

Collection Development Policy

Introduction:

As stated in the Mission, the main purpose of the Library is to provide information and instruction to its patrons, with primary attention given to its role in supporting the instructional program. The Library, however, is also open to any resident of Connecticut and is used extensively by area residents. The Library is not a town library and does not assume that role in any way. The Collection Development Policy was developed with these purposes in mind.

Collection development is mainly the function of the professional librarians, with ultimate responsibility resting with the Director of Library Services.

The Library, when possible, will maintain a collection that represents a wide array of viewpoints. The Library Bill of Rights states that Libraries should provide materials that represent all points of view and that materials should not be removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

Materials Selection Criteria:

Materials are selected for the Library based on the following criteria:

- A. That they support the College curriculum
- B. That they have received favorable critical reviews from reputable reviewing sources
- C. That they are basic works in diverse areas of study, including the classic works and works comprising current research, thinking, and issues
- D. That they are recreational materials that meet criteria A and B and would be of particular interest to Northwestern's diverse student body

Within these criteria the librarians may take into account the following factors:

- A. Filling gaps in relevant areas
- B. Reputation of publisher
- C. Lasting value of the material
- D. Accuracy of the information
- E. Appropriate academic level for community college users
- F. Authority of the author or issuing body

G. Cost

H. Timeliness of materials

I. Representation of varying viewpoints

J. Suitability of the specific media to the content and teaching process

Usage indicators, such as circulation figures, interlibrary loan records, and database usage statistics, will be reviewed periodically to determine areas of the collection that need special attention.

The Library encourages recommendations of materials to purchase from all members of the College community. Recommendations from the faculty and other professional staff are actively solicited and will be purchased, budget allowing, if they meet the above selection criteria.