

DRAFT

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Library Collection Policy for Feature Films Winter, 2002

Purpose

Feature films have an important place in academic library collections. Although only one hundred years old, feature films are considered an art form and have their own specialized field of criticism. While individual languages may vary, film depends on telling a story visually. This certainly accounts for their astounding success throughout the world in the last century. Perhaps more than any other art form, feature films have the ability to reveal to a mass audience the many facets of culture - its guiding beliefs, standards, and ideals - as well as to display the individual artistic vision of the filmmaker. The best feature films – American or foreign - can only enrich and broaden the undergraduate's cultural and educational experience. Therefore, it should be the library's role to collect and make available feature films which are considered the best representatives of this important art form.

Scope of coverage

The library's feature film collection will fulfill a different mission from that of the Center for Instructional Media and Technology (CIMT). While the CIMT media collection is used principally for classroom instruction, the library's feature film collection will circulate. Feature films from all cultures, languages, and time periods will be considered for purchase. Guidelines for selection of feature films will include, but not be restricted to, lists of the best films published by the following organizations:

The Academy Awards
The American Film Institute
The British Film Institute
British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA)
Cannes Film Festival Awards
Golden Globe Awards
Los Angeles Film Critics Awards
National Board of Review
National Society of Film Critics Awards
New York Film Critics Circle

Types of Material Collected

Inclusions

The library intends to develop its feature film collection by concentrating on the purchase of films which are available in DVD format. Digital videos provide better image and

sound quality, are more durable, and have more special features (such as film commentaries) than do videotapes. Donated feature films will be considered for addition to the collection using the guidelines outlined here and elsewhere in the library's collection development policy.

Exclusions

At least initially, the library will not collect VHS and S-VHS format video tapes for the feature films collection. The library will also exclude any material which does not fall within these collection development guidelines.

Library unit responsible for this collection

The technical services department will be responsible for selecting, acquiring, processing and cataloging feature films. Members of this department will consult with faculty and staff in the development of this collection. All feature films collected will be added to the library's online catalog. They will be cataloged with full subject access, using the Library of Congress classification system. A special fund will be established from the library's collection development budget for the purpose collecting feature films on DVD.

Use of the collection

The library will circulate all of its feature film collection. Any faculty member wishing to place a film in the collection on specific course reserve may follow the same procedure as that for library book reserves. No feature film will be placed on permanent reserve. Unlike the CIMT, the library will not provide any special viewing area for DVD feature films, nor maintain any special equipment. In-house viewing equipment is available in CIMT on the lower level of the library. Worn out or damaged materials will be systematically removed from the collection and replaced if necessary.