

Viterbo University Todd Wehr Memorial Library Collection Management Policy

Selection Policy

The Todd Wehr Memorial Library aims to support current on- and off-campus undergraduate and graduate programs of Viterbo University, as well as its strategic initiatives and mission and core values, by collecting materials in a variety of formats. Where possible, the library supports faculty research and course development through acquisitions, interlibrary loan services, and electronic resources. Professional librarians are responsible for all purchasing decisions in their assigned Partner subject areas. Ultimate decision-making in library acquisitions lies with the Library Director.

Library Vision and Mission

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Vision

The Todd Wehr Memorial Library, guided by Franciscan values, develops, coordinates, and promotes dynamic services designed to enhance learning and anticipate the needs of a diverse Viterbo community.

Mission

The Todd Wehr Memorial Library is a key partner in fulfilling the mission of Viterbo University by educating students and enhancing the scholarship of the institution. The Library:

- Provides responsive, reliable, and user-centered information services.
- Promotes and develops an information literate community through formal and informal instruction, faculty partnerships, and learning-focused resources.
- Enhances the University's scholarly culture by connecting researchers to scholarly information and engaging in continual dialogue with faculty and students.
- Maintains virtual and physical environments that support research, reflection, and connection.

Intellectual Freedom

The Library endorses the ideal of intellectual freedom, opposes censorship, and follows the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights" and the "Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries." However, the size of the Library's collection may not permit including all sides of every issue. The Library is not intended to be a comprehensive research collection. We encourage the use of interlibrary loan to fulfill research needs that fall outside of the scope of our collection.

Challenges to items in the Library's collection will follow this general procedure: The Library Director will share the challenge with Library Partners, and outside Library associates, if needed. The direct supervisor to the Library Director will review the challenge and, if needed, will work with the Assistant Vice President of Academics and Institutional Effectiveness. At this point a reply will be shared with the complainant.

Library Partners Program

The Library Partners Program exists to establish ongoing relationships between the Library and the University's academic departments. The Partnership Program is composed of librarians and departmental faculty working together to enhance communication and improve library resources and services.

Library Partners will proactively develop relationships between the Library and faculty in their assigned academic departments/subject areas through a variety of approaches.

Communication and Responsibilities

Library Partners communicate with Faculty Partners by attending meetings, e-mailing, promoting library news and resources, studying curricular needs and changes, reaching out to new faculty, and discussing format types. All instructors may reach out to Library Partners to suggest material purchases.

Library Partners are responsible for expending library funds to best serve the needs of the program. They will prioritize faculty suggestions and format type preferences, review new publications and professional reviews, evaluate existing materials, and weed when necessary. Library Partners will also communicate updates and changes to faculty.

The Acquisitions Librarian will maintain a current list of Library Partner assignments, the fund code associated with each subject area, and the Faculty Partner for each department/subject area. The most recent update of this list will be found on the Library's SharePoint site in the Partners Program folder. The Acquisitions Librarian will also maintain a PDF version of the Partners list, without the fund codes, for the [Partnership Program](#) portion of the Library's website.

Selection Considerations

Selection of library materials by the Library Partners follows these general principles and criteria:

- Purchasing priority is given to faculty requests for particular titles in their subject areas as funding permits.
- When the Library Partner is doing the selecting for their subject area, priority will be given to titles which are recommended in *Resources for College Libraries*, *CHOICE* Outstanding Academic Titles, or authoritative library review resources such as *Publishers Weekly* and *Library Journal*.
- Library Partners will always purchase the latest edition of a title unless an older edition is more complete or a "classic" in the field according to subject specialist faculty members.
- Library Partners will strive to purchase materials published within the last five to ten years, whenever possible, so that the most recent information in the field is available in the collection.
- Where there is a choice between purchasing a print or electronic version of a title, faculty preference will be taken into consideration, as well as whether or not courses are held on-campus or virtually.
- Where there is a choice between purchasing a hardcover or paperback version of a title, the paperback version will generally be purchased unless the hardcover version is available at a lower cost.
- The Library does not purchase textbooks used for University courses.

- In general, the Library will not purchase duplicate copies of titles unless there is very high demand for a particular title, necessitating extra copies to meet that demand. An exception to this is the purchase of two copies of each John Newbery Medal and Randolph Caldecott Medal award-winning title annually for the Children's Collection to ensure access to these titles in case of damage, loss, or out-of-print status.
- Video requests are normally fulfilled by purchasing DVDs. Instructors should request streaming for classroom purposes.
- Purchase of audiovisual materials costing more than \$50.00 will be approved by the Library Partners group as a whole.
- Serials subscription requests are vetted by the Partner, Director, and Serials Librarian. Most new subscriptions begin in January.
- Requests from faculty for the licensing of additional academic databases will be taken under consideration within budgetary constraints.
- Open Access (OA) and Open Education Resource (OER) materials may be added to the Library's collection depending upon access model, amount of available content, and availability of cataloging records.

Collection Maintenance and Weeding

The Library's collection should be reviewed and weeded by the Library Partners in their assigned subject areas on a fairly regular basis (e.g., every three to five years), or more often if new materials cannot be placed on the shelves due to lack of space.

Deselection of materials will follow the methodology of *CREW: A Weeding Manual for Modern Libraries*, developed by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and MUSTIE Principles (Misleading, Ugly, Superseded, Trivial, Irrelevant, or obtainable Elsewhere). In general, the number of circulations (or lack thereof) a particular title has had in the last ten years, its age, physical condition, availability of a newer edition, availability via interlibrary loan of the material, appearance in *Resources for College Libraries*, whether or not the title is a classic in the field, and its appropriateness to current social norms will be taken into consideration.

Circulation staff will notify the Acquisitions Librarian of any materials which have not been returned or damaged by a patron, or have been missing from the inventory for more than one year. Whether or not to replace those materials with the same title or another similar title will be decided by the appropriate Library Partner.

Every effort will be made to sell weeded materials through a local independent bookseller or donate them to Better World Books. Where materials are rejected for sale or donation, they will be disposed of in as environmentally-friendly a manner as possible.

Donations are accepted and reviewed by Library Partners. Materials that are in good condition, relevant to the collection, and meet other considerations may be added.