



Pusey House Library Collection Policy

History of the Library

Pusey House was opened in 1884 as a memorial to Edward Bouverie Pusey (1800-1882), Regius Professor of Hebrew and Canon of Christ Church, and figurehead of the Oxford Movement. According to its founding documents, Pusey House was to be "a home of sacred learning and a rallying point of the Christian faith", and to "exhibit solid learning allied to Christian faith and piety". The library is a key part of this vision.

Dr Pusey's own books, bought after his death, form the heart of Pusey House Library, and his collection has been added to by gift and by purchase throughout the Library's existence. It is also home to an archive of 19th and 20th century catholic Anglicans, religious societies, and religious orders which is of international importance.

The House is closely associated with and supports the work of the University of Oxford, but it is a stand-alone institution which does not receive University funding. Pusey House is a registered charity (no. 247627) under the care of a Board of Governors who act as trustees.

Current purpose of the library

First and foremost, the purpose of the library is to support the work of the House and to assist in carrying out its aim to "[promote] theological study and holiness of life". The library collections should support the study and practice of Anglo-Catholic theology and spirituality, and the work of researchers of the archival holdings. It should also preserve the documented history of the House.

Collection strengths

The library is one of the largest 19th century theology libraries in Oxford, and holds a major collection of materials relating to the Oxford Movement & Anglo-Catholicism. Other strengths of the collection include:

- Anglican History
- Patristics
- Liturgy
- Catholic theology and doctrine
- Named collections (e.g. Athelstan Riley's library)

Acquisition priorities

The library will actively acquire printed material relating to its core subject of the Oxford Movement, which should be interpreted broadly to include its relation to and influence by and on: doctrinal theology; Church history; religious communities; liturgy; ecclesiology; Christian social action; religious architecture. The library will also actively acquire published items relating to and based on its archival holdings.

The library holds single copies of any item, unless there is specific reason for retaining additional copies. Acquisition decisions are primarily the duty of the Librarian, who is advised by the Library Committee and book purchasing sub-committee, and answerable to the Principal, and the Governors of the House.

Short term priorities for 2018-2022 include:

- Reference works to support the existing collections of the library and archive
- Ressourcement theology
- Works by: former Priest Librarians; R. Williams; Ratzinger; Danielou; De Lubac; Balthasar
- Set completion of: Ancient Christian Writers; Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiorum Latinorum; Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture; Classics of Western Spirituality; Early Church Fathers.

Donations

The library will consider gifts which relate directly to the institution's core subjects. We are not able to accept unsolicited donations without prior arrangement. The library does not have sufficient space to accept materials on deposit, and other than in exceptional circumstances is only able to accept outright gifts. Any gifts are accepted on the terms that the library retains the right to dispose of any items in the future. Donors are strongly encouraged to provide financial support alongside donations in order to facilitate the accession of donated materials and make them available to the public as soon as possible.

Pusey House Archives

The archive collects material relating to the House for long-term preservation, including:

- Pusey House annual report
- Governors' minutes
- Pusey House term cards
- Sermons preached in the chapel (where available)
- Pusey House publicity material
- Articles and offprints about the House published externally
- Papers of Priest Librarians and Governors relating to the House

The archive will also consider accepting papers from Anglo-Catholic Societies, Anglican Religious Orders, and particularly notable Anglo-Catholic individuals. Decisions on whether or not to accept external donations of papers may be determined by issues of space as well as relevance to the House collections.

Journals

The library holds complete or part runs of 100-200 periodical publications, with about 15 having current subscriptions. Runs and part runs of journals should be retained in perpetuity where:

- They relate directly to the Oxford Movement and Anglo-Catholic life and thought. This may include retaining non-scholarly grey literature including magazines and newsletters, which may be transferred to the archives.
- The run has a significant provenance or link to the house. This may include donor identities; editorship by House members; annotations.
- The publication is not available elsewhere in Oxford in hard copy or e-format.

Preservation

The library seeks to preserve as much of the history of its books as possible, including structural and provenance evidence within volumes. The library will commission conservation work on items if this is required to make the items suitable for study or exhibition, where funds are available. Non-interventionist preservation work is carried out by a team of volunteers from the Arts Society.

Disposals

The library will dispose of duplicates, and materials not in line with the core collections, particularly those which are readily available in other libraries in Oxford.

In order to maximise the financial returns and scholarly use from withdrawn books, the material will be offered in the following order:

- 1) If the title is not available elsewhere in Oxford: free to other libraries associated with the University
- 2) For sale to selected second hand book dealers including St. Philip's; Salsus Books; Qoheleth Books
- 3) Free to members of Pusey House
- 4) For sale in-house for a limited duration
- 5) For collection for sale or recycling by AnyBook.biz

Review

This policy should be reviewed at 5 yearly intervals.

Hilary Term, 2018