St. Thomas University Library
Collection Development Policy
January 5, 2015
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Purpose

The purpose of this Collection Development Policy is to define the principles and procedures that govern the development and maintenance of the collections at St. Thomas University Library.

Mission Statement

The St. Thomas University Library Commons embodies the Mission and Vision of St. Thomas University as a physical and virtual center where students, faculty, staff, and the greater community engage and collaborate in learning, teaching, and research. The Commons serves the learning community through a circle of services that help faculty, staff, and students transform into information fluent professionals and ethical global leaders.

We care about:

- Our Learning and Teaching
- Our Students as Developing Successful Leaders
- Our Catholic Identity
- Our Diversity

Vision Statement

Our Vision Encourages:

- Creating an information and technology rich learning environment where the academic, spiritual, intellectual, and psychological needs of our community are supported and networked with other St. Thomas University programs.
- Engaging our students and faculty at their point of need and journeying with them through the research, evaluation, production, and publication processes to create new and original knowledge and information.
- Contributing to scholarship and the pursuit of new ideas, models, and processes within the academic community.
Collection Development Policy

The Library allows people to access information, and good collection development is the guiding principle behind information access. Along with the policies expressed in the Faculty Handbook on Academic Freedom, the Library supports academic and intellectual freedom as expressed in the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement. The Library strives to develop and market a diverse, comprehensive collection and will not censor or exclude materials because of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, political, or religious point-of-views.

The University Library supports the mission and vision of St. Thomas University by acquiring, organizing, and disseminating materials that support the curricular and information and research needs of the university and library community. Materials are selected based on learning potential, informational support, and the enjoyment of library users.

Selection Responsibility

The chief Collection Development officer for each of the University’s academic departments is that program’s official Library Liaison. In the event that a program or aspect of the University should be without an official Library Liaison, the Library Administrator will serve in that capacity.

The process of selecting materials for the library is a cooperative effort involving the library faculty/staff and University faculty. All members of the University community are encouraged to make suggestions by sending their ideas to any of the library liaisons. Upon request, the library liaisons will work with teaching faculty to develop a specialized plan to address a specific information need.

Allocation of Funds

The Library’s collection development funds are allocated annually in July. Considerations for fund allocation include: how many students are taking classes in that school or college, the number of faculty teaching in that school or college, the information needs and use of the library’s resources by members of that school or college. Nevertheless, the library attempts to support and allocate funds in a fair and equal manner. Questions or concerns about the allocation of funds may be directed to the Library Administrator.

Criteria for Selection

The following criteria are used when selecting materials for the collections of University Library:

a) Curriculum Support: Priority will be given to materials that support the curriculum and mission of the University, taking into account factors of academic quality, appropriateness for educational level, format, price, scarcity of material, and quality of reviews.
b) **Indirect Curriculum Support:** The Library will collect popular reading materials, including *New York Times* best sellers, movies, e-audio books, and documentaries to support recreational reading, ESL learning, literacy, and life-long learning.

c) **Print vs. E-formats:** The Library prefers to purchase e-books for most Science, Technology, Business, and older historical materials when available. E-formats are also the strongly preferred format for any online program and for any blended programs. Faculty are asked when they request the Library to purchase items whether they prefer that item in a e-format or in a print format.

d) **Textbooks:** In general, the Library does not purchase textbooks.

e) **Duplicate Copies:** The Library will not purchase duplicate copies, except in cases of extreme high use or demand.

f) **Languages:** The primary language for library materials is English. Some materials, such as Spanish language resources, foreign language dictionaries, literature, and foreign language faculty requests are supported.

g) **Publication Date:** In general, the Library will grant priority to more recent publications over out of print items.

h) **Audio-Visual:** The Library currently supports DVD and Blu-Ray (including 3D) as well as x-box and PS4 formats, and a limited microform collection. The Library will only purchase VHS if no other format is available.

i) **Serials:** The Library does not add serials to the collection that are not indexed by the library’s databases. Due to low usage, the Library does not purchase serials subscriptions without careful consideration.

j) **Interlibrary Loan Requests:** The Library will add materials to its collection that are frequently (more than 2x a year) requested for interlibrary loan.

k) **Self-Published Materials:** The Library doesn’t purchase self published materials without an extreme information need for research.

l) **Government Documents:** The Library collects government documents through the Federal Depository Library Program with emphasis on materials that support the curriculum of the University and the needs of local community in Miami Gardens and the wider South Florida region. All government documents are cataloged in WMS and are freely available to anyone from the general public who wants to use them. The Library only collects these documents as online content, print, CD-ROM, or DVD. The Library does not collect any microforms.

**Procedure for Ordering Materials**

Faculty and students seeking to request materials for the library’s collection should contact the Library Liaison for that college or school. If a department does not have an official Library Liaison, requests should be given to the Library Administrator. The Liaison will prioritize these requests and forward them to the Acquisitions Coordinator, who will inform the
Library Administrator of any item priced over $250, and will order the materials from an appropriate vendor. Rush orders must be indicated as such and must include a reason for rush delivery.

Once the item has arrived and is cataloged, the Acquisitions department will notify the person who requested the item that it is available. The item will then be held for seven days at the Circulation Desk and may be picked up by the person who requested it. After seven days, the item will be available at its assigned location in the collection.

**Procedures for Problems with Intellectual and Academic Freedom**

If any member of University community believes their intellectual or academic freedom has been violated, they should immediately contact the Library Administrator, who will notify the Associate Provost and arrange for a meeting to discuss the violation and its resolution. Faculties are expected to follow the Academic Freedom Policy procedures in the *Faculty Handbook*.

**New Courses and Programs at the University**

All new courses and program proposals submitted for approval must include a Library Materials Requisition Form, filled out in collaboration with a librarian liaison for the school / college.

**Assessment and Evaluation**

The University Library conducts ongoing assessment of its collections and services by following the *Library Assessment and Evaluation Policy*. Based on the action steps developed during the assessment process, and detailed in the Library’s Annual Report, the Library will support special collection development projects to address issues or gaps in knowledge identified by the assessment.

**Distance Educational Support**

The Library will make a special effort to support the University’s online and distance education programs through collection development of online resources. An outline of library services and support for distance education learners is available in the *Library Handbook* and on the Library’s website at [http://www.stu.edu/DistanceEducation/tabid/3711/Default.aspx](http://www.stu.edu/DistanceEducation/tabid/3711/Default.aspx).

**STU Publication Collection**

The Library will purchase two copies of all books written by an STU faculty or staff member as well as any edited book with a chapter by an STU faculty or staff member. One item will be included in the STU Publication Collection and another in the general collection. No self-published materials will be included in the STU Publication Collection. Citations for all other peer reviewed publications will be collected annually by the Library Administrator for reporting purposes.
Government Documents
The Library participates in the Federal Depository Library Program. As a participant, the Library collects government documents pertaining to the University’s curriculum and subjects related to the University local community. All recommendations for adding additional government publications to the Library’s collections may be sent to the Library Administrator or the Metadata Librarian.

Archives and Special Collections Statement
The Library is currently not adding any materials to the STU Archives or Special Collection expect by donation.

Collection Maintenance
As important as supporting access to new materials in the collection, ongoing maintenance through weeding, preservation, protection from environmental issues, and quality control are necessary to ensure a relevant, well-rounded collection.

The Library Access Services Manager, under the direction of the Library Administrator, is the chief person in charge of collection maintenance. The Access Services Manager will train and review the accuracy of shelving by student employees, supervise shelf reading, and provide annual reviews of environmental issues, including screening for mold and water leaks. This person will also supervise the process of reporting and searching for lost materials. All library staff and faculty should fill out a lost item report (available at the library Circulation Desk) when an item cannot be located on the shelf and is marked as “Available” in the library catalog. The Access Services Manager will supervise three searches for the item(s). If the item remains lost, the form will be given to the library liaison who supervises that area of the collection for a decision on replacing or deselecting the item from the library’s collections.

The Assistant Library Administrator, under the direction of the Library Administrator, is the chief person in charge of inventory and quality control issues. The Library will conduct a rotational inventory approach that will provide a full inventory of its physical collections every three years. All library staff and faculty should provide a screenshot to the Assistant Library Administrator of records that lack Local Holding Records or appear to have quality control issues.

Materials that library or staff members consider in need of replacement or preservation should be reported to the Library Liaison who supervises that area of the collection. The liaison will coordinate with the library administration and cataloging departments to best preserve the item’s academic value for users.
Weeding Policy

The Library recognizes that continuous evaluation of the collection is essential to ensure that it remains current and relevant, and weeding is an important aspect of the library’s collection development policy. The Library encourages faculty to assist in continuous review of the collection within their area of expertise to identify those items that, due to condition, age, relevancy or other factors, should be deselected from the collection. Weeding the collection enables the library to keep its collection relevant, and utilize the library’s physical space in an efficient manner.

Criteria for withdrawing material:

- The material is out of date.
- The material is inaccurate or irrelevant.
- The material no longer supports the collection.
- The title is popular fiction and/or a best seller item older than 10 years.
- Physical condition of the item is bad or beyond repair.
- There are duplicate copies that are no longer deemed necessary or are available in other formats.
- It is reference material that is superseded, dated, inaccurate or of no historical value.

Items excluded from withdrawal:

- Core material in each discipline.
- Classic or seminal works.
- Primary sources.
- Faculty publications and University history.
- Government Documents except for superseded materials.

Material selected for withdrawal will be taken to technical services for removal from the library’s holdings. When possible, deselected materials will be sent to the library’s used book sale program.

The library liaisons are responsible for informing faculty in their respective academic departments of relevant material designated for withdrawal. The final decision on the withdrawal of any materials remains the responsibility of the Library.

Donation Policy
The Library will accept material from members of the University community if the material supports and enhances the instructional programs of the university. Material delivered by non-St. Thomas University community members must be approved by library and/or regular faculty in the approval area, or the Library Administrator. Materials donated to the library become the property of the Library. Donated materials may be added to the collection; however, the library reserves the right to distribute materials according to library needs. Donated materials may be catalogued, recycled, offered to other institutions, sold, or discarded at the Library’s discretion.

The Library may acknowledge the receipt of donated items but cannot perform appraisals. The donor must assess his or her own donation for tax purposes. Evaluation may be made by outside consultants at the donor’s expense.

The Library may acknowledge purchases of materials through financial donations with bookplates placed inside the covers of books, or other places befitting the format of the material. The Library reserves the right to select titles, formats, editions, etc. with donated funds.

**Procedure**

- The Acquisitions Coordinator, in collaboration with faculty librarians and the Library Administrator coordinates the library materials received as donations, following the Library’s Collection Development Policy.
- The Library Donation Form is completed and signed by the donor, agreeing to the Library’s Policy.
- Letters of acknowledgement will be prepared and signed by the Library’s Administrative Office.

**Forms used include:**

Library Gifts Form (paper)
Library Material Donation Form

The Library reserves the right to process donated material as it deems most appropriate. Donated material will be analyzed in the context of the University’s collection development needs, and may be added to the collection, offered to other institutions, placed in a book sale, or discarded at the library’s discretion.

Donor Name: __________________________________________________________

Faculty: _____ Student: _____ Other: _____

Number of books: ______
Number of journals: ______
Number of audio-visuals: ______
Would you like an acknowledgement letter for this donation? _____Yes ____No

If “yes”, please give us your address:

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

_____________ _______________________
Date Donor Signature

___________________
Received by
Policy on the Confidentiality of Library Records

All Library records including records of requests for purchase, interlibrary loan requests, and circulation records are considered confidential and will not be released to anyone, except the patron whose name is on the record, without a subpoena or court order. The Library will not inform anyone of who has a book checked out nor what library content someone is using.

Statement of Publication

This policy is considered a public document and can be given to anyone upon request.

Procedures for Revision

This policy should be reviewed annually by a committee of the Library Liaisons. A complete overhaul of this policy should be undertaken with faculty, administration, and student input every three years, and the new policy will be published and available for any members of the St. Thomas University to review.
**Collection Development Policy for Biscayne College:**

**Programs:**

- BA in English, History, Human Services, Liberal Studies/Global Leadership, Political Science, Psychology; MS in Guidance & Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health Counseling; Certificate programs in Child and Adolescent Studies, Criminal Justice, Guidance and Counseling, Homeland Security and Terrorism Control, Justice Administration, Marriage and Family Therapy, Loss and Healing.

**Major information needs:**


**Major publishers:**


**Special notes:**

- UNI 101 is directed by Biscayne College. This course introduces students to the library as place and source for information.
- Biscayne College includes the University Honors Program. Honors coursework includes Honors Writing, Western Literature, Western Civilization, Philosophy, Ethics, Religious and Bible Studies, and the History of Christian Thought.
- The Global Leadership Studies Program with a concentration in Philosophy is offered in collaboration with Biscayne College.

**Major Databases:** JSTOR, Project Muse, PsycInfo, ProQuest Central, Literature Resource Center, ABI/INFORM, Academic Search Premier, Literature for Students, New Republic, Liberty Magazine, The Listener Historical Archive, Slavery and Anti-Slavery, Latin-America and the Caribbean Portal

**Faculty interests:**

- Epic, Drama, Renaissance, Romanticism, American Literature, Literary Criticism, Ernest Hemingway, Mark Twain, Counselor Education and Student Counseling, Political Science, Marriage and Family Therapy, Criminology, Comparative Criminal Justice, and Sociology of Law, International Relations and
Affairs, Sociology, European and American History, Philosophy, Religion, Maritime History, Nuclear History and Culture, American History and primary research.
Collection Development Policy for School of Business:

**Programs:** B.A. B.S. M.A. and M.S. degrees offered in Management, Accounting, Economics, Finance, Business Administration, Institute for Global Entrepreneurship, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Sports Administration, Management, International Business.


**Special Notes:**

- Ethics and leadership are major pillars of the University mission and vision, and play a critical role in the School of Business curriculum.
- Promotion the principles of entrepreneurship a major goal of the School of Business
- Programs and degrees are not fully offered online, however, the School of Business utilizes 9 week (A-Terms); therefore, student need prompt access to online resources.


**Faculty Interests:** Personal and Company Branding, Accounting, Economics and Finance particularly in the Asian and Latin America Regions, Hospitality and Tourism, Sports Administration and Science. Ethics and Ethical Leadership,
Collection Development Policy for School of Leadership Studies:

Programs:

BA in Communication Arts
BA in Elementary Education
BA in Health Records and Information Management
BA in Organizational Leadership
BS in Fire and Emergency Services Management
MA in Communication Arts (Specializations in Electronic Media Arts and Art Management)
MPS in Executive Management
MS in Education
MS in Educational Leadership
MS in Elementary Education
MS in Reading Education
MS in Special Education
MS in TESOL Education
Ed.D. in Leadership and Management
Graduate Certificates in Communication Arts and Education Endorsements

Major Information Needs:


**Special Notes:**

- Many of the educational programs of the School of Leadership will be offered as online degrees beginning in the fall of 2014; therefore, the preferred medium for these programs are e-books, e-journals, and online databases.
- Our programs span an array of disciplines in leadership. The University Library is fully committed to provide an adequate collection to support each of our programs.
- Each of our programs prepares students to be leaders and to contribute to the well being of local communities and the global environment.
- Our Catholic identity and heritage is incorporated in many of our courses to examine and learn the perspective and standards of the church.
- Some programs and degrees are online; therefore, students need access to online and distance education services and resources.

**Major Databases:** ABI/INFORM (ProQuest), Academic Search Premier (EBSCOhost, Access World News (NewsBank), Archivegrid, Art Museum Image Gallery (EBSCOhost), ATLA(S) Religion Index (EBSCOhost), Britannica Online, CAMIO, Catholic Periodical Index, Child Development (Gale), Corrections (Sage), Courts, Law and Justice (Sage), CREDO Reference, Crime and Criminal Behavior (Sage), Dissertations & Theses (ProQuest), Education (Sage), Education Encyclopedias (Gale), EJS (EBSCOhost), Encyclopedia of American Religions (Gale), Encyclopedia of Associations (Gale), Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood: in History and Society (Gale), Encyclopedia of Consumer Culture (Sage), Encyclopedia of Disaster Relief (Sage), Encyclopedia of Drug Policy (Sage), Encyclopedia of Education (Gale),

**Faculty Interests:** Television, Communications, Ethics, Reading, Special Education, Journalism, Public Speaking, Blogging, Video Gaming, 3D, Digital Photography, Children’s Literature, Special Education, Online Teaching, History of Film, Art Ethics, Education, World Education, Bullying, Journalism and Foreign Films, Television and Social Media.
Collection Development Policy for School of Theology and Ministry:

**Programs:** PhD in Practical Theology; Master of Divinity; Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry; BA with major or minor Religious Studies; Certificate programs: Loss and Healing, Spiritual Companionship, and St. Thomas University Contemporary Biblical Scholars; the Ecumenical Institute; Possible new program within the next 2-3 years, MA in Intercultural Ministry.

**Major Information Needs:** Catholic Identity, Healthcare Ministry, Practical Theology (British, American, South Africa, and Dutch), Dissertation Methodologies, Pastoral Care and Counseling, Theology, Theological Methodologies, Worship, Hermeneutics, Homiletics, Bereavement, Liberation Theology, Contextual Theology, Church Leadership, Roman Catholic Studies, Catholic Social Teaching, Ethics, Political Theology, Canon Law and Polity, Biblical Studies, Biblical Language Studies, Christian Scriptures, Hebrew Scriptures, Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue, World Religions, Church History, Spirituality, Spiritual Companionship, Clinical Pastoral Education, Ministry, Comparative Theology, Intercultural Ministry


**Special Notes:**

- Catholic identity is a major characteristic of this University and is given high priority in collection development
- The Master of Divinity is especially diverse in faith traditions including: AME, Baptist, Presbyterian, UCC, UU, Lutheran, Episcopalians, and Methodist traditions
- Some programs and degrees are online; therefore, students need access to online and distance education services

**Major Databases:** ATLA Religion Database, Catholic Periodical Literature, ATLA Historical Monograph Series One and Two, Dissertation Abstracts, and ProQuest Central

**Faculty Interests:** Catholic Identity, Healthcare Ministry, Death and Bereavement, Catholic Social Teaching, Deaf Ministries, Gospel of John, Politics and Theology, Wolfhart Pannenberg, Empirical Theology, Trinitarian Theology, Neuroscience and Theology, Theology and the Social Sciences, Family and Marriage Studies, World Christianity, Public Theology, Catholicism in the United States, Minor Prophets/Book of the Twelve Prophets, Metaphor Theory, Linguistics and Biblical Studies, Hermeneutics, Paul, Roman Imperial Period, New Testament Rhetoric, and Intertestamental Judaism
Collection Development Policy for School of Science, Technology and Engineering Management:

The St. Thomas University Library collects materials in support of the curriculum and programs of the School of Science, Technology and Engineering Management (STEM). Materials are selected to support departmental teaching as well as student and faculty research efforts. The library also collects materials in the general sciences and selected quality popular science titles reflecting the needs and interests of the STU community.

The STEM consists of two academic units: The Department of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Sciences, which offers traditional undergraduate degrees with emphasis on hands-on research and laboratory experience; and the Institute for Applied Computer Applications and Engineering Management, which offers programs focusing on interdisciplinary skills and resource management for professionals, scientists and engineers aiming to advance their careers.

Programs: BS degrees in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Mathematics, a BS in Engineering offered jointly with Florida International University, a BSN in Nursing Program offered jointly with the University of Miami and a BA in Secondary Education with specializations in Biology, Chemistry, or Mathematics in collaboration with the Institute for Education; graduate courses in support of graduate degree programs throughout the University; minors in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Computer Information systems.

Major information needs: Basic sciences: mathematics-- from introductory in all areas of mathematics to upper level works, including specialized works for non-math majors (e.g. mathematics for biologists); multidisciplinary science and applications in such areas as bioinformatics, biophysics, medical physics, mathematical biology, computational chemistry, environmental physics and computational biology; supporting materials to develop analytical and communication skills such scientific writing as well as an understanding of the scientific research process.
Specific area emphases:

**Biology:** Programs include: a BS in Biology, which emphasizes general concepts of all areas of biology as well as a knowledge base in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics; a BS in Biology with Biological Research Specialization, focusing in undergraduate research opportunities with strong analytical and communication skills; a BS in Biology with Pre-Professional Studies Specialization for students seeking careers in the health sciences, with individualized pre-professional education track, hands-on experience in their chosen field and strong base on mathematical and pre-clinical sciences; and a minor in Biology designed to give students in all disciplines the tools to function in science oriented work places and careers. All programs highlight development of scientific skills and principles, practical laboratory skills original cutting-edge research. Materials should encompass basic foundations of biological sciences, mathematics, physics and Chemistry for biologists, and both basic and upper level titles in human genomics, genetics and genetic diseases, developmental, molecular and cellular biology, specifically stem cell research; evolution, ecology; plant physiology and plant tissue culture. Research interests: cancer mechanistics; herbal medicine and drug development; axon regeneration; neural tube disorders and hydrocephalus; plant ecology; plant propagation, genetic diversity and medicinal value; endangered Florida plants; insects’ impact on agricultural species.

**Chemistry:** Programs include a BS in Chemistry, BS in Chemistry with a Specialization in Forensic Science and a Chemistry minor. Undergraduate materials should cover all basic areas of chemistry, encompassing laboratory skills, chemical information, undergraduate research, and Chemistry applications to forensic sciences, pre-medicine, veterinary and dentistry majors; fundamentals of organic chemistry, analytical chemistry, inorganic chemistry, biochemistry, and physical chemistry. Research interests include materials chemistry, nanotechnology, and catalysis.

**Forensic science specialization for Chemistry and Biology majors:** forensic techniques in analytical chemistry, biology, and modern instrumentation, analysis and identification of plant and animal materials, drugs, etc; introductory materials to such related fields as Psychology and criminal justice.

**Nursing:** The joint St. Thomas-University of Miami Nursing Degree Program assures qualified students direct-entry to the highly ranked UM School of Nursing and Health Studies. Materials acquired in support of the program include general introductions to Biology, Anatomy and Physiology as well as to the Nursing profession and specialized branches; human growth and development, nutrition; medication calculations; chemistry, algebra, pre-calculus, etc. for nurses; statistics and microcomputer applications for the health professions; ethics; scientific writing.

**Engineering:** Joint Engineering program offered jointly with Florida International University College of Engineering. During the first two years emphasis is on mathematical and scientific principles, and introductory and academic undergraduate materials in four major areas: biomedical engineering; civil and environmental engineering; electrical and computer engineering, and mechanical and materials engineering with emphasis on optics and mechanical and materials engineering.
Mathematics: BS in Mathematics with the option to choose an education track focuses on applied mathematics with emphasis on applications in areas of atmospheric physics, business, biosciences, and engineering, and a focus on modeling and application of theory of dynamical systems and statistics. Students are encouraged to engage in undergraduate research, and to connect and integrate the concepts, skills and techniques learned within this program. Materials in support of the curriculum should include: calculus, mathematical analysis, differential and partial differential equations, linear algebra, complex variables, introductory mathematical modeling and numerical methods. 

Research Interests include mathematical modeling in atmospheric physics and biometeorology; mathematical biology of asthma with emphases on immune response and environmental triggers; the link between weather variability and dynamics of hurricanes.

Physics: Materials acquired should range from basic titles to advanced physics research in the areas of astrophysics, solar and general radio-astronomy, quantum physics and information, modern optics and its applications (linear and nonlinear spectrometry, biophotonics, lasers, digital and optical imaging and processing, holography, fiber optics, Fourier optics, modulation transfer functions), nanotechnology, nanomedicine and bio-nanotechnology, atmospheric physics, computational and statistical methods in atmospheric and climate physics, and biophysics and complexity in biology and physiology.

Computing: Programs include a computer science bachelor degree program and two computer science minors. The CS program focuses on critical thinking, project development, independent study and research to provide students with theoretical foundations of computation, design and implementation of applications in computer systems. Materials should include: introductory and upper level materials on computer systems and programming, introduction to networking, including concepts, theory, analysis and development tools; fundamentals of network programming languages; software engineering, computer architecture, database system design, development and implementation; web design and programming; foundations of operating systems.

Databases: ProQuest and Ebsco Academic Search Premier science content; selected web sites under ‘Environment’ and Earthscape for environment related topics; Pubmed and SportsDiscus for health related topics; secondary: PsycInfo, Dissertation Abstracts and Statistical Datasets.