

Statement of Purpose

WKU Libraries is committed to student success at Western Kentucky University. Providing a robust collection of relevant library materials is central to that goal. The Library is dedicated to obtaining and maintaining a collection that supports curriculum based instruction and promotes information literacy.

Collection Development is the process of building a balanced collection based on the information needs of library users. Curriculum based selection criteria, strategic item replacement, and periodic deaccessioning are all factors in the collection development process. These factors are additionally impacted by responsible use of the library's finite financial resources.

Selection Guidelines

WKU Libraries uses a number of methods to identify new items for our collection. The library acquires both print and electronic collections for the campus community. Our selection process places an emphasis on electronic acquisitions when possible to serve the widest variety of patrons. Acquisitions prioritizes newly published materials but older materials are also considered when a gap in the library collection is discovered. As a rule, the Library cannot purchase traditional textbooks. The library does support Open Educational Resources and purchases electronic books and streaming media for use in the classroom.

Library Collection Management

Library personnel periodically examine the entire collection to de-accession materials that no longer meet the University's needs. Physical items are removed for a number of criteria including, but not limited to: Age and condition of the material, use by library patrons, availability of newer editions, relevance to current curriculum and availability from lending partners via Interlibrary Loan. Electronic items are similarly evaluated based on curriculum needs and usage statistics where possible.

The Library does not routinely accept gifted materials. Donations that fill a specific gap in our collection may be considered, however. All gifted materials become the property of WKU Libraries, which reserves the right to determine their retention, location, and disposition.

Approved by Library Leadership Council, 04/13/2021