

# Archaeology

## Collecting policy

## User profile

This collection statement covers provision for the Department of Archaeology, part of the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences. The collections serve all staff and students in Archaeology. Other disciplines and departments which may have an interest include: classics, history, history of art, plant sciences, meteorology and chemistry.

## Research interests

The Department of Archaeology has about 20 permanent academic staff. There are currently two research groups:

Scientific Archaeology Research Group: key areas of research include:

Bioarchaeology, Geoarchaeology, Environmental and experimental archaeology, Micromorphology, Building stone archaeology, Archaeological geophysics, Forensic archaeology, anthropology and palynology, Environmental radioactivity, dating and climate change, Ice age and early Holocene hunter-gatherers, The origins of farming in Western Asia

Social Archaeology Research Group: key areas of research include:

Prehistoric Landscapes, Social complexity and inequality, Historic settlement, urban & rural, Religious Landscapes, Gender, the Body & Material Culture, Diaspora and Colonisation, Human-animal-environment Relationships

Archaeology staff also contribute to the Centre for past climate change.

Geographically, research focuses on the UK, Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Near East.

Related areas are: history; art and architecture; classics. The discipline is becoming increasingly scientific in nature with links in particular to botany, environmental science, chemistry and medicine.

## Dimensions of teaching and learning

The Department of Archaeology is small in terms of student numbers. In 2013-14 these were 151 registered undergraduates (fte), 16 taught postgraduates (fte) and 21 research postgraduates (fte).

Current Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses are detailed on the department website: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/archaeology/>

## Current holdings

Most material is located in the 913 and 930.1 sections of the classification but relevant material is widespread: history (930, 940), sociology (301), anthropology (599.9), art and architecture (700, 720 and especially 737.4 coins). For more detail see the Archaeology LibGuide: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/archaeology>

### Books and e-books

The book stock mostly supports undergraduate teaching and learning, though it can also support research. Multiple copies of key texts are purchased and in general the books are very well used. The book stock was completely reviewed in 2011 as part of the collections project. Important series, such as the Archaeology of York and the Society for Medieval Archaeology monographs are purchased by standing order. Both teaching and research will benefit from significant collections, such as the Maxwell Hyslop collection of Near East archaeology books.

Archaeology purchases e-books where possible together with print copies to support undergraduate courses. Print books are thought more appropriate to support research.

### Periodicals and e-journals

There are 89 relevant current print periodical subscriptions, the costs of many of which are shared with the History Department, and a smaller number of relevant e-journals. These are boosted by various subscriptions, bundles and publisher packages. Journals support both teaching and research and include a number of archaeological society publications. There are significant runs of non-current titles including *Antike Kunst*, 1958-1996 and *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archaeologischen Instituts Roemische Abteilung*, 1916-1986. Non-current e-journal titles are also available through the JSTOR archive.

### Reference materials – print and electronic

There are a small number of reference works in the 4th Floor Reference collection and other relevant materials on the main shelves. Other reference sources, in particular dictionaries and encyclopedias, are also available electronically.

### Bibliographic databases

There are several relevant electronic databases, some offering links to full text of books or journal articles. Key subject-specific databases include: L'Annee philologique, BIAB online, Nordic archaeological abstracts, the Bibliography of the history of art, and the Royal Historical Society bibliography. There is a range of other more general databases of relevance, such as Geobase and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index. The Library also subscribes to Digimap.

### Related Special Collections

T.M. Harris Collection - books, periodicals and off-prints on palaeobotany, in 170 volumes, dating from the early 19th century to 1981.

## Strengths, exclusions and areas for development

Areas of strength largely reflect the research interests of academic staff:

- British archaeology
- Mediterranean archaeology
- prehistoric to medieval British and European archaeology
- geoarchaeology
- landscape and environmental archaeology
- Near Eastern archaeology

Particular strengths include good runs of some major periodical titles and of UK local archaeological societies' journals. A further collection which is not currently directly relevant to teaching, but constitutes a potentially valuable research resource is the University of California publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology 1903-1920. There is also a substantial collection of anthropology books housed in the remote store.

Areas of development include Coastal and maritime archaeology and Near Eastern archaeology. Teaching and research in the areas of Palaeoclimatology, Eastern Mediterranean and Zooarchaeology is growing.

## Collecting level

Current purchasing is largely at study level, but books and journals also support research. There are insufficient funds to provide for all the research needs of academic staff and research postgraduates. Major reference works which cover the areas taught and researched are bought when possible. The concentration on purchasing at study level requires a focus on English language journals and books.

## Alternative access

The School is a light user of the Inter-Library loans service.

The ARCHway consortium provides detailed information about periodical holdings in other University and special libraries.

### **Other information resources in the University**

The Department houses a Reading Room containing undergraduate theses and technical/laboratory manuals purchased by the Department.

### **Use of other libraries**

Members of academic staff, MA, MSc, and PhD students regularly use the Sackler Library in Oxford

## Selection, acquisition and stock editing

See the General Collection Development Statement for general principles.

For undergraduate studies, texts in English are preferred. Research level materials may be acquired in the language of origin.

Second hand material is purchased if the text required is out of print.

Reference works will normally be selected by the 4th Floor in consultation with the liaison librarian, and with the Department if necessary. Payment will be from 4th Floor Reference funds except in the case of very expensive works where contributions may be sought from other sources.

Stock editing is the responsibility of the liaison librarian. It will be carried out in consultation with the Library Representative and with other departments as appropriate. Generally, older texts in archaeology do not date, and are of continued value for teaching and research.

Underused extra copies and non-academic titles will be withdrawn when space pressures require it. Extra copies of earlier editions of books may be withdrawn when they have been superseded by later editions, provided that they do not contain important material which is absent from later editions. Any items of permanent value will be relegated to the closed access collection. Where an area of the discipline ceases to be researched or taught, the need to retain material relating to it needs to be assessed.

*Policy written by Melvin Morbey, Archaeology Liaison Librarian, October 2015*