

Collection Development Policy Statement for Life Sciences

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Purpose

This Collection Development Policy covers three departments within the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) at the University of Maryland College Park: (1) Biology, (2) Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics (CBMG), and (3) Entomology. Biology and CBMG offer undergraduate degrees while Entomology offers a specialization in the General Biology program or within the Environmental Science and Policy Program through the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR). All three departments offer graduate degrees through the Biological Science Graduate Program (BISI). In addition, Biology offers an undergraduate degree program at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG), a regional higher education center under the auspices of the University System of Maryland.

Coordination and Cooperative Information:

The greatest subject areas where there would be coordination and cooperation with other liaison librarians is mostly concentrated in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR). Life sciences research and teaching may overlap with the following areas within CMNS: the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology specialization within the Department of Computer Science. Within CANR, overlaps are expected with Animal and Avian Science (ANSC), Environmental Science and Policy (ENSP), Environmental Science and Technology (ENST), Nutrition and Food Science (NFSC), Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA), and Veterinary Medicine (VTMD). Additional overlaps may occur with the Departments of Bioengineering, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and Materials Science Engineering within the A. James Clark School of Engineering and related areas covered by the School of Public Health.

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. The 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 life sciences 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 build collections that mirror and support this diversity. The life sciences collections include materials and resources that reflect a variety of political, economic, religious, social,

minority and sexual issues and support intellectual freedom by providing free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored. For more information, see Collection Development Diversity Statement - <https://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/policies/collection-development-diversity-statement>.

Summary of Collection Scope at Current Collecting Levels

Levels of collecting in the Life Sciences include:

- *Research Level:* Collections that contain the major published source materials required for doctoral study and independent research.
- *Instructional Support Level:* Collections that provide information about a subject in a systematic way, but at a level of less than research intensity and support the needs of students through college and beginning graduate education.

The physical collection is primarily in McKeldin Library, but there are also books housed off-campus at the Priddy Library at USG.

As the College Park campus lacks a medical school, reliance on consortial arrangements for document delivery (such as through the BTAA, interlibrary loan, etc.) will be utilized for access to traditional medical information resources that are not collected for College Park.

I. Developing the Life Sciences Collection

1. Language(s): Preference is for English language materials. Major works covering the subject in other languages may be selected, although translations will be preferred. Materials in non-English languages are generally the purview of the librarians responsible for that particular language.
2. Geographical areas: Disciplines under the Life Sciences are increasingly collaborative and interdisciplinary; therefore, there are no strict geographic guidelines for the collection. In core subjects that may be influenced by geography, such as natural history, botany and zoology, primary collection emphasis is on North American, mid-Atlantic, and local works. Works that cover other geographic areas are selected when there is a specific need or when the work deals with a particular topic that is unique, comprehensive, or of overriding contemporary social, cultural, policy, ethical, philosophical, or historical importance.
3. Chronological periods/Imprint dates: Selection will emphasize current publications, especially those published within the last five years. Exceptions include reprints and classic works when required for replacement purposes. Additionally, until gaps are filled, exceptions are made for electronic backfiles of journals and book series and to a lesser degree, monographs. Focus of subject matter is current scholarship and research while historical treatments are not widely

collected.

4. Materials and formats selected:

a. Included materials: Major formats collected include single-authored monographs, edited anthologies/book series, periodicals, and databases. Collected to a lesser degree are textbooks, conference proceedings, reference materials, and data sets. Free and/or Open Access materials are selected on a case-by-case basis and may be placed in the catalog and/or listed on subject/course web sites.

b. Excluded materials: Formats not normally selected include dissertations, pamphlets, children's/juvenile literature, reprints, exam-preparation books, and self-published works. Publishers not normally selected include those that are known to be predatory (consulting such lists as Beall's List of Predatory Publishers).

c. Print vs. Electronic materials: Preference in nearly all cases is for electronic format (exceptions are where there are no e-versions available, such as textbooks for course reserves). The following criteria will be used to evaluate journal titles and monographs to determine the suitability of replacing the print with an electronic version or to purchase the electronic version over a print equivalent:

- 1) **Completeness of content:** The electronic version must include all articles, letters to the editor, announcements, supplements and conference proceedings that are found in the print copy.
- 2) **Quality of images, figures and pictures:** The pictorial quality in the electronic version must be represented in a legible and desktop accessible format. The images and other graphics should compare favorably to the print version.
- 3) **Perpetual access:** The publisher/vendor must ensure stable, electronic access through an acceptable interface for the entire run of content the Libraries has purchased. If the publisher goes out of business in the future or ceases to support the purchased content, there must be provisions in place for another publisher/vendor or a reputable third party to provide the journal content.
- 4) **Access to content must be offered through IP authentication.** Remote access must be allowed with standard UM user name and password authentication.
- 5) **The license for electronic resources must allow for simultaneous users, printing of content, interlibrary loan, and other reasonable uses.** The need for proprietary software hosted on the Libraries' local server to access electronic resources is not acceptable. Licenses must comply with all State of Maryland mandated legal clauses for contracts.
- 6) **Usage Data:** Vendors should provide regular usage data for the titles that the Libraries purchase. The data should conform to industry standards in order to be useful in assessing the utility of the Libraries' collections.
- 7) **Reliability and Technical Support:** The speed of loading/accessing the content must meet UM user's expectations. The publisher/vendor must provide adequate support and clear

lines of communication to resolve access problems in a timely manner.

5. Emerging/Fading Subjects: Subject specialist(s) will monitor research and teaching trends within the department and globally. Collection in emerging areas of research may need to be increased while areas where there is less of a research and teaching concentration may be scaled back in their acquisition.

II. **Additional Collection Information**

1. Duplication: In general, purchasing of duplicate print materials is avoided. Exceptions would include commonly used materials where a copy may be purchased for the reference collection and one for the stacks, or where there is a need for multiple copies of a course reserve (whether at one library location or multiple locations). Where there are already existing duplicate print copies, circulation statistics and other feedback may be gathered to determine if extra copies should be deselected. A similar process would be used where there are instances where electronic versions are available for existing print copies.
2. Gifts: Gift items added to the Life Sciences 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 specialists for Life Sciences is ultimately responsible for deciding whether a gift is of value to be added to the collection.
3. Deselection/Withdrawal: The relevance of materials in the Life Sciences collection can and will change over time. Periodic deselection of materials from the collection is done to identify items that no longer fit the criteria for inclusion in the collection. Overall, there is a direction to reduce the print collection in a reasonable and responsible manner. Print copies that are also available electronically are prime candidates for deselection/withdrawal after considering digital archive solutions and regional and/or consortial commitments.

The subject specialist works in close consultation with the Preservation Department to identify, assess and prioritize materials needing preservation attention. Library materials will be considered for deselection or relocation from the collection if they fall within one or more of these categories:

- paper copy or bound periodicals for which there is a viable online alternative
- multiple copies available
- superseded editions, provided that newer editions incorporate important information from earlier editions
- lack of circulation, when warranted
- obsolete physical format

- poor physical condition, or damaged beyond usefulness
 - lacking historical value
 - ephemeral materials that are not easily accessed or bound
 - textbooks (generally not to be included in the collection)
 - In the case of the deselection of print copies of materials, the last copy is the one in off-site storage facilities, followed by those held in Special Collections, then McKeldin Library, then the branch library which most strongly collects in the call number area or has the most complete run (in the case of serials). The subject specialist in consultation with the Libraries' Preservation Department will determine best copies of print materials.
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. Items that are unique and/or historically relevant to the University of Maryland are prime candidates for preservation and/or transfer to Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA).

Implementation and Revision Schedule: This policy has been 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 specialists 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 18, 2015 [creation, JRG and EGH; Rev. 4/30/15]; 6/13/2016; 7/3/2018

CDC 9/25/18