

Music Collection Development Profile

The music collections at the University Library Music Department and Pendlebury Library of Music support teaching and research in the field of music and aim to deliver leading information provision and discovery for Cambridge and the global academic community.¹

Through working together, the collections can be developed further by building on existing strengths as well as by including new priorities. The core aim is to provide high quality content in whichever format is most suitable.

The Pendlebury Library of Music selects and purchases notated music, reference works and literature about music, and sound and video resources in various formats. It makes recommendations for and contributes to the purchase of or subscription to journals, ebooks and electronic resources.

The University Library Music Department actively collects notated music, both modern and antiquarian and, in collaboration with the Manuscripts Department, primary source and archival materials relating to music. The department works closely together with the Collection Development and Description Division for the selection and acquisition of music literature.

The music collections acquire materials through purchase, legal deposit and donations within the context of the University Library Collection Development Framework² and relevant collection development profiles within Cambridge University Library and its Affiliated Libraries.

Pendlebury Library of Music

The Pendlebury Library collection reflects past as well as present teaching and research interests at the Music Faculty³. New acquisitions in current subjects and reader requests relating to taught courses and Faculty research projects are given priority. The library also continues to build a broader core selection of music resources, including an extensive coverage of music scores in all formats and the provision of access to audio resources. The library purchases small sets of performance parts in response to Faculty requests.

The Pendlebury Library collections contain a wide range of formats, including early printed as well as modern materials. Items in non-current formats will only very exceptionally be added to the existing collections.

¹ See also: University Library Mission Statement

² Currently available at http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/CDP_framework.pdf

³ A detailed overview of Faculty teaching and research is available on the Music Faculty webpages

Donations in current formats are generally accepted on the understanding that items on offer will be subject to the library's policies and practices for collection development, retention and disposal.

The Pendlebury Library implements a retention and disposal policy within the wider context of Cambridge University Library and its affiliated libraries. Primary criteria for disposal include damaged items available in other locations and multiple copies of titles that fall outside scope of current Music Faculty research and teaching.

University Library Music Department

A significant proportion of sheet music published in the UK and Ireland is received on legal deposit. A transition from print legal deposit to electronic legal deposit is expected to take place over the coming years. Items not received can be purchased if they are considered to be of significant teaching or research interest.

The Music Department aims to build an extensive research collection of music by composers of primary importance as well as a representative selection of less well known composers. A strong focus lies on collected editions of a high research standard. The department collects various editions of the same work, provided they reflect different stages of musicological research.

The department aims to purchase original antiquarian editions⁴ or, failing that, reprint editions of items that are of research interest and either fit in with existing collection strengths⁵ or fill in significant gaps in the collections.

Music manuscripts and archival materials are primarily acquired within the framework of existing collection strengths. Cambridge related cultural heritage is of particular importance. The department also aspires to support current Music Faculty research interests.

Donations of primary source materials can be accepted according to guidelines applicable to University Library Special Collections policies.

⁴ Priority is given to editions not yet held in any Cambridge libraries, including the Fitzwilliam Museum and the college libraries. Exceptions can be made provided the item is of particular relevance to the library collections and/or can provide additional research value.

⁵ An overview of collection strengths is available on the Music Department webpages.