

Collection and Resources Development Policy

Psychology

Psychology is the discipline which involves the scientific study of human behaviour, as individuals and in groups and the mental processes of humans and animals, including perception, emotion, personality interpersonal relationships and the mind. The subject of paranormal phenomena covers occultism, spiritualism and parapsychology.

Collection overview

The Library possesses a strong collection of 19th- to mid-20th-century works of the 'founding fathers' of modern psychology.

Collecting in this area is generally at intermediate level. The collection centres on English-language material which does not require professional training or knowledge for use. However, in order to collect authoritative material some undergraduate and scholarly material is obtained.

The collection aims to represent major psychological theories and principles, with concentration on social psychology, human development across the life span, work and work practices, and materials dealing with the problems of everyday life. Popular self-help works are acquired very selectively.

Landmark works in psychology and historical treatments within sub-fields of the discipline are acquired selectively. Materials dealing with the psychological aspects of all subjects and those responding to contemporary issues of interest to the public are generally collected.

A selection of professional journals and core reference tools are maintained.

Material not generally collected

- technical or highly specialised monographs aimed at professional practitioners
- 'how to' books
- psychological tests.