

## Collection Development Policy Statement for Agricultural and Resource Economics

### Subject Specialist responsible:

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### I. Purpose

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) was established at the University of Maryland at College Park in 1922. The department's initial focus was on the development of improved procedures for farm organization, recordkeeping, and accounting. Today AREC focuses on agricultural economics, policy, environmental and natural resource economics, and economic development, and addresses issues of importance to stakeholders at local, state, national and international levels. The department offers undergraduate degrees and minors, masters and doctorate degrees.

As of fall 2017, there are approximately 112 undergraduate majors in one of three concentrations: Agricultural and Resource Economics, Agribusiness, or Environmental and Resource Economics. The department offers an undergraduate minor in Global Poverty. Three additional minors, Agribusiness Economics, Environmental Economics and Policy, and Resource and Agricultural Policy in Economic Development were terminated in spring 2017. There are approximately 42 graduate students. There are approximately 24 faculty members including adjuncts, and nine emeritus faculty and eleven administrative staff members.

The department is the administrative home of two specialty Extension programs. The Agricultural Law Education Initiative (ALEI) is a collaboration between the University of Maryland's Carey School of Law, the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences. The ALEI provides the community with current information on agricultural law Extension outreach. ALEI is supported within the department by three professional track faculty members and one administrative staff member. The International Women in Agriculture program (WIA) seeks to prepare female extension educators and leaders to work with poor or vulnerable women so as to improve family food security. The program currently focuses its efforts on the Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Program, and has recently started a program in Ethiopia. WIA is supported in the department by one professional track faculty member and two administrative staff members.

Faculty members have served on the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, as consultants to agencies and organizations such as the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. In addition, faculty members have received international awards, been elected fellows of professional associations such as the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, the Association of Environmental and Resource Economics, the Econometric Society, and the American Statistical Association, and have served as editors and associate editors of scholarly journals in the field.

AREC also supports two research centers: The AREC Experimental Economics Laboratory and [Symons Hall Experimental Laboratory](#) (SHEL), part of the First-Year Innovation & Research Experience (FIRE) [Sustainability Analytics](#) stream. The AREC Experimental Economics Laboratory comprises a 25 seat lab and supports AREC 815, Applications of Experimental and Behavioral Economics, intended for PhD students in the AREC and economics departments to design and implement "lab experiments in the field" and to analyze the data generated therein using a range of theoretical and empirical tools. The FIRE Sustainability Analytics stream includes three focus areas:

- 1) Students collect and analyze natural science and socioeconomic data on biological resources (fish, large mammals, or invasive species) to examine how species characteristics, ecosystems, markets, technology and trade influence the conservation or overexploitation of natural resources.
- 2) Students administer a survey of Maryland households about installations of renewable energy systems, vehicle ownership and use. Students use the data collected to address why people adopt renewable energy technologies and what is the impact on CO2 emissions.
- 3) Students participate in the collection and mapping of data, and in the delivery and evaluation of energy conservation educational initiatives to encourage households and small businesses in Maryland to invest in cost-effective, energy-saving technologies.

The SHEL also actively seeks to conduct collaborative research with economists from other universities and organizations.

**Coordination and Cooperative Information:** AREC subject areas are interdisciplinary. The department's research strengths are principally in the areas of agricultural and natural resource economics, energy economics, experimental economics, production economics and sustainable agriculture and international development. Topics studied in other subject areas include: Agriculture, Business, Economics, Environmental Science & Policy, Family Studies, Government

& Politics, History, International Affairs, Law, Public Health, Public Policy, Sociology, etc. Our collection in AREC is used by faculty, students, staff and members of the community. Statistical data on most topics is needed and used, i.e., census data dealing with the many aspects of business, economics, statistics produced by foreign governments, international organizations, as well as social indicators for most countries. Faculty and graduate students are also active users of GIS and geospatial research software and tools. Researchers use CRL, the Big Ten Academic Alliance, CIRLA and other consortia as needed.

### AREC Library

The department maintains a separate library (independent from the University Libraries system), located in Symons Hall, intended for faculty and graduate student use.

Undergraduates may use the library if they are employed by a faculty member or otherwise helping faculty members with specific projects. The AREC library's resources include:

- Circulating books, government documents (mostly from USDA), and journals. The catalog is accessed by the [Koha](#) software package, which is part of the AREC software suite available on all department computers
- A public use computer
- Three computer workstations
- An e-mail enabled scanner / printer / copier
- Recent Stata manuals
- Course reserves for graduate students

(Source: <http://www.arec.umd.edu/about/it-library-resources>)

**Diversity:** Recognizing that the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department incorporates individuals of all ages who represent a multiplicity of racial and ethnic backgrounds, economic and educational levels and physical and mental abilities, the subject specialists for this area intentionally build a collection that mirrors and supports this diversity. The AREC collections 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 at Current Collecting Levels

The libraries provide support for the research and teaching needs of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at a high level through databases, which cover thousands of important agricultural economics journals, as well as datasets. Monographs support the research needs at an adequate level. There are some databases and journals that we do not own that have been requested by faculty members of the Department of Economics.

### III. Developing the Agricultural and Resource Economics Collection

1. Language(s): The emphasis is on English language materials in the collection. Major works covering the subject outside the U.S. in the vernacular may be selected, although translations will be preferred. Materials in the vernacular are generally the purview of the librarians responsible for that particular language.
2. Geographical areas: The major focus of items in the collection is on the United States. However, the Department covers worldwide topics and there is much research interest in international matters, publications dealing with statistics, economics and agricultural issues about any country are collected.
3. Chronological periods/Imprint dates: Selection will emphasize current publications, with the exception of historical statistical compilations, reprints and classic works when required for replacement purposes.
4. Materials selected
  - a. Included materials: These can include but are not limited to: monographs, ebooks, periodicals, newspapers, databases, datasets, microforms, maps, pamphlets, posters, audio/visual materials, software, or other materials.
  - b. Excluded materials – textbooks (unless requested specifically by faculty), reprints or collections of reprinted articles, dissertations, conference proceedings.

### IV. Additional Collection Information

The Agricultural and Resource Economics Department collection adheres to the University of Maryland Libraries' policies for duplication, gifts, deselection and preservation available at <http://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/collection-development-policy>.

1. Duplication: There are instances where faculty request both print and electronic copies of individual titles, though duplication of items is not a regular practice.
2. Gifts: Gift items added to the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department 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” (<http://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/gifts/for-donors>). The subject specialist for the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department is ultimately responsible for deciding whether or not a gift is added to the collection.

3. Deselection/Withdrawal: The relevance of materials in the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department collection can and will change over time. Periodic weeding of the collection is done to identify items which no longer fit the criteria for inclusion in the collection.
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.

#### **V. Statement of Subject Specialist Collaboration**

This collection development policy was created with the assistance of Katherine Faulkner, AREC Associate Director for Information Services, whose library collection and subject area is included within the agriculture subject area and within the College of AGNR. The subject specialist responsible for the agriculture and natural resources collection will continue to collaborate with the AREC Associate Director for Information Services to ensure that these policies will function collaboratively, building stronger collections across Libraries for faculty and students.

**Implementation and Revision Schedule:** This policy has been reviewed by the Collection Development Council ([lib-cdc@umd.edu](mailto:lib-cdc@umd.edu)) and is considered effective on the date indicated below. It will be reexamined regularly by the subject specialist 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 ZD/LG; Rev. 5/12/15; SR Rev. 8/8/16, 8/10/2018

CDC 9/25/18