

**Subject:** James H. and Virginia Schlobin Literature of the Fantastic Collection Development Procedure

**Title:** James H. and Virginia Schlobin Literature of the Fantastic Collection

**Operational Procedure - Date Adopted by the Library Services Faculty:** 1/7/2010

**Administrative Procedure – Date Issued by Administration:**

**Date Revised:** 4/19/2012

**1. Purpose:**

The James and Virginia Schlobin Literature of the Fantastic Collection was created to serve two purposes: to bring together materials to aid scholars of the literature of the fantastic, and to serve the needs of students of this literature. It is currently under the control of a curator assigned to oversee collection operations and access. The collection preserves and makes available for literary research printed materials dealing with the literature of the fantastic donated by Roger Schlobin and others, with a special future emphasis on North Carolina Science Fiction and Fantasy authors and award-nominated titles.

The collection complements other library collections such as the Snow L. and B.W.C. Roberts Collection of North Carolina literature, materials in the general stacks and the Teaching Resources Center.

Collection Development Goals:

**A. Curriculum**

The goal of collection development for this collection is to support current, interdisciplinary and emerging Science Fiction and Fantasy research at East Carolina University. This collection supports a wide range of undergraduate and graduate student research and writing, including sustained independent research of students and faculty in related disciplines. Traditionally, the Schlobin collection has supported the work of students and faculty members in the Department of English. The collection will endeavor to support the Department of English offerings in Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature and in particular, the department's course in North Carolina Literature.

**B. Primary and Secondary Users.**

1. Primary users – Students and faculty members of the East Carolina University Department of English

2. Secondary users – Other students and faculty members, visiting scholars and recreational readers

## 2. Scope

### A. Subjects represented:

The collection contains monographs and serial publications relating to the literature of the fantastic. Literature of the fantastic is generally understood to include science fiction, fantasy, gothic and horror fiction, and that which is weird or supernatural. All of these types of writing build, perhaps, on the uncertainty and anxiety created by the “marvelous” and the “uncanny” aspects of fantasy identified by Todorov in *Literature of the Fantastic* (1973). Roger Schlobin describes fantastic literature as that which is impossible, based on what is known at the time and his inclusiveness suggests an approach to literature of the fantastic which may be close to that of Rosemary Jackson: that is, fantasy is a *mode* of writing, rather than a genre (*Fantasy: The Literature of Subversion*, 1981).

The nucleus of the Schlobin Collection is composed of three thousand individual monograph titles, most of them primary literature. Novels make up the largest portion of the collection; primarily fantasy, they also include science fiction and horror.

Also included in the Schlobin Collection are journals, most notably the *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, *Fantasy*, and *Ariel*. Additional journals may be represented as well.

Secondary materials are included in the Schlobin Collection, particularly criticism of the fantastic and genre studies, single-author bibliographies and studies, and collections of essays from the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts.

The Collection includes literature written for juvenile audiences as well as adults, and includes satire. Foundational scholarly criticism and collections of essays associated with the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts are included in the Schlobin Collection.

The collection is especially rich in material relating to early fantasy literature and women’s science fiction.

### B. Formats:

The James H. and Virginia Schlobin Literature of the Fantastic Collection focuses on primary literature, including novels and collections of short fiction. With regard to material types, the Schlobin Collection includes monographs, serials, and reference materials. The collection will consider reprints and re-publications, particularly for rare titles. Manuscript materials relating to the collection will be held in the James H. and Virginia Schlobin Literature of the Fantastic Collection (Manuscript Collection #1029).

### C. Languages:

English is the primary language for all materials.

### D. Geographic Guidelines:

Primarily American and British authors, with current emphasis on North Carolina authors and award nominees.

### E. Chronological Guidelines:

Materials related to periods from the 19th century to the present will be selected.

#### F. Publication Date Guidelines:

Materials date from the 1950s to the present, with some earlier works present.

#### G. Material Types:

- **Books** - The nucleus of the Schlobin Collection is composed of three thousand individual titles, most of them primary literature. Novels make up the largest portion of the collection; primarily fantasy, they also include science fiction and horror. Professor Schlobin and others may donate appropriate materials to the collection. Purchases for the Schlobin Collection will be restricted to books being nominated for major awards (such as Hugo, Nebula, Sunburst, Aurora, Tiptree and the SF/F category of the Lambda awards). A special effort will be made to collect new materials written by North Carolina SF/F authors. During periods of limited funding, additions to the collection will be restricted to essential items and gift books.
- **Serials** - Also included in the Schlobin Collection are donated journals, most notably the *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, *Fantasy*, and *Ariel*. Pamphlets— Not collected
- **Leaflets** – Not collected
- **Ephemera** – Not collected
- **Secondary materials** – Donated secondary materials are included in the Schlobin Collection, particularly criticism of the fantastic and genre studies, single-author bibliographies and studies, and collections of essays such as those from the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts.

#### H. Material Types Excluded or Limited:

- Works in poor condition: May be weeded or not added to the collection as appropriate. Since preservation/conservation funds have historically been very limited, condition is an important exclusion for many otherwise collected items
- Guidebooks and workbooks: Will not be collected
- Textbooks: As a general practice, Joyner Library does not collect textbooks – however, gifts may be added as appropriate if especially rare and appropriate to the collection
- Audiotapes and Videotapes: Not collected
- CD-Rom and DVD movies: Some limited collection of DVD movies will be permitted if major award winner or based on works by North Carolina SF/F authors
- Children's Books: Some important works collected
- Encyclopedias and Dictionaries: Some limited collection as needed
- Theses and Dissertations: Collected as needed
- Reference materials: Included in the collection as needed.
- Maps: Maps are covered by the collection development procedure for the East Carolina Manuscript Collection
- Unpublished materials of all types: Not collected, materials of this type would be more appropriately housed in the East Carolina Manuscript Collection or the University Archives and Records Center. Electronic versions authored by ECU faculty or students could be considered for The ScholarShip, ECU's institutional repository. (For example, undergraduate term papers, oral histories, etc.)

Library of Congress Subject Headings and Call Number Ranges:

Description Call Number Range

Language and literature P

Bibliography Z

Related Subject Liaisons

In an effort to provide wider access to materials and the best possible coverage, the collection curator will work closely with the Assistant Director for Special Collections, the Head of Collection Development, the appropriate subject selector, and ECU faculty.

Selection Tools

- Faculty requests
- Major Science Fiction and Fantasy award winners
- Review sources: Publishers' catalogs, WorldCat, and printed catalogs of other fantasy literature book collections
- Newsletters and other online selection tools
- Indexes, bibliographies and series lists
- Inter-library loan requests
- Catalogs of other colleges, universities and research institutions that have similar collecting interest, including:

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Duke University

North Carolina State University

University of California, Riverside (Lloyd Eaton collection)

University of Iowa (M. Horvat collection)

Michigan State University Libraries

MIT Science Fiction Society

Temple University (Paskow Science Fiction Collection)

University of Maryland Baltimore County (Coslet collection 10,000 v. & 15,000 fanzines)

Northern Illinois University (SFFWA and SFWA collection/depository)

University of Delaware (Roland Bounds collection 30,000 v.)

Georgia Institute of Technology (Bud Foote collection)

Bowling Green State University Popular Culture Collection

Stanford University Dime Novel and Story Paper collection

University of Kansas Center for the Study of Science Fiction

Toronto Public Library Merrill collection

The Maison d'Ailleurs Yverdon-les-Bains (Switzerland).

### De-selection

Books that are damaged beyond repair may be discarded. The selector may undertake periodic collection management projects, which may result in some books being weeded. The selector will seek input from the Assistant Director for Special Collections and the Assistant Director for Collections and Technical Services, appropriate liaisons, and faculty during any such projects.