# Collection DevelOpment Statement

# ITALIAN STUDIES (FUND 34218)

## Richard Hacken

**Annual Budget Allocation:**

*Consolidated budget*: $XX,XXX

*Serials budget*: $XX,XXX

*Database budget*: $XX,XXX

## Overview

The library supports Italian Studies in its full disciplinary breadth: while Italian language and literature form the main core of materials for students studying and researching Italian and for professors teaching and researching Italian, there is broader interdisciplinary involvement. The curriculum and research of Italian Studies also interweave the disciplines of Italian history (in a wide sense: social history, economic history, diplomatic history, religious history, etc.), of Italian politics, and of contemporary and historical Italian culture. A separate major collection fund (34132) serves to provide the latter types of materials for Italian Studies (see separate collection statement), while fund 34218 is largely dedicated to Italian language and literature. The broadening of Italian Studies beyond a narrower language and literature emphasis has been in play at the departmental level since at least the beginning of the 21st century.

The library generally seeks to support teaching and research in Italian Studies at the Teaching level. One exception to this is Holocaust Studies, which we collect at the Research Level. A major figure in Italian literature, Primo Levi, was a survivor of Auschwitz; thus Holocaust courses are taught regularly through the Italian Section of the French and Italian Department. This is an example of a multidisciplinary topic that retains ongoing interest and relevance for teaching and research throughout the years.

Some of the areas of Italian teaching and research interest in recent decades, in addition to the Holocaust and Primo Levi, have included topics related to authors including Carlo Goldoni and, of course, Dante Alighieri. The Dante collection is of special utility for students studying the *Inferno*, *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso* each year; great attention is paid to canto-by-canto commentaries, which are required for students’ papers. Further topics in Italian Studies include Italian monastic theater, Italian women and education, Italian women’s social and religious history, and a number of other authors. Materials for certain of these topics, those with multidisciplinary aspects, are acquired in cooperation with other selectors.

The library seeks to support research and teaching through targeted acquisitions, both of new and retrospective materials. Relevance and potential use for teaching and/or research are paramount, and a further factor is the quality of scholarship and presentation. For books, both print and digital formats are collected; where there is a choice, the default is for an e-book unless other factors intervene (faculty preference for paper format, need for better resolution of paper maps and illustrations, etc.) Demand-driven acquisition is used where possible, since it saves money and guarantees usage.

## Degree Programs and Collecting Level

* Bachelor of Arts in Italian: Teaching Level
* Bachelor of Arts in Italian Studies: Teaching Level
* Master of Arts in Comparative Studies: Teaching Level

## Departments/Disciplines/Programs/Subject Areas

The Italian Studies collections also reflect the interests of the following departments and programs:

* History Department
* Political Science Department
* Italian Section of French and Italian Department
* Interdisciplinary Humanities Section of Department of Comparative Arts and Letters
* Program of International and Area Studies

Because language, literature and area studies have cross-disciplinary implications, these Italian collections also offer support for research and teaching in other departments, primarily in the Humanities and Social Sciences as well as in related area studies.

## Subject Librarian Annual Collection Reports

### 2016

* **Notable acquisitions (collections, journals, databases)**
* English translations of selected Italian works and authors
* Early modern Italian women’s literature
* **Funding adjustments**

Reduction in base funding amount of $1000

* **Liaison actions pertaining to collections**

- Consultation on women’s literature during Renaissance and Baroque

### 2015

* **Notable acquisitions (collections, journals, databases)**
* Concentration on Primo Levi monographs
* Dante commentaries of individual cantos
* Expansion of *Torrossa* digital library’s full text platform
* Expansion of an Italian biographical dictionary
* National edition of the works of Tasso
* **Funding adjustments**

- None

* **Liaison actions pertaining to collections**

- Discussions on Dante commentaries for instruction assignments