

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Collection Development document describes how the Seattle Pacific University (SPU) Library collection is created and maintained so that it supports the teaching, learning, and research mission of the University and the Library's vision, mission, and guiding principles (see the "Seattle Pacific University Library Strategic Plan"). Listed below are policies and procedures for each stage in the life cycle of intellectual content owned by or maintained in or through the SPU Library.

2.0 GENERAL COLLECTION POLICIES

2.1 Collection Guidelines

It is a part of the mission of the SPU Library to provide "access to diverse information resources that support the teaching and scholarly mission of SPU" (Mission and Guiding Principle no. 2 on Collections).

For this reason, all content selected by SPU liaison librarians should be in one or more of the following categories:

1. Materials that support library-using programs in the undergraduate and graduate curriculum.
2. Core materials expected in the library of a university of this sort.
3. Materials that reflect SPU's mission, history, and signature statements, as well as SPU initiatives. For more on these, see "*Special Collection Development Policies*," under 3.1.2, below.

The SPU Library's collection development decisions are made within the context of the [Orbis Cascade Alliance](#). Because SPU is a member of the Orbis Cascade Alliance, materials that do not fall into categories 1-3 should normally be obtained through the Orbis Cascade Alliance's Summit borrowing program, or through interlibrary loan. However, purchasing some materials outside of these categories may be justified if the materials support SPU student or faculty research, and if owning these materials makes a contribution to the consortial holdings of the Orbis Cascade Alliance. Hence SPU liaison librarians may decide to purchase also

4. Materials supportive of advanced research (including the advanced research of faculty) that a) meet SPU collection development criteria other

than their importance to advanced research and b) make a contribution to the holdings of the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

The SPU Library collection is periodically evaluated by accrediting agencies. The overall collection is developed to meet the accreditation standards of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and certain disciplinary collections, to meet secondary accreditation standards. To meet accreditation standards, new SPU academic program proposals must contain a Library Impact Statement.

2.2 Responsibility

The Dean of the Library is responsible for the Library collection. The Dean of the Library makes decisions about collection policy and implementation based on the teaching, learning, and research mission of the University, and the vision, mission, and guiding principles of the Library. In practice, the Dean of the Library delegates responsibility for the development of the Library collection to the liaison librarians.

Each liaison librarian has responsibility for defined subject areas. With advice from faculty, each liaison selects, maintains, evaluates, and deselects books and media in these areas. Decisions regarding *multidisciplinary* or high-cost materials are often made collectively.

2.3 Communities

The SPU Library collection development is done for two levels of user communities:

Primary Community

Library collection development is primarily done for current SPU students, faculty, administration, and staff.

Secondary Communities

SPU Library resources are also made available to other academic institutions through consortial and cooperative agreements. The primary consortial arrangement for the SPU Library is the Orbis Cascade Alliance. For this reason, SPU Library collection development is also done with an eye on the contributions (whether distinctive or otherwise) that SPU is obliged to make to the collective collection of the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

2.4 Academic Freedom

As stated in the *Faculty Employment Handbook* and the *Undergraduate Catalog*, the University highly prizes academic freedom. The Seattle Pacific University Library is therefore committed to professional principles of academic freedom and access to information “in the context of the University’s mission and Christian love” ([Faculty Employment Handbook](#) 7.1). Rights and responsibilities of

librarians regarding academic freedom are defined in that section, but in particular sec. “7.1.2 Academic Freedom for Librarians.”

The Library makes available materials reflecting diverse social, religious, political, and moral viewpoints in order to provide students and researchers with a variety of materials. See also [the American Library Association’s web site](#) for the following (and other) statements and policies related to intellectual freedom:

- [Library Bill of Rights](#)
- [Interpretations of the Bill of Rights](#)
- [Code of Ethics](#)
- [Freedom to Read Statement](#)

Persons wishing to challenge an item in the collection must follow the procedure outlined on the form entitled “Request for Review.”

2.5 Diversity

At Seattle Pacific University, we believe Christ calls us to value diversity and to participate together in grace-filled community ([SPU Statement of Faith](#)). In keeping with the university’s commitment to examine the impact of curricula, policies, and practices and create a learning environment where all students can flourish ([SPU Diversity Commitment](#)), the SPU Library endeavors to develop a diverse collection in a manner consistent with sec. 2.4 of this policy on Academic Freedom.

The library profession defines diversity as the ways that people are both alike and different, visibly and invisibly ([ALA ODLOS Glossary of Terms](#)). With this in mind, the SPU Library is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse, equitable, and inclusive collection that features resources dealing with topics such as race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual identity/orientation, age, ability, socioeconomic status, and religion, all within the context of “the University’s mission and Christian love” ([Faculty Employment Handbook](#) 7.1). We do this in service to the SPU Library’s primary and secondary constituencies, and to God, whose image all persons bear.

3.0 COLLECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

3.1 Selecting

3.1.1 General Selection Criteria

Acquisitions are made to meet the academic needs of SPU students and faculty as specified under 2.1. In addition to the guidelines already spelled out in section

2.1, overarching considerations shall include the following (listed in no particular order):

- Format, with priority given to the digital, all else (including availability, the security of permanent access, contribution to shareable Alliance holdings (below), and so forth) being equal
- Need
- Currency
- Lasting value
- Quality
- Importance or Reputation
- Contribution to scholarship, teaching, or service
- Strength of holdings in subject area, considered also in the light of whether it is an area especially distinctive of SPU
- Diversity of holdings in subject area
- Price, value, cost-benefit, etc.
- Level of difficulty
- Number of copies already in the SPU Library or available via Summit borrowing
- Contribution to the shared and shareable collection of the Orbis Cascade Alliance
- Language
- Usage, projected and past
- Space

Because traditional “textbooks” do not normally rise to a number of these (and other) criteria (e.g. Currency, Lasting value, Importance (in the sense of seminality), Price, Space), the Library does not usually consider them a good investment.

3.1.2 Specific Selection Criteria

One-Time Expenditures

One-time expenditures are the responsibility of the Library’s liaisons, who will collect in the most viable formats, and—all things being equal—prioritize the electronic (i.e. digital).

- **Electronic format.** Major considerations for purchase in an electronic format may include:
 - suitability for, or convenience relative to anticipated use (e.g. remote 24-hour access, distance education, Reserves, Reference, searchability, careful traditional reading and study);
 - acceptability of platform or features;
 - immunity to defacement;
 - number of simultaneous users;

- number of copies available via either Summit borrowing or Alliance e-book initiatives;
- total cost differential,
- perpetual access;
- faculty input; and
- availability of Alliance holdings.
- **Binding.** Liaisons will choose the binding of physical materials based on anticipated wear-and-tear (including the possibility that defacement will require replacement eventually anyway), ongoing value of the content, and the cost differential.
- **Media.** Liaisons select media with the standard selection criteria in mind, with priority given to streaming.
- **Microformats.** The purchase of microfilm and microfiche is strongly discouraged, except as a last resort.

Ongoing Expenditures

Annual re-evaluation of subscriptions and standing orders is the responsibility of the Library's liaisons. Annual re-evaluation of database subscriptions is the responsibility of the librarians working collaboratively in conjunction with stakeholders.

Periodicals

The selection, renewal, and cancellation of periodical subscriptions, as well as, when appropriate, the removal of back issues, is the responsibility of the relevant liaison(s), working in consultation with faculty. Titles that do not fall clearly under the jurisdiction of particular liaison(s) are the responsibility of the Reference Collection Coordinator. Electronic editions will be preferred.

- **Renewals.** Considerations in addition to any major shifts in the areas named under 2.1 and 3.1.1 shall be the following:
 - availability in electronic format, especially unembargoed PDF,
 - use,
 - price,
 - indexing.
- **New Subscriptions.** Considerations in addition to those mentioned under "Collection Guidelines" (2.1) and "General Selection Criteria" (3.1.1) shall include the following:
 - Availability in electronic format, especially unembargoed PDF;
 - Willingness of School or Department to build usage into its curriculum;
 - Coverage in indices and databases to which SPU patrons have access; and
 - Availability elsewhere in Seattle.

Subscription Databases

- The *renewal and cancellation* of databases is the responsibility of the relevant liaison librarian(s), working in consultation with faculty. Titles that

do not fall clearly under the jurisdiction of particular liaison(s) are the responsibility of the Acquisitions Librarian. In general, database subscriptions are reconsidered periodically.

- *New* database subscriptions beyond the means of a given liaison or sub-group of liaisons will be considered by the group as a whole, as funds allow. Considerations in addition to those mentioned under Collection Guidelines, General Selection Criteria, and One-Time Expenditures shall include the following:
 - Cost effectiveness;
 - Interface (Ease of use);
 - Area of coverage;
 - Breadth and depth of coverage;
 - Overlap in coverage (indexing, full-text);
 - Embargos;
 - Presence, amount, format, and quality of full text;
 - Number of simultaneous users; and
 - Accessibility via the public libraries or elsewhere in town, or even the availability of a work-around, as set over against the real need/demand at SPU

Open-Access Resources

The Library collects open-access electronic resources (web pages, electronic books, journals, databases, etc.) that meet General and Specific selection criteria. See under Processing, below.

Gifts

The Library welcomes relevant gift materials. Final decisions regarding accession are made by the relevant liaison, using the selection criteria. A memo for tax purposes is provided, but appraisals are the responsibility of the donor. See also the codicil on Gifts.

***Special* Collection Development Policies**

Policy specific to a given special collection or department may be set down in a codicil that follows the outline of this Policy, but speaks only to those points at which *elaboration or a departure of some sort* seems called for. Among those completed are codicils for the following unique local collections:

- Archives
- Digital Commons @ SPU
- Rare Books
- Special Collections (Guidelines)
- Wesleyan, Methodist, Wesleyan Holiness, and Free Methodist Collection (codicil for Theology)
- Work and Faith

For these sectors of the collection, too, there is policy in place, and even, where noted, a codicil:

- **Reference.** The Reference Collection consists of specialized or general works which need to be available to SPU library patrons and librarians, and hence cannot leave the building. The liaison librarians and the Reference Collection Coordinator select for the Reference Collection, but the Reference Collection Coordinator manages the Reference Collection as a whole. Works of e-reference accessible from the Library's discovery system and web pages are also considered a part of the Reference Collection and indeed prioritized over print.
- **Curriculum and Juvenile.** The Education liaison selects for and maintains the K-12 Curriculum and Juvenile Collections in support of the School of Education.
- **Popular Fiction.** The SPU Library maintains a small popular fiction collection for leisure reading. Intended to be a "browsing" collection, these books are not fully catalogued, and items are purchased through a special library director's fund. The collection is developed and maintained by one of the liaison librarians.
- **Theses, Dissertations, and Honors Projects.** Theses, dissertations and honors projects are catalogued by the contributor, originating department, or SPU Library staff. The files are then uploaded to long-term storage, made accessible via Digital Commons @ SPU, and indexed in Primo. Print copies of Theses, Dissertations, and Honors Projects are cataloged and kept at the discretion of the Library.
- **Rare Books.** The Emmanuel Room houses, in addition to the **Wesleyan, Methodist, Wesleyan Holiness, and Free Methodist Collection**, a limited number of items too valuable, rare, or fragile for less restricted access. For more information, see the codicil on Rare Books.
- **Test File.** The Test File is a collection of psychological and educational instruments used for teaching purposes. The Psychology and Education liaisons select for this collection in coordination with the dean of SPFC.

3.2 Obtaining Acquiring

Acquisition of books, media and serials is coordinated by the Acquisitions Librarian. The Acquisitions Librarian will purchase from among several vendors, using criteria such as service, fill-rate and price.

Copyright

The Library will follow United States copyright law and prevailing interpretation when obtaining materials and making them available for use. The University Librarian, with the support of the Scholarly Communications Librarian, is responsible for making sure that copyright law and guidelines are followed.

Licenses

The Library will comply with licensing requirements, and manage these licenses so that the library is in compliance. Compliance and management of licenses is the responsibility of the Dean of the Library, with the support of the Acquisitions Librarian.

Orbis Cascade Alliance

The SPU Library will remain an active and contributing member of the Orbis Cascade Alliance, and cooperate with Summit borrowing policies and procedures.

Interlibrary Loan

The SPU Library will remain an active and contributing participant in interlibrary loan.

3.3 Processing

Cataloging

Materials are cataloged in keeping with the Library of Congress Classification System and related professional standards. SPU will also follow Orbis Cascade Alliance policies for shared library management and discovery services.

Management of the catalog and cataloging standards is the responsibility of the head of Technical Services.

Electronic resources

In addition to electronic holdings purchased by the Library, the following may also be cataloged:

- Open-access journals of quality;
- Open access databases of exceptional merit;
- Other open-access materials of high value.

3.4 Storing

Materials are either

- Physically housed in the library building, or
- Organized on library web sites.

With the exception of those archival materials in offsite storage, there are no collections of library materials on the SPU campus outside of the library building.

The Head of Access Services is responsible for making decisions (in consultation with the liaisons and the Dean of the Library) about where materials are stored in the library, and coordinating the implementation of those decisions.

3.5 Maintaining

Preservation

The Library seeks to maintain the physical integrity of materials in the collection through conservation measures such as maintenance of the library building, the

control of ultraviolet radiation, temperature, humidity, and dust. When preservation of the original format is important, then materials that continue to meet selection criteria are repaired, recased, or rebound.

Replacement

A book replacement budget will exist to replace books which are lost, damaged or worn out, but continue to meet the selection criteria listed above. The replacement copy will be, if not significantly more expensive, the same edition (new or used), a new edition of that title, or either of the former in electronic form; or, if none of those three can be found, a close equivalent of the title in question. If, in the judgment of the Acquisitions Librarian, the replacement is significantly more expensive, then the difference shall be made up out of liaison funds. See also the section 3.6 Evaluating and Deselecting.

3.6 Evaluating and Deselecting

Collections are evaluated throughout the year by the liaisons, with coordinating help from the Acquisitions Librarian. Materials are withdrawn from the collection when,

- in the judgment of the relevant liaison librarians, or
- in the judgment of all liaisons (as in the case of electronic databases), they no longer meet key selection criteria (including, for example, currency as defined by the discipline in question, when the historical value in question is low, or format, as in the case of the microformats; have fallen into disrepair and for the same reason are candidates for neither repair nor replacement; or, in the judgment of the relevant liaison(s), working in collaboration with faculty, are taking up space that must be freed up.

The cancellation of a periodical subscription in paper will normally involve also a decision as to the retention of the dead run, a decision informed by the participation of the SPU Library in the [Western Regional Storage Trust \(WEST\)](#).

Subscription Databases

The cancellation of subscription databases is the responsibility of all librarians working in concert with faculty, whose advice is part of the decision process. Advice and consent with respect to items that do not fall clearly under the jurisdiction of a particular liaison are the responsibility of the Reference Collection Coordinator. Considerations are, as usual, those mentioned in 2.1, 3.1.2, and elsewhere.

Disposal

The Head of Technical Services is responsible for the removal of all items from the catalog and the disposal of library materials. The Acquisitions Librarian is responsible for the removal of all electronic resources.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The purpose of this Collection Development Policy is to provide policies and procedures for the SPU Library staff as they select and maintain resources to support the teaching, learning and research endeavors of students, faculty and staff. This document should be reviewed periodically, so that it remains as a workable, useful guide for ongoing librarian collection development work.

Approved. Librarians

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