Chapter 7
Collection Development

ABSTRACT

The collection is the heart of the library. Everything revolves around the library's resources, be they hard copy, non-print, vertical file, or digital. Without that collection, the library's staff is unable to provide quality service, answer questions, and teach patrons how to perform legal research. Because basic collection development theory applies to all libraries, this chapter concentrates on the major differences between standard collection development theory and practice and the theories and practices specific to law librarianship. Furthermore, differences between law library specifics and public law library needs are highlighted. A discussion of the various formats, their advantages and disadvantages could entail a full-length monograph; therefore, this discussion concentrates on the basics and then only as format determination impacts the public law library's collection development plan. Several excellent collection development titles are listed in the Additional Reading section at the end of this chapter for those interested in a collection development refresher course. Further discussion of digital resources, including format advantages/disadvantages, electronic licenses, package or bundle sales, digital resources, and contracts in general appears in chapter 8. Collection maintenance, weeding, and discard procedures are reviewed in the Technical Services chapter.

OVERVIEW

Originally, the phrase collection development referred to the selection of those print materials required to build a comprehensive collection most appropriate to a library's mission (Casserly, 2002, pp. 578-579). Today, collection development includes "…budgeting, collection evaluation, preservation, cooperative collection development, needs assessment, and policy development" (Casserly, 2002, p. 579) as well as weeding and planning future acquisitions strategies to build

a collection that meets the needs of the library's users. This broader definition, known as collection management, developed with the advent of the digital era as libraries were forced to combine and manage a mixture of print, non-print and digital resources (Casserly, 2002, p. 579). Even more recently, some libraries have had to modify their collection's focus to include the management of the organization's information or knowledge management (KM) (Casserly, 2002, p. 582)

The purpose of collection management is to manage all aspects of the library's collection from initial development through maintenance and eventual discard, incorporating some of the tasks that used be considered the purview of the library's technical services department. Under the collection management theory, the collection development librarian is responsible for reviewing and negotiating contracts; identifying, maintaining and providing access to free digital resources; organizing, managing and maintaining the parent organization's internal resources; and training patrons in the use of digital resources or fulfilling a "train the trainer" role with public services staff. For these reasons, this chapter expands collection development to encompass collection management; defining collection management as the process of defining, managing, maintaining, retaining, growing, improving and fine-tuning a library's collections to meet the library's patrons' needs through sound fiscal management, policy development, current technology, prudent resource selection, and the institution's organizational documents.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

While AALL's *County Public Law Library Standards* (2009) and *Standards for Appellate Court & State Law Libraries* (AALL-SCCLL, 2006) encourage the establishment of written collection development policies, few public law libraries have written policies and procedures. This mirrors the overall lack of policies and procedures in the public law library community. A well-written collection development policy provides the guidance necessary to select those titles and formats best suited to the library's needs and limitations, establish boundaries for the subject matter and formats most appropriate to the library's collection, and keep the library's collection management program on track and within budget. Such policies also support the librarian's defense of collection development decisions should any challenges emerge.

One purpose of the collection development policy is to help the librarian determine the best use of the library's space (physical and digital), the amount of time and money to allocate to specific aspects of the library's collection, the types and formats best suited to meet patron needs, and the types of collection maintenance most practical for that specific library. It can also help minimize duplication while simultaneously encouraging the development of a mixed collection in which print, digital, online and free internet resources complement each other.

A major decision to be made before drafting a collection development policy is the style most appropriate to the library's situation. Some libraries, such as the University of South Carolina's Coleman Karesh Law Library, choose to create a single lengthy policy statement that addresses everything—current and future contingencies. An academic-public law library, the Coleman Karesh Law Library's 35-page collection development policy sets out the library's audience, purpose, principles, networking guidelines, jurisdiction, format acquisition guidelines, and additional miscellaneous criteria such as resource duplication, donations, government documents, and archival interests. Other libraries choose to draft a series of short, broadly-stated policy statements similar to the one in Table 1, which are then backed up

Related Content

History of Electronic Resources

Dalene Hawthorne (2008). *Electronic Resource Management in Libraries: Research and Practice (pp. 1-15).*

www.irma-international.org/chapter/history-electronic-resources/10025

Intrapreneurship and Enterprise 2.0 as Grounds for Developing In-House Digital Tools for Handling METS/ALTO Files at the University Library Belgrade

Nikola Smolenski, Milena Kosticand Adam Milorad Sofronijevic (2018). *Developing In-House Digital Tools in Library Spaces (pp. 92-116).*

www.irma-international.org/chapter/intrapreneurship-and-enterprise-20-as-grounds-for-developing-in-house-digital-tools-for-handling-metsalto-files-at-the-university-library-belgrade/188101

Open Web Capture for Libraries: Reinventing Subject Encyclopedias for the Open Web

John G. Doveand Ingrid Becker (2012). *E-Reference Context and Discoverability in Libraries: Issues and Concepts (pp. 164-177).*

www.irma-international.org/chapter/open-web-capture-libraries/57922

Assessing Strategies of the International Council on Archives: Section on University and Research Institution Archives Re-Opening During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Nkholedzeni Sidney Netshakhuma (2021). *Handbook of Research on Knowledge and Organization Systems in Library and Information Science (pp. 141-156).*

www.irma-international.org/chapter/assessing-strategies-of-the-international-council-on-archives/285493

Panorama of Electronic Resource Management Systems

Margaret Hogarthand Vicki Bloom (2008). *Electronic Resource Management in Libraries: Research and Practice (pp. 322-349).*

www.irma-international.org/chapter/panorama-electronic-resource-management-systems/10042