



Celtic Library

Collection development policy

Access

The Celtic Library is open to all members of the University of Oxford studying a Celtic language. Temporary access may be granted to other readers who need to consult books not available elsewhere. The approval of the Fellow Librarian, the Jesus Professor of Celtic, or the appropriate lecturer in Celtic, is required in all cases.

The Jesus Professor of Celtic, or the appropriate lecturer in Celtic, superintends the collection, in collaboration with the Fellow Librarian and the College Librarian.

Subjects

The Celtic Library collects books and journals to support study and research in the Celtic languages, together with the history, archaeology, and culture of the Celtic peoples.

The Celtic languages are Welsh, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Manx, Breton, and Cornish, together with their ancestors. A small historic collection of books in and relating to the Basque language is in the reserve collection.

The following subjects are within the scope of the collection; this list is not exclusive:

- Linguistics and philology
- Dictionaries, grammars, and language learning material
- Literary texts and criticism
- Bibliography, palaeography, and codicology
- Archaeology, epigraphy, and numismatics
- History (from the ancient world to the early modern period)
- Historiography
- Heraldry and genealogy
- Religion, hagiography, and church history
- Mythology and folklore
- Music
- Art and architecture

Topography and local history are retained but not actively acquired.

Books on the history of the Celtic nations post-1800 are placed in the Meyricke Library.

Books on Jesus College and its connection with Wales, including biographical material on Old Members, are placed in the Oxford and Jesubite collections of the Meyricke Library.

Languages

Books are collected in English and the Celtic languages. Secondary works in languages other than English, especially French and German, are also collected.

The non-Celtic languages of the Celtic nations (such as Scots) are not collected.

Academic level

Books are collected at undergraduate and graduate level.

Special types of material

Journals in the subject area are acquired selectively by subscription. Offprints from journals not held in the collection are accepted but not actively acquired.

Conference proceedings and Festschriften in the subject area are acquired.

Reference works, including dictionaries, may be confined to the Library. Rare or valuable items may be moved to the Fellows' Library for security.

Audio and video, and other non-book material, is not actively collected but may be retained.

Electronic resources are available through OxLIP+, provided by the Bodleian Libraries.

Multiple copies

The Library will normally keep only one copy of a book. Multiple copies of books in significant demand may be made available (of which one copy may be confined to the Library).

Book recommendations

Books recommended by the Jesus Professor of Celtic, or the appropriate lecturer in Celtic, will be bought. Books placed on a reading list for a taught course will be bought.

Recommendations from students will be passed to the Jesus Professor of Celtic, or the appropriate lecturer in Celtic, for evaluation.

Gifts

Gifts are welcomed and will be accepted under the same criteria as purchases. The donor's name will be recorded on a bookplate and the College Librarian will write to the donor in acknowledgement.

Lists of new books

The College Librarian will prepare a list of acquisitions from time to time. The list will be displayed in the Celtic Library, circulated to readers by email, and made available on the Library website.

Disposal

Books are acquired with the intention of long-term retention. However, the limited space in the Celtic Library and reserve collection will require the collection to be reviewed from time to time.

Duplicates and superseded editions will either be disposed of or transferred to the reserve collection. The availability of an electronic version of a book does not count as duplication in this context.

If a member of Jesus College has contributed to a book then it may be considered for transfer to the Jesubite collection.

Books for disposal will be offered to Celtic Library readers and to other Oxford libraries in the first instance, before the usual routes for disposal of books from the Meyricke Library.

No book will be disposed of if it is the only copy available in Oxford libraries.

Classification

The collection is arranged by language and then subject, as follows:

Z	General Celtic		
ZA	Welsh	i	General
ZB	Irish	ii	Linguistics
ZC	Scottish Gaelic	iii	Literature and bibliography
ZD	Manx	iv	History and archaeology
ZE	Breton	v	Religion, mythology, and folklore
ZF	Cornish	vi	Music
ZG	Basque		

Books are assigned a running number within each subdivision.

Complementary collections in Oxford

The Taylor Institution Library holds a significant Celtic collection.

The Bodleian Libraries receive Celtic material published in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland under legal deposit. Note that legal deposit does not apply to the Isle of Man as it is not part of the United Kingdom.

The Language Centre Library collects books, audio, and video for learning the Celtic languages.

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