

Collection Development Policy¹

November 2018

Dartmouth College Mission

The Dartmouth College Library fosters intellectual growth and advances the mission of Dartmouth College and affiliated communities by supporting excellence and innovation in education and research, managing, and delivering information, and partnering to develop and disseminate new scholarship.

Collection Development Mission

The Library's primary goal, in all of its collection building and managing strategies, is to provide the current and future Dartmouth community with the greatest wealth of resources in the most effective and efficient ways. The current document is reflective of the digitally enabled and collaborative environment in which Dartmouth now does its work.

In this environment, the Library no longer depends upon itself exclusively; local collections form a core but relies on access to collections through networks and partnerships to offset selection areas outside the core. Though the core collection will be dynamic and aligned with current curricular and research needs of the Dartmouth community. The "collective collection" held within the Ivy Plus libraries is now developed by the partnership with an explicit value on building and sharing an unmatched set of resources that benefit researchers across all member institutions.

At Dartmouth, as in other Ivy Plus libraries, liaison librarians make collection development and management decisions in light of this collective collection. In this context, this document is remarkably different from any similar set of policies that might have been written thirty to fifty years ago. This echoes the experience of research libraries nationally: the networked library—in both the technological and relational senses—has replaced the stand-alone resource of traditional expectations.

Collection development at Dartmouth seeks to fulfill the Library mission through organized and purposeful activities based on a strong service ethic. The following strategies are employed to meet our collecting mission:

- Library collections mirror and support Dartmouth research profiles and educational programs. As Dartmouth's research, educational and clinical programs change over

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time, Library collections respond and reorient accordingly.

- The Library employs collaborative relationships, the availability of networked information, and support for new forms of and platforms for scholarship to ensure that the Dartmouth community is able to connect to the information they need now and in the future.
- Information resources collected by the Library are subject to a lifecycle of collection management decision points including acquisition, format, location, and retention.

Collection building and management at Dartmouth Library are considered services to Dartmouth and, as such, focus on the research, educational, professional, and personal goals of its community.

Selection decisions are guided by disciplinary and interdisciplinary emphases, languages of instruction, and research within Dartmouth's academic departments and centers.

The Library does not seek to create extensive collections in areas outside of Dartmouth's institutional priorities and programs. As a result, expenditures for the Library's general and special collections center on purchasing and licensing resources that are most relevant and useful to Dartmouth programs and researchers as well as to the broader scholarly community. Selection of materials to be added to the Library's collections are made by librarians who have liaison relationships with specific academic departments and programs (or, in the case of Special Collections, by librarians who maintain close teaching and research relationships with faculty and researchers across Dartmouth), reinforcing close links between the collections and the research, teaching, and clinical work of the institution.

Responsiveness to institutional priorities and interests creates shifts in collecting patterns over time. As departmental priorities and faculty interests change, so do the collections. These shifts are enabled by funding that is generally (outside of Special Collections) unrestricted in purpose: very few of the Library's endowments are so restrictive that they require collecting in areas of marginal interest at Dartmouth.

Strategic Partnerships and Networked Collecting

One of the Library's chief strengths, in addition to its strong and enduring service ethic, is its collaborative relationships. In regard to collections, commitments to the Ivy Plus/BorrowDirect partnership, the Center for Research Libraries, and the HathiTrust enable the Library to greatly increase student and researchers' access to information. These key commitments are essential elements of the Library's collecting and print archiving strategies.

The Ivy Plus partnership aspires to expand beyond its original and successful BorrowDirect resource sharing program to strengthen collaborative collection building. Dartmouth and other member libraries work on developing general collections collectively, with a goal of delivering a remarkably rich set of resources (currently estimated to exceed 90 million volumes) to the

entire partnership. These efforts enable Dartmouth and other members to focus on supporting core local priorities and goals and to depend on the collective collection for materials that might be used less frequently or by fewer researchers.

The shared vision of the Ivy Plus collective collection and BorrowDirect's robust resource sharing also provide a strong basis for distributed retention of print collections across the partnership, an emerging role that is necessitated by collaborative collecting and facilitated by historic overlaps among the collections.

The Center for Research Libraries collects and lends newspapers, governmental publications, dissertations, foreign materials, and journals to support researchers of its member libraries. The CRL agreements with Linda Hall Library, the Law Library Microform Consortium, and the U.S. Agricultural Information Network further extend the resources available. Additionally, CRL's archive of print copies of JSTOR journals and its leadership in print archiving nationally are critical to the Library's ability to deaccession low-use and unused print copies of digital resources.

The HathiTrust, a partnership of over ninety research libraries based at the Ann Arbor campus of the University of Michigan, works to ensure that the cultural and scholarly record is "preserved and accessible long into the future." Access to the Trust's collections provides over 16 million digital books and journals searchable at the word level through the Library's main search tool, including 6.2 million full-text accessible books and journals in the public domain.

Another key strategy to expand the availability of information to the Dartmouth community, which is increasingly studying or practicing all over the country and the world, is to make resources accessible independent of time, distance or location. E-journals, e-books, and streaming media enable use at the researcher's convenience. Digital information generally provides the added benefit of deeper search and retrieval capabilities, allowing a researcher to pinpoint a discrete piece of information quickly within a complex document, such as an e-book. Because the longevity of digital information is no less important than that of printed materials the Library is actively invested in emerging and established archiving services for electronic materials, including the Digital Preservation Network, Portico, and LOCKSS.

The Library supports emerging models of scholarly publishing, including open access, that have the potential to promote the global impact of Dartmouth scholarship and research. The Library is a member of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition and founding member of the Coalition for Open Access Publishing Equity, providing funds to open access publishers for the publication of articles by Dartmouth faculty, staff, and students.

Collecting Practices and Process

Initial decisions to purchase or subscribe to a particular title are made by liaison librarians based on the needs of our community and in light of format options available at the time. Any special discipline-dependent criteria for purchase should be noted in subject collection

development policies². Typically, electronic format-only decisions are made for journal subscriptions, where these are available. Additionally, the Library generally does not buy duplicate copies of individual titles.

The Library has established processes for secondary selection decisions. Secondary decisions are those made to move to another format for a resource, most notably print-to-electronic transitions for journals. Decisions on specific titles are made by liaison librarians. Decisions to purchase large sets of electronic journal back files or to convert all of a publisher's journals or monographs to electronic-only are usually made by the Associate Librarian for Access & Collection Strategies in close consultation with liaison librarians and in keeping with criteria that allow resource sharing, especially via BorrowDirect.

All materials purchased or subscribed to by the Library and held in its general collections are reviewed on a regular basis to sustain a vibrant collection that serves the Dartmouth community effectively and contributes to the collective collection. Liaison librarians review resources, especially those titles held in multiple formats, to determine ongoing local need and opportunities for shared archiving.

² <https://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/collprog/cdp/>