

Collection Development Policy Statement for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Subject Specialist:

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I. Purpose

The purpose of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Collection of the UMD Libraries is to support the research, teaching, and information needs of students and faculty in the **College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR)** in College Park, as well as the affiliated agricultural extension sites located throughout the state. The collection consists of materials relevant to the academic departments housed within the College, and attempts will be made to have a balanced collection of materials that are appropriate to the mission of the UMD Libraries. This collection will pay special attention to topics specifically relevant to Maryland's present, past, and future interests in agriculture and natural resources, both economic and environmental.

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in College Park offers a variety of courses in several different disciplines that culminate in B.S., M.S., M.P.S., and Ph. D degrees. The College of AGNR also hosts two Institutions of Professional Education – the Institute of Applied Agriculture, which grants several two year academic certificates, as well as the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, a professional school of Veterinary Medicine that is administered at Virginia Tech's campus in Blacksburg. While much of the academic training administered by the College of AGNR occurs on the College Park campus and affiliated research sites through the state, the College also offers online courses and degree programs.

Coordination and Cooperative Information:

The faculty, staff, and students in the College of AGNR are engaged in the research and teaching not only in their subject specific areas of animal and avian science, agriculture and resource economics, entomology, environmental science, nutrition and food science, plant science, landscape architecture, and veterinary medicine, but also in interdisciplinary research, which includes public health, natural sciences, engineering, architecture, arts and humanities, business, and public policy. Many of the materials collected in these related subject disciplines are relevant to the members of the AGNR academic community, and deliberate efforts are and will continue to be made to collaborate and coordinate large scale purchasing and deselection with the subject specialists responsible for these areas of the UMD Libraries' collection.

The UMD Libraries have developed partnerships and collaborations with state, regional and national institutions and consortiums in order to enhance access to library collections and provide necessary materials for teaching and research. Specific to these subject areas, the UMD Libraries is an institutional member of the [Agriculture Network Information Collaborative \(AgNIC\)](#) and the [United States Agricultural Information Network \(USAIN\)](#), two long standing collaborative partnerships with other land grant member institutions to share information resources. More generally, the UMD Libraries' membership in the [Big Ten Academic Alliance \(BTAA\)](#) and [Chesapeake Information and Research Library](#)

[Alliance \(CIRLA\)](#) allows patrons to obtain print materials from other participating libraries through interlibrary loan services. For digital content, UMD Libraries offer access through its collaborations with [BTAA](#), [HathiTrust](#), and [University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions \(USMAI\)](#).

Diversity:

Recognizing that the multitude of disciplines included within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources incorporate individuals of all ages who represent a multiplicity of racial and ethnic backgrounds, economic and educational levels and physical and mental abilities, the subject specialist for this area intentionally builds a collection that mirrors and supports this diversity. The collections supporting agriculture and natural resources will include materials and resources that reflect a variety of political, economic, religious, social, minority and sexual issues and support intellectual freedom by providing access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored.

II. Summary of Collection Scope

1. **Scope:** The agriculture and natural resources collection includes materials on an array of topics, including animal and avian science, agriculture and resource economics, entomology, environmental science, nutrition and food science, plant science, landscape architecture, and veterinary medicine. These materials primarily are cataloged in the S call number ranges; however, they also may include items traditionally cataloged as part of the environmental sciences, GE; natural sciences: QK (Botany) and QL (Zoology); or nutrition and food service, TX.
2. **Location:** The collection is mainly housed at McKeldin Library, but interdisciplinary material is located at other library branches – STEM Library (merger of EPSL and Chemistry), Hornbake Library (Library Media Services), and off-campus at Shady Grove Library. Low-use materials are located in Severn Library, an off-site repository. The collection is enhanced by access to materials at other libraries through Interlibrary Loan Services and involving partners and collaborators (e.g. AgNIC, USMAI, BTAA, HathiTrust, etc.) The STEM Library was designated as a Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) in 2011. As a PTRC, STEM houses archive microfilm and DVD copies of more than 8 million United States patents. An ongoing project to digitized and made publicly available color plant patents complements the online collection of plant patents.
3. **Format:** The collection consists of books and journals in print and electronic formats, microforms, databases, and audio and video materials. The UMD Libraries are committed to collecting and maintaining a hybrid collection of materials where resources are collected in the most appropriate format for their intended use. However, given the unique needs of Extension and other offsite faculty and staff in the College of AGNR, preference will be given to electronic formats for most items. Collecting in electronic format is preferred for all journal titles, although print journal volumes will not be deaccessioned unless reliable and sustainable electronic archives or back files have been acquired.
4. **Use:** Library services and collections are open to the public. Most of the Library's materials circulate for use outside the library. Materials circulate to UMD faculty, staff, and students with valid ID cards. Others who wish to borrow materials must have a current library card issued through [the Community Borrowers and Researchers Program](#).

II. Developing the Agriculture and Natural Resources Collection

1. Language(s): The emphasis is on English language materials in the collection. Major works covering the subject in other languages may be selected, although translations will be preferred.
2. Geographical areas: The major focus of items in the collection is on North America, with particular emphasis placed on agriculture and natural resources relevant to the industries important to Maryland. However, the collection will also support curricular and research interests in global agriculture and resource economics, which often focus on international geographical areas such as Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Europe.
3. Chronological periods/Imprint dates: All chronological periods are collected, although selection will emphasize current publications, with the exception of reprints and classic works when required for replacement purposes.
4. Materials selected
 - a) Included materials: Resources are acquired based on their authoritativeness, currency, comprehensiveness, ease of use, relevancy, and available format. The applicability of each of these criteria may vary by type of information, compatibility with existing infrastructure, and discipline.
 - b) Excluded materials: The collection is selective in collecting handbooks and manuals, pocket reference books, educational materials for self-assessment, exam preparation, etc. These books are not bound, and are deselected from the Library when outdated. Generally, textbooks are purchased only if requested for course reserves by an instructor, and each course reserve purchase request is evaluated individually. Any electronic materials leased or purchased must accommodate the licensing agreement restrictions placed upon the UMD Libraries, such as offsite authentication.

III. Additional Collection Information

1. Duplication: In general, the Libraries acquire only single copies of works. Multiple copies of outdated materials may be deselected, but unique materials are retained. Duplication is allowed for print titles authored by UMD faculty. Multiple copies will be purchased or maintained when there is a high demand for teaching/learning. Whenever an electronic version is available, only one existing copy can be kept; all others must be deselected.
2. Gifts: Gift items added to the agriculture and natural resources collection are done so in conjunction with the [University of Maryland Libraries Gifts-In-Kind Policy](#), particularly so that they “supplement existing collections in support of the University’s teaching and research programs as well as to provide the University Libraries with special materials in which there is a scholarly interest”. While the subject specialist is ultimately responsible for deciding whether or not a gift is added to the general collection, items with apparent archival value for Maryland agriculture that are deemed inappropriate for the general collection will be offered for consideration to Special Collections.
3. Deselection: Due to limited shelving space, print books are periodically reviewed and considered for deselection. Criteria for deselection include lack of circulation, local availability of electronic or more current editions, duplicates, physical condition of the item, and change or elimination of an academic program.

4. **Preservation:** The subject specialist will work with the Preservation unit at the University of Maryland Libraries when individual titles are brought to their attention that need rebinding, repair or replacement.

IV. Statement of Subject Specialist Collaboration

This collection development policy was created with the assistance of Nedelina Tchangalova and Eileen Harrington, whose subject area in public health overlaps significantly with several of the disciplines represented in the College of AGNR. The subject specialist responsible for the agriculture and natural resources collection will continue to collaborate with the subject specialist(s) in public health to ensure that these policies will function collaboratively, building stronger collections in both areas.

Implementation and Revision Schedule: This policy will be reviewed by the Collection Development Council (lib-cdc@umd.edu) and is considered effective on the date indicated below. It will be reexamined regularly by the subject specialist responsible for this area and will be revised as needed to reflect new collection needs and identify new areas of study, as well as those areas that may be excluded.

Date: February 20, 2015 AC; Revision SR 8/8/16, 8/10/2018

CDC 9/25/18