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## WESTERN LIBRARIES COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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### **Purpose**

This collection development policy is intended to provide a framework for the acquisition of, and the provision of access to, scholarly resources at Western Libraries. The policy prioritizes types of resources the Libraries considers most important for ownership and access. It is intended as a guide to enhance the university's ongoing curricular and research activities.

### **Mission**

The mission of Western Libraries, stated in its 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, is to connect people to people, people to place, and people to learning. Its vision is to be the intellectual crossroads of its community, and an innovative partner in learning and research. A specific goal is to promote the university's scholarship, creative achievements, and collections through sustainable access to scholarly resources.

### **Principles**

This policy embraces the following principles:

- Western Libraries acquires and provides access to resources that enhance the university's ongoing curricular and research activities.
- It enters consortial arrangements with partner libraries, especially those in the Orbis Cascade Alliance, to maximize access to resources.
- It uses various models for acquisitions and the provision of access, each specifically chosen to maximize cost-effectiveness and timeliness.
- The university's institutional repository, [Western CEDAR](#), is a vital asset to scholarly communication and worldwide open access.<sup>1</sup>
- The Libraries serves an increasingly diverse population. It attempts to make resources available in formats that accommodate a wide range of learning styles and physical requirements.

### **Priorities**

In deciding which scholarly resources to acquire and provide access to, Western Libraries observes the following priorities:

- Relevance to the university's undergraduate and graduate programs and faculty research needs.
- A balance of broad treatments of a subject for undergraduate programs with specialized aspects of a subject for faculty research and appropriate undergraduate/graduate programs.
- Newly published material in an effort to stay current with scholarly research.
- Providing access to content, rather than purchasing to own content, whenever content is readily available via Summit borrowing, interlibrary loan, or full-text document delivery.
- Costs associated with purchasing or providing access to scholarly resources.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://cedar.wvu.edu/>.

### **Orbis Cascade Alliance**

Western Libraries is an active partner in the Orbis Cascade Alliance, a consortium of 37 academic libraries in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The Alliance provides to Western timely access to its wealth of scholarly resources.

### **Formats**

Western Libraries acquires scholarly resources in appropriate formats, seeking to maximize access. Whenever resources are available in both electronic and print formats, the Libraries will generally opt to acquire or provide access to the electronic version, thereby enabling the university's affiliated users to access the content at any time and from any place with an Internet connection. As a cost-containment strategy, the Libraries avoids duplicating content in multiple formats and does not collect resources in outmoded formats (e.g., VHS, audio tapes, vinyl records). The Libraries acquires DVD rather than Blu-ray unless the content is only available as Blu-ray. The Libraries purchases DVDs or streaming content for non-profit, educational purposes but generally cannot, for budgetary reasons, purchase public performance rights.

### **Collection Assessment**

Western Libraries assesses its physical and electronic collections to make informed decisions about managing these resources. The Libraries surveys the community, soliciting feedback about the university's scholarly resources.

Due to limited space in the buildings, the Libraries reviews its physical collections to nominate selected items for withdrawal. The following factors are considered:

- Materials enhancing the university's ongoing curricular and research activities
- Historical value vs. currency of information
- Usage statistics
- Duplication or superseded editions
- Availability through consortia
- Completeness of sets
- Condition (may replace if expected use would suggest high demand)

The Libraries communicates to the university community whenever items have been nominated for withdrawal, inviting faculty to review the items and provide feedback.

### **Gift Policy**

Western Libraries accepts gifts of scholarly resources that enhance Western's ongoing curricular and research activities. The gift policy and the gift-in-kind form are viewable [here](#).<sup>2</sup>

### **Responsibility**

Final decisions regarding the interpretation of this policy are made by the Director of Scholarly Resources and Collection Services or his designee.

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<sup>2</sup> See [http://www.library.wvu.edu/sites/library.wvu.edu/files/online\\_donor\\_form.pdf](http://www.library.wvu.edu/sites/library.wvu.edu/files/online_donor_form.pdf).