- C. The collection is divided into two major parts. Part one includes general reference such as encyclopedias, biographical sources, directories, indexes, multi-subject bibliographies, etc. Part two includes fiction and non-fiction books on such subjects as history, literature, and religion.
- D. Area authors' works are included in the collection. Inclusion of works of professors at NCCU, Duke, UNC, etc., who may be transient and whose books are often very specialized, will be determined on an individual basis.
- E. Selection is made according to the qualitative criteria included in the general selection policy of the Durham County Library (Section II.C.)
- F. Materials which are no longer useful in light of the stated purpose for the collection will be systematically weeded from the collection and discarded according to acceptable professional practices.

## III. Gifts & Exchange

- A. Gift books are accepted for inclusion in the collection which meet the selection criteria for the collection.

- B. The Branch Services Division Head or designee will review all gift books and make decisions on accepting or rejecting them. The final decision of disposition will be made by the division head and collection development librarian.
- C. Acceptance of personal property, art objects, portraits, antiques and other museum objects must be approved by the Library Board of Trustees, in accordance with the policy regarding gifts of personal property.

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