1. General Information

The Religious Studies Collection Policy is bound by the general principles detailed in the Library’s Collection Management Policy. It is not a stand-alone document and should be read in conjunction with the Library’s Collection Management Policy and any other subject specific collection development documents.

1.1 Collection Purpose
The emphasis at the University of Waikato is on the study of religion as a human phenomenon – how it shapes people’s lives and determines political and social outcomes. The collection supports the teaching, research and learning of the Religious Studies Programme, within the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS). The collection also supports other disciplines.

1.2 Primary User Groups
The primary users of the collection are undergraduates, graduate students and staff within the Religious Studies’ Programme and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

1.3 Teaching and Research interests include:
- World religions and religion in the modern world more generally
- Christianity, especially historical and contemporary thought
- contemporary religious issues – especially fundamentalism and extremism
- inter-religious relations and dialogue
- Islam, especially historical developments and contemporary dimensions
- Islam and the West, especially Christian-Muslim relations
- religion and secular society
- religion and politics
- philosophy of religion

1.4 Interdisciplinary Relationships
The collection also supports relevant courses and research in History, Philosophy, Screen and Media Studies, Political Science, Societies and Cultures.

2. Description of Existing Collection

The collection includes significant material on Christianity, its denominations and sects and other major religions such as Judaism, Islam and Buddhism. Relevant material is held in the following LC classification areas in the Central Library’s general collection:

- BL: Religions (General), Mythology, Rationalism
- BM: Judaism
- BP: Islam, Bahaism, Theosophy
BQ: Buddhism
BR: Christianity
BS: Bible, Exegesis
BT: Doctrinal theology
BV: Practical theology
BX: Denominations, Sects

Additional material is held in the New Zealand Collection. Increasingly, e-books are being purchased. The Library provides access to scholarly journals, in electronic and print format, and to indexing and full text databases. Databases with relevant content include:
- Asia Studies, Humanities
- Biography in Context
- Credo
- EBSCO Religion and Philosophy Collection
- JSTOR
- Oxford Journals, Humanities
- Project Muse
- Scopus
- Web of Science Core Collection

3. Scope of Collecting
Collecting focuses on material relating to the teaching and research interests as noted above, with Judaism; Christianity; Islam; Hinduism; and Buddhism as the primary religions; together with an emphasis on contemporary religious issues including in particular inter-religious dialogue, fundamentalism, and Christian-Muslim relations. The emphasis is on both undergraduate and graduate-level texts, research monographs, professional society publications and journals. Material of a general nature, including commentaries, comparisons of denominations and material on Catholic thought, is collected selectively. Devotional, pastoral, self-help, church administration and preaching material and material on specific denominations and inspirational literature are not collected.

3.1 Formats and Types of Material
Print and/or electronic formats are collected but other types of material may be considered.

3.2 Geographical Areas
Collecting focuses primarily on Western Europe, North America, Australasia and the Pacific, South East Asia and the Middle East.

3.3 Languages
English is the primary language of the collection. Some existing material is in German, French, Latin and Greek but new material in these languages is not normally collected.

3.4 Publication Dates
Collecting focuses upon recent and current imprints to support the teaching and research areas of the Programme. Retrospective collecting may be undertaken to support new teaching and research.

4. University of Waikato at Tauranga
There are no Religious Studies courses taught at Tauranga and no courses are currently planned.