

## I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Collection Development policy is to provide guidelines for selection, acquisition, and maintenance of information resources in support of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine (CoM). The Medical and Health Sciences Collections & User Services Department (MHSC&US) is an integrated library department within the S.E. Wimberly Library (Library) with reporting structures to both the Dean of University Libraries and the CoM Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and Faculty Development. Given the integrated nature of the department, the policies guiding collection development for the overall Library, electronic resources, reference, and other policies regarding selection and deselection, when deemed appropriate, are used in conjunction with this policy.

## II. OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### A. Subject Areas and Collection Arrangement

Primary subject areas collected are those that serve to support curricular, instructional, research, and programmatic needs of the College of Medicine. The majority of materials are organized by the Library of Congress Classification System. Print books and journals are largely integrated into the circulating collection housed in the main library. Core required and recommended textbooks are kept on reserve. Electronic resources are generally available through library online collections. As an integrated library most resources are purchased for general FAU use, however, some specialized resources may be purchased with restricted access due to cost or licensing restrictions. (See Section III POLICIES BY TYPE AND FORMAT OF MATERIALS for specific policy.)

### B. Selection Responsibility

Ultimate responsibility for the development and maintenance of the MHSC&US's collection rests with the Dean of University Libraries. The Dean's authority for routine decisions is delegated to the Department Head in consultation with librarians from the Library's Collection Development Committee and the CoM curriculum committee.

### C. Languages

The main language of the collection is English. Requests for non-English language materials may be considered by the Department Head and determined based on the usefulness to the primary mission of the policy.

### D. Suggestions and Materials Requests

Suggestions for the purchase of specific titles may be submitted using the electronic form [Suggest an Item to Purchase](#) available on the MHSC&US [web portal](#). Requests for materials submitted by faculty, affiliate faculty, students, staff, and non-affiliated users are reviewed by the Department Head. Orders for materials that are designated as "Essential for a class" by the requestor will be submitted for ordering. All other materials will be ordered by priority levels dependent on funds and if they support the curricular, instructional, research, and programmatic needs of the College of Medicine, and if funds are available.

Although suggestions are accepted year-round, the FAU Libraries follow a strict timetable for ordering library materials. Orders are routinely submitted between July 1 and April 1 of the fiscal year. Requests received after April 1 will be reviewed and submitted for ordering when funds become available after July 1 the following fiscal year.

### III. POLICIES BY TYPE AND FORMAT OF MATERIALS

#### A. Books, Monographs

Books and Monographs are purchased with prioritization given to those directly supporting the curriculum. Due to the community and Practice-Based Learning focus of the medical school, electronic resources will be given purchasing priority when available and financially plausible over print resources.

#### B. Textbooks

##### Policy for acquiring First and Second Year Core Curriculum books

Purpose: Within the context of limited funds to state the priority of curriculum based book purchases to support the college of medicine undergraduate medical student curriculum.

Policy authority: The policy was determined within the college of medicine curriculum committee, based on student needs and is entirely subject to budgetary constraints.

1. One copy of each core curriculum book will be bought by the library. Where possible an electronic copy will be bought so that students may access it on and off campus at any hour. Where this is not possible a hard copy will be bought and placed on "reserve" in the library. It should be noted that some e-books have limited concurrent access usage access (1-5 users)
2. Where a book is already in the collection and found to be currently "checked out" by a patron a "recall" notice will be placed on the book. When the book is returned it will be placed in the "reserve" section.
3. Students will be able to borrow books for a period of 3 hours within the library
4. Books that are returned late will incur fines in line with the current FAU libraries policy
5. Books on reserve will be reviewed each semester to determine if they are still in use and their status as a reserve book will be renewed each semester while the book is being utilized.
6. "Desk" copies of all books will be requested from the publisher to the maximum that the publishers will allow
7. Desk copies will initially be provided to the course directors who will loan them to faculty at their discretion
8. There is currently no funding for purchasing additional desk copies not provided by the vendors. Until/unless funds become available faculty who want an additional copy or books not on the core curriculum list will be required to purchase their own copies. Faculty should consult the office of medical education for queries regarding desk copies or to request additional purchasing of books.

#### C. Serials and Journals

Electronic access is the preferred format for serials and journals when available. Duplication of the print and electronic versions of a resource are generally discouraged but will be considered on a case-by-case basis. MHSC&US follows the collection development guidelines specified in the [FAU Libraries Collection Development Policy: Electronic Resources](#).

#### D. Databases and Other Electronic Resources

The electronic resources policy is generally followed, but there are some resources collected for the specific user population, and so restricted access is accommodated when necessary.

#### **E. Audio-Visual Materials**

Audio-visual materials are acquired with priority given to curriculum and research support. Considerations of suitability of format, quality of production, availability of equipment, and facilities assist in the selection. Considerations in the selection of audio-visual materials include, but are not limited to, curriculum, individual needs of faculty, quality of production, region codes, viewing facilities, availability of equipment, and technical support.

#### **F. Dissertations, Theses**

The FAU Libraries collect electronic copies of all dissertations and theses completed at the University. Dissertations and theses completed outside of Florida Atlantic University are requested through Interlibrary Loan when available. International dissertations and theses are not usually acquired, but some may be available through the Libraries' membership in the [Center for Research Libraries](#).

#### **G. Out-of-Print Materials**

MHSC&US will attempt to acquire out-of-print materials only when directly required for curriculum or funded research and deemed "Essential".

#### **H. Rare Books and Manuscripts**

Rare books and manuscripts may be acquired in support of the instructional and research programs of CoM. Those received as gifts are evaluated for retention in the collection with consideration given to requirements for special housing, care, access, security, and environment.

#### **I. Reprints**

Reprints are acquired only on a highly selective basis.

### **IV. BUDGET**

The materials budget supports the purchase of all formats designated in the collection development policy. The budget supports expenditures for the following:

- All resource types stated in the policy including platform and access fees and continuing resources to the extent that funding is available, with first consideration given to continuing obligations;
- Cooperative programs with other libraries;
- Access to and preservation of purchased and donated library materials;
- Membership in consortia, bibliographic access charges; and
- Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) centralized purchasing of a shared college and university libraries collection

The budget is ultimately the responsibility of the Dean of University Libraries with delegated responsibility for day-to-day administration residing with the Department Head and Assistant Dean for Technical Services.

The materials budget is allocated according to available funds and established institutional priorities. Expenditures are tracked by the assignment of a fund code within established expenditure categories. The extent of tracking is dependent upon the limitations of the library management system of the FLVC and staffing levels within the Technical Services Department. The Acquisitions staff is responsible for

placing all orders for library materials, recording the receipt of materials, processing invoices and credit memos, and claiming materials not received.

The Acquisitions staff also handles orders, payments, and receipt of library materials funded by outside funding, such as Foundation or grant funds, and provides the tracking of expenditures dependent upon system constraints, staffing limitations, and cooperation from any outside agency involved. Unsolicited materials that are received with invoices will not be accepted and will be disposed of or returned, if the vendor will provide return postage. Materials received without invoices will be routed to the Assistant Dean for Technical Services.

## **V. COLLECTION MAINTENANCE**

Weeding or deselection, preservation and conservation, and replacement are all important aspects of collection maintenance and evaluation. Ultimate responsibility for the preceding activities are the responsibility of the Dean of University Libraries.

### **A. Weeding or Deselection**

Deselection or weeding is an essential, continuing library practice in which materials are removed permanently from the Libraries' collections. Whenever possible, both faculty and library staff participate in the weeding process to ensure that publications of historical or research significance are not discarded. Additionally for print materials, members of the wider Florida Consortium of Academic Libraries of Medicine (FCALM) are consulted. The [FAU Libraries Deselection Policy](#) should be consulted for more detailed guidelines.

### **B. Preservation and Conservation**

Preservation is the activity to prevent, eliminate, or retard deterioration of library materials, as well as to improve their condition or to change their format as necessary in order to preserve the intellectual content. The Libraries endeavor to protect the physical integrity of materials in the collection through conservation measures, such as temperature, humidity and dust control. Where preservation of content is more important than the retention of the physical format, items are preserved by binding, microreproduction, or the acquisition of microforms or electronic versions.

The primary activity of the Digital Library is to create and make accessible digital collections from Florida Atlantic University scholarly content and the unique resources of FAU Libraries. Associated activities can include the digitization of deteriorating materials for preservation purposes. Through the Florida Digital Archive (FDA), FAU Libraries' digital objects can be preserved and assured future format migration in the FDA repository. More information about this preservation program can be found at <http://fclaweb.fcla.edu/FDA>

### **C. Replacements**

Materials in various formats that are missing, lost, damaged, or withdrawn are not automatically replaced. Potential replacements are evaluated using the same criteria for selection as regularly purchased items. Depending on the availability of funds, heavily used materials, determined to be necessary for teaching and research, will be replaced as quickly as possible, if the materials are available.

## **VI. COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE SHARING**

The MHSC&US department cooperates in the purchase or leasing of library materials, such as electronic databases, journals, and monographs or books, etc., with Florida Virtual Campus and other library cooperative arrangements when possible.

The MHSC&US participates in national, regional, and statewide resource sharing programs. As an integrated department within the FAU Library the MHSC&US shares the benefits of being a member of Docline, Consortium of Southern Biomedical Libraries (CONBLS), FCALM, OCLC, Lyasis, the Southeast Florida Library Information Network (SEFLIN), and the Florida Library Information Network (FLIN). The Libraries share their resources free of charge with other member libraries through interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing agreements. The Libraries maintain an associate membership in the Center for Research Libraries. The Center provides access to a large collection of rarely held research materials which can be obtained through interlibrary loan and document delivery.

## **VII. POLICY REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed at the end of each fiscal year by the MHSC&US Department Head and in consultation with FAU's Collection Development Committee. This policy may also be revised as necessary to reflect changes in the curriculum, educational or research needs, and to participate in cooperative collection development agreements.

## **SOURCES**

[FAU collection development policy](#)

[FAU electronic resources collection development policy](#)