

## **Collection Development Policy: Jay I. Kislak Collection**

### **1 Introduction**

The Jay I. Kislak Collection at the University of Miami began in 2016 with a generous gift of over 2,000 items made by its namesake. Jay Kislak built his collection over the course of 60 years, hoping it would provide a resource for studying the multi-faceted history of the lands and peoples of the Americas through varied and sometimes contrasting points of view. The collection is particularly rich in primary source materials on Florida, the Caribbean, Mesoamerican archaeology, and Polar exploration. It now comprises more than 3,500 books, manuscripts, maps, documents, photographs, zines, and artist books that convey a panoramic view of the history of the Americas from early hemispheric cultural encounters to the contemporary period. With the purpose of advancing scholarship and intellectual curiosity on the Americas, this collection serves as a dynamic multi-disciplinary resource for students, faculty, researchers, and community members seeking to explore the diverse experiences of multiple communities stemming from cultural encounters and their legacies. Our focus is to challenge dominant narratives while highlighting historically underrepresented voices and experiences.

### **2 Purpose and scope**

This Collection Development Policy establishes the framework and guidelines for the acquisition, organization, and maintenance of materials dedicated to advancing understanding and scholarship in American studies, hemispherically defined. Our approach to collecting is informed by the idea that colonialism and its legacies have created power hierarchies that have led to discrimination based on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and language. Our goal is to offer resources that subvert, question, and blur these hierarchies. The collection aims to facilitate curriculum and research needs across multiple disciplines, departments, and research centers on campus, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration.

The collection is interdisciplinary and focuses on materials relating to the lives, experiences, identities, and representations of diverse communities in the Americas. The scope includes materials from all disciplines and areas of study where they intersect with cultural encounters and their legacies in the Americas. The collection's current strengths are history and literature. In

addition to books, we collect broadsides, manuscripts, artists' books, zines, archives, maps, photographs, and graphic art, so long as it pertains to relevant subject matter in the Americas. To the extent possible, the collection will not exclude format types where the material is within the collecting scope. We reserve the right to decline donations. At this point in time we are not interested in trade paperbacks, DVDs, VHS, CDs, or cassettes.

Given the geographical scope of collecting, materials in the languages spoken in the Americas, including but not limited to English, Spanish, Haitian Kreyol, French, Creole, Portuguese, Papiamentu/o, Dutch, Garifuna, Nahuatl, Mayan, Tarahumara, Quechua, Aymara, Mikasuki, Inuktitut, Cree, Cherokee, Ojibwe, Diné, and other Indigenous languages, are priorities for collection.

### **3 Relevance**

It is important to consider the relevancy of a particular resource regarding its potential addition to the Jay I. Kislak Collection.

1. **Content:** The resource offers a perspective that challenges dominant discourse on colonialism and its legacies in the Americas.
2. **User needs and wants:** This will dictate the acquisition of a resource in terms of its relevance across different user-based sources, such as scholarship, circulation numbers, etc.
3. **Holdings of other libraries:** The material is considered of great value for its rareness, and peer institutions may not have it in their holdings.
4. **Uniqueness:** The material is rare or offers unique perspectives to further the dialogue within the collection.
5. **Diversity:** The resource advances diversity and inclusion practices, giving the collection the opportunity to hold a multiplicity of views within the same field.

### **4 Collection maintenance and evaluation**

The Jay I. Kislak Collection is committed to ensuring that its holdings remain current, accessible, and relevant to the evolving needs of our users. To achieve this goal, we have established

policies and procedures for collection maintenance and evaluation, encompassing the areas of inventory, preservation, repair, and replacement of materials.

### Inventory

We maintain accurate and up-to-date inventory records to track the location, status, and condition of materials within the collection. This enables us to manage the collection effectively, identify gaps or duplication, and facilitate user access.

### Preservation

We are committed to preserving the materials in our collection for future generations. We employ best practices in archival and preservation standards to protect against deterioration, damage, or loss. This includes implementing appropriate storage conditions, handling procedures, and conservation measures as needed.

### Repair and Replacement

Materials damaged or in poor condition are assessed by qualified staff for potential repair or replacement. Whenever feasible, we prioritize preservation efforts to extend the lifespan of valuable or rare materials. In cases where replacement is necessary, we seek out suitable alternatives that align with our collection goals and criteria.

### Evaluation

We regularly assess the performance, strengths, weaknesses, and gaps of the collection through various methods and criteria. This includes analyzing usage statistics, utilizing collection analysis tools, and benchmarking against peer institutions. Evaluation findings guide collection development strategies and priorities, ensuring that our collection remains responsive to our diverse user community's evolving needs and interests.

### Deaccession

In extremely rare cases, materials that no longer meet our selection criteria or are deemed unfit for retention are responsibly deaccessioned from the collection. We adhere to established deaccessioning policies and ethical guidelines, ensuring transparency, accountability, and respect for intellectual property rights. Disposal methods may include return to creator, donation to other institutions, sale, or recycling when appropriate.

## **5 Intellectual freedom and censorship**

The Jay I. Kislak Collection upholds the principles of intellectual freedom, recognizing the importance of providing access to a diverse range of information, opinions, and perspectives to support academic inquiry, critical thinking, and freedom of expression. We are committed to fostering an environment that respects the rights and responsibilities of our users, including the rights to privacy, confidentiality, and freedom of speech.

In accordance with these principles, the collection affirms its support for freedom of expression and opposes censorship in any form. We recognize the inherent value of diverse viewpoints and the need for open dialogue and debate in and beyond scholarly discourse.

The collection also acknowledges its obligations regarding copyright and fair use, adhering to legal and ethical standards in acquiring, using, and disseminating information. We respect the intellectual property rights of creators and authors, while also promoting the principles of fair use and the free exchange of ideas within the bounds of copyright law.

## **6 Policy review and revision**

The policy and procedure are reviewed every two years by the Jay I. Kislak Chair and Curator. The review process involves a comprehensive assessment of the collection's scope, objectives, selection criteria, and procedures as well as an evaluation of emerging trends and developments and feedback from library staff, researchers, and community members.

In collaboration with the Critical Cataloging and Metadata Remediation working group, the biennial reviews will include a review of the policy's language and the terms used to describe the people and communities represented in the collection.