



## Library Collection Development and Acquisitions Policy

### Introduction

The Coleman University library's mission in collection development is to provide guidance, within budgetary and space limitations, for the identification, selection, evaluation, management, and preservation of materials that support the University's curriculum and the needs of its faculty, students, and staff. This mission also includes facilitating access to electronic and other resources and services that may or may not be physically located in, or owned by, the library. It directly relates the collection to the library's mission statement, and defines the scope and standards of the various departments or university programs. To serve these purposes, it is paramount that the faculty takes a vital interest and role in the acquisitions process. Suggestions from staff and students are also encouraged. This policy is written based on Collection Development policies of other academic and public libraries. It may contain borrowed or mixed articulations from these libraries.

### Selection Philosophy

The philosophy of collection development centers on acquiring available and affordable library materials on selective and locally important subjects. The Coleman University library is not well endowed and cannot, therefore, obtain comprehensive coverage of the traditional university disciplines and specializations. Factors that have contributed to this policy include the growing number of print and electronic publications and cost escalations that far exceed increases in appropriations for library materials. It also considers the broadening of academic program and degree offerings, and the demand for the increased research capability and the convenience that electronic indexes and full text databases provide. Coleman University's Libraries Collection Development Policy includes detailed descriptions of the roles and responsibilities for the University Librarian and the librarian from the North County campus. It identifies the selection principles that guide the university's academic leaders, along with the librarians as they build both of the libraries' collections. The depth of subject coverage and the levels of developing each library's collection apply to the University's academic departments and programs. Taken as a whole the Policy is a reflection of the University's curriculum and research priorities. It documents how and why we build our collections and provides a vehicle for communicating this information to the University's community. Should the community change, the library will need to reassess and adapt its collections to reflect the changes as well as the new and differing areas of interest and concern. The University Library fully endorses the principles documented in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association. The library upholds the right of the individual to secure information, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others. Materials available in the library may present a diversity of viewpoints, enabling our community to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy.

