

Pittsburg State University Library Services

Collection Development Policy

This Collection Development policy identifies the long-term and short-term collection goals and policies of Pittsburg State University Libraries. Collection implies all library resources, whether owned or leased, in physical or electronic formats. The policy includes the established principles and guidelines to be followed by librarians and by departmental faculty in developing and maintaining balanced and relevant collections across disciplines. It takes into account the mission and goals of the University while being responsive to the evolving needs of a dynamic institution. The Collection Development policy is periodically reviewed in order to ensure that its provisions continue to reflect the current requirements of students and faculty members, academic programs, and the available resources.

Library Services is dedicated to providing information for students and faculty at the point of need. Library Services exercises a preference for selection and access to electronic and digital resources thereby increasing user accessibility, regardless of physical location. To build and to manage the collection, Library Services relies on the expertise of its faculty liaison librarians who are responsible for the full life-cycle of collection management from the point of selection to withdrawal. Each faculty librarian is responsible for primary selection in one or more subject areas. As liaisons, faculty librarians interact with departmental faculty and students in selecting materials and electronic resources that reflect current needs and anticipate changing curriculum needs, faculty research interests, interdisciplinary trends, and scholarly communication paths.

Guiding Principles and Priorities

The Library collection will directly reflect and support the mission and the goals of the University. Specifically, the priorities for building a balanced and relevant collection across disciplines include:

- providing university-level scholarly resources that support the academic programs and faculty research interests. Collections will reflect diverse viewpoints and areas of scholarship.
- affirming Library Service's commitment to enabling every person to engage in the lifelong pursuit of knowledge by supporting the open exchange of ideas, innovation, intellectual freedom, diversity, and equitable access to information.
- continuing Library Service's tradition of meeting curricular changes and intellectual demands with thoughtful innovations that respectfully build on past achievements.

Rationale for Weeding the University Libraries' Collection

An important part of creating a relevant and evolving Library collection that supports the University's mission is the deselection or weeding process. With input from faculty, the Library continuously evaluates the collection and identifies items to be withdrawn. This process allows the Library to keep the collection up-to-date, to support both traditional and emerging areas of teaching and research, and to fulfill other service needs. Items that are candidates for withdrawal from the collection includes but are not limited to items that are out-of-date, that no longer support University areas of teaching and research, or that have no usage over a period of many years.

Selection Criteria

Pittsburg State University Library Services acquires or provides access to a wide variety of resources in print and digital formats. Library Services evaluates potential acquisitions on numerous criteria, including but not limited to:

- curriculum and/or research relevance
- quality of material
- authoritativeness
- currency of information
- readership level
- language
- historical value
- price
- projected user demand
- impact to the entire collection

Pittsburg State University Library Services primarily collects resources in print and electronic formats, with an increasing emphasis on electronic formats for journal collections, media collections, and reference resources. Library Services secures access to information through direct licensing from authorized providers and by utilizing connections to free and open resources. Selection criteria specifically applicable to electronic and digital formats will include but not be limited to:

- Uniqueness and comprehensiveness of information
- Currency and validity of information and frequency of updates
- Enhanced content, additional functionality, availability of site license
- Cost effectiveness of access
- Archival access
- Copyright and fair use, including interlibrary loan privileges
- Confidentiality and privacy provisions for all library patrons
- Availability of usage statistics based on accepted standards
- Legal issues, including licensing requirements and restrictions
- Reliability of the vendor or publisher in providing customer and technical support and training
- Reputation and authority of the publisher
- Technical support for storage and the delivery of locally hosted content.

Weeding Criteria

- Collection level: How vital is the item for coursework and research?
- Intrinsic value: Is the item a seminal work in its field?
- Currency: Is the information outdated or no longer authoritative?
- Duplication: Is demand sufficient for multiple copies of the item?
- Physical Condition: Can a damaged item be repaired? Should it be replaced?
- Research value: Are older materials still valuable for research interests?
- Edition: Is the edition held by the library superseded by a newer edition or format?
- Completeness: Is the item part of a set or series of which the library does not have a complete run?
- Uniqueness: Is the item held only by Pittsburg State University?
- Usage: Has the item been checked out frequently or recently?
- Format: Is the format obsolete?