Texas A&M University – Commerce Libraries
Collection Development Policy

Goals for the Collection

Support the current teaching, curricular, and research needs of the faculty and students
Our primary mission is to support the faculty and students’ teaching, curricular, and research
information needs. However, we are not a research-level library with a mission to collect
extensively in all subjects. The majority of our collections budget is spent to support the
primary areas of study in departments and concentrations. We always strive to provide
faculty and students with the materials they need to effectively carry out their research
including using interlibrary loan to extend the breadth and depth of our collections.

Support life-long learning and personal growth for our university community
Our collections reflect the belief that information needs and learning are not only connected
to the curriculum. Our collections support the personal, social, and extra-curricular needs of
our university community as the budget permits.

Participate as a member of our library consortia arrangements through shared
collections and interlibrary loan
We fully participate in consortia arrangements and interlibrary loan agreements that help us
extend the array of materials available to our university community.

Collect and preserve the scholarship and history of the college
The library is active in collecting, publishing, and providing access to the scholarship and
history of the university. We have a strong focus on collecting the scholarly contributions of
the university community. In many cases, the library is also actively publishing college
digital works in support of research and instruction. The Texas A&M University-Commerce
Archives are located in the library and it is also our mission to collect and preserve the
history of the university.

Collections that support our goals

Monograph collection
Books are purchased primarily to cover the subject areas taught at the university.

Journal collection
Journal subscriptions primarily cover the subject areas taught at the university.

Newspaper collection
We maintain a small browsing collection of local and national papers in print. We offer
access to electronic newspapers when possible to increase access, ease of searching, and
usability as well as to save space.
Electronic Resources collection
We offer a wide array of electronic resources covering all subjects taught at the university. Students and faculty primarily do research and information gathering electronically and therefore we emphasize acquisition of e-resources, especially those that include full text.

Curricular Film collection
Our collection of DVDs, videos, and streaming media is developed in support of the curriculum.

Popular Reading and DVD collection
The Popular Reading and DVD Collection supports the extra-curricular needs of the university community.

Reference collection
This collection includes information sources such as encyclopedias, almanacs, atlases, and dictionaries that are frequently used by reference librarians in assisting library users. We are currently migrating paper reference materials to electronic when possible to increase access, ease of searching, and usability as well as to save space.

Map and atlas collection
Maps and atlases are selectively acquired to support the curriculum.

Scores and Audio Recordings
This collection supports classroom teaching and studio instruction and research by providing students with appropriate materials for the study and performance of music.

Curriculum collection
This collection supports the curriculum of the education department and includes state adopted textbooks and children’s literature with priority given to award winning titles.

Special Collections
Special Collections is comprised mostly of primary research materials on Northeast Texas history. University Archives consists of all permanent records, photographs, and historical artifacts documenting the history of Texas A&M University-Commerce. Please see our Special Collections Department Collecting Policy (Appendix A) for further information.

Microform collection
We have acquired and maintained some collection materials on microform. Historically, libraries have done so in order to save space and to better preserve certain titles. In our collection, these materials include newspapers like the Dallas Morning News and government documents like older census records. As we are able to access or acquire these materials online, we will reduce this collection since it is cumbersome to find and use.
Formats of choice

**E-books**
We are currently migrating paper to electronic when possible to increase access, ease of searching, and usability, as well as to save space.

**Paperback books**
The preferred format for print items is paperback over cloth, unless cloth is the only format available or if cloth is better suited for the type of work (i.e. art books, reference books).

**Electronic serials**
We are currently migrating paper reference materials, including journals and newspapers, to electronic when possible to increase access, ease of searching, and usability, as well as to save space. We may make exceptions to this policy when cost for the online version is prohibitive, when the title is not offered in electronic format, when the online version is not a true representation of the print, or if the online version greatly impacts usability.

**Digital images, sound, video, text**
Media is increasingly used in the curriculum and our collections reflect this change. We create, publish, acquire, and provide access to digital media to support the teaching and research needs of our community.

**DVDs**
If digital media is not available, DVDs are the preferred format for film. We will purchase VHS if it is the only format available.

**CDs**
If digital media is not available, CDs are the preferred format for music and sound recordings.

Guidelines & policies

**Accessibility**
In compliance with federal, state, and university policies, the Texas A & M University – Commerce Libraries is committed to purchasing electronic resources that are accessible to all members of the academic community.

**New journals**
We are currently operating under a policy that no new journals can be added to the collection without review and approval of the Library’s Collection Development Committee.

**Single copy**
The Library limits purchases to a single copy of each publication. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Donations
Gifts will be evaluated using the same criteria for selection as regularly purchased materials.

Donors of gifts to the library shall be informed that:

- The library may keep or dispose of gifts in accordance with library collection development guidelines.
- The responsibility for appraisal of gifts rests with the donor.

All gifts shall be acknowledged in writing unless otherwise requested by the donor. Anonymous gifts, by their nature, cannot be acknowledged. Special cards will be sent to families of deceased persons in whose names memorial gifts are given to the library.

Major gifts shall be reported by the Library Director to the University President through the Provost’s Office.

Monetary gifts should be made to the Library Excellence Fund through University Foundation offices. A record of all memorials and honoraria shall be kept.

Collection exclusions
The library will not acquire textbooks adopted as required texts for any given course. Exceptions are those which have earned a reputation as "classics" in their fields or which are the only or best sources of information on a particular topic. Any exceptions must be approved by the Collection Development Committee.

Requests for Information
The Collection Development Committee is responsible for completing requests for information. We are glad to respond to requests for information from administrators, faculty, and staff. RFI require a minimum of ten business days to complete. Requests that are more complex in nature will require additional time.

Collection Maintenance Processes

Weeding
As a university library, we focus on the current curriculum and research needs. Space restraints require that we remove materials from the building in order to make space for new items that meet the needs of the current curriculum. Weeding of the collection should therefore be ongoing and can be facilitated in a number of ways depending on the goals at any given time. Weeding can be performed by subject, by format, by collection, by duplicate copy, where space is most needed, or even item-by-item as out of date, irrelevant, or damaged items are discovered. Criteria for weeding are subject to change depending on the goal or focus.

Serials Reviews
Periodical subscriptions and standing orders are reviewed annually. Requests are handled on a case by case basis.

Electronic Databases
Electronic database subscriptions are reviewed annually. Requests are handled on a case by case basis.
**Outside purchases**
We do not allow non-library staff to purchase materials for later reimbursement. While doing so may seem less expensive, this method of acquiring materials adds significant internal costs.

**Lost items**
When items are officially categorized as lost, the library decides whether a replacement is warranted.

**Worn and damaged items**
The library regularly reviews worn and damaged items to decide whether they are worth repairing or replacing.

This policy was last updated 5/27/2015.

Appendix A: Special Collections Department Collecting Policy

Policy #: 90.5
Policy Name: Collection Development
Date of Effect: 7/20/2010
Date Last Reviewed: 7/20/2012

Policy Statement
This section provides an explanation of the collecting policy for the Special Collections Department.

Policy Details
In order to maintain focus, the Special Collections Department collects and preserves both print and non-print materials in four areas: Northeast Texas history, Texas A&M University–Commerce history, Texas literature and poetry, and select items with intrinsic value. Exceptions to this policy are made on a case by case basis by the Head of Special Collections.

Section #1
Northeast Texas history
Subsection
1.1 Pamphlets, family histories, historical collections, scrapbooks, manuscripts, photos, maps, audio-visual materials, oral histories, and other items of a historic nature that document the history of Northeast Texas. An emphasis is placed on collecting items related to Women’s History and African American History.
1.2 Special general monographs, handbooks, and reference books on Texas history to support the interest of researchers and family historians.
1.3 Papers and publications of Northeast Texas natives who have made important contributions to their fields.

Section #2
Texas A&M University-Commerce history
Subsection
2.1 Publications and historically significant records of Texas A&M University-Commerce, such as newsletters, yearbooks, budgets, catalogs, news releases, graduation lists, accreditation reports and studies, posters, pamphlets, and scrapbooks.
2.2 Records from selected administrative and academic departments deemed to be of permanent value to the University by the System Records and Retention Schedule.
2.3 Papers and publications by Texas A&M-Commerce faculty and alumni who have made important contributions to their fields.

Section #3
Texas literature and poetry
Subsection
3.1 Books, essays, and other publications by Texas authors and poets.
3.2 The private papers of Texas authors and poets.
Section #4

Items with intrinsic value.

Subsection

4.1 First editions of notable authors.
4.2 Signed books by notable authors.
4.3 Limited editions of 200 copies or less.