

THE LIBRARY

FILM COLLECTION

Collection Development Policy

1) Mission

The Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Library is specialised in the field of international relations and development studies. Its primary mission is to support the instructional needs of the Graduate Institute faculty and students by offering them relevant and high-quality resources.

Audiovisual media were first introduced at the Institute as a subject and an object during the 1990s through the foundation of the CHERSA – the Audiovisual Unit of the Graduate Institute of International Studies – by Professor Yves Collart, pioneer and expert in non-written sources for contemporary history.

An interest in cinema lives on at the Institute through the teaching and studying of its role in (re)shaping the collective memories of societies living in an armed conflict or post-civil war context. Screening-debates on major international questions are also regularly organised in collaboration with the United Nations.

2) Film collection

The audiovisual collection consists of about 3'500 DVDs of documentary and fiction films which enrich and complete the Library print collections.

It follows a specific thematic classification on international relations and development studies, whose main subjects are:

- Biopics
- World economy
- Economic, sustainable and social development
- Environment
- Global migration
- Anthropology
- Conflicts and crises
- Gender studies
- Health
- World countries histories and societies

These themes may evolve depending on institutional orientations or international current affairs.

3) Selection

General selection criteria:

- Relevance of content
- Informative and pedagogical value
- Analytical and descriptive level of treatment
- Aesthetic qualities
- Reputation
- Film origin

Reference sources:

- Cinema knowledge
- Existing collections knowledge
- Specialised media
- Film festival programmes
- Course catalogue
- [Purchase suggestions](#)

The Library acknowledges fictional films as legitimate. The subjective character of the filmic medium, which is not an academic object, makes it an area of freedom where imagination, engagement and a critical mind may be expressed. It is important that this different angle of approach finds its place among the collections.

As the Library target audience is highly educated, it is considered able to apprehend and analyse documentary and fiction films with objectivity.

A popular narrative movie is also an attractive product in order to drive public attention to more demanding documents through serendipity.

4) Acquisition

The selected films are purchased for the most part from Swiss, French, English and Northern American suppliers.

Acquisition languages:

- Bilingualism is chosen for English and French films
- English subtitles are preferred for resources in another language if no bilingual version exists

Format criteria:

- DVD region code 2 will be preferred
- DVD region code 1 will be considered if code 2 is not available
- Blu-ray discs are not purchased even if it is a suggestion
- Videotapes are not purchased even if it is a suggestion

Additional remarks:

- The Library does not record television programmes anymore
- Donations are accepted if they respect the Library collection development policy
- Worn-out DVDs will be purchased again as long as they were often borrowed and their content remains relevant
- DVDs considered obsolete can be deselected