COLLECTIONS

Library Mission and Purpose of Collections Policy

Blount Library advances the curriculum, research, and reading interests of Averett students with scholarly and professional sources, reference consultations and instruction.

The library strives to maintain actively used collections supporting academic programs, independent reading, and research. Sources for assignments and student research have highest priority, followed by reading beyond the curriculum and faculty research.

Responsibility for Collections

Collection development and management are the responsibility of academic liaison librarians (all library faculty) in consultation with the Faculty Library Committee and academic program representatives.

Librarians welcome student and community recommendations for collections, including titles to acquire for library events.

Funding

The library receives annual budget allocations for books, serials and reference databases. Allocations are not specified by academic program, but encumbered based on actual requests, with special attention to new and developing curricula. (Recent examples include special education, reading instruction, and nursing.)

Endowed funds (the Mary C. Fugate Library Fund, William and Cathryn Rickman Funds, Curtis Bishop Memorial, and Conwell Anderson Fund) also support collection development.

Collection development is ongoing, with requests to be funded from the materials budget due by March 31. From March through June, books and media required for summer sessions or fall semester courses can generally be acquired with endowment income.

Books and Media

Averett University has a tradition of book and media selection by academic program faculty, coordinated and supplemented by liaison librarians. Librarians accept and encourage requests in any legible format, including annotated catalogs, electronic communications, and web form.
The library subscribes to *Choice Reviews Online*, which faculty may access directly, or elect to receive as monthly current awareness and/or year-end “Outstanding Academic Titles” lists from a liaison librarian.

Faculty publications: When an Averett professor publishes a book, the library acquires two copies, one for the archives and one for the circulating collection.

Bundled e-book subscriptions include Proquest Academic Library (formerly eBrary), EBSCO eBook Academic Collection, Oxford Reference, and Springer Behavioral Sciences Collection. Where the library licenses an e-book for the same edition, faculty may also order a print copy.

Library collection development and interlibrary loan policies exclude textbooks. Blount Library coordinates with the Student Success Center and academic programs (notably education and nursing) to assist students with access to required course and test prep materials.

The budget allocation for “Books” covers print books, e-books and physical media, enabling each program to achieve an appropriate balance of sources. The allocation for research databases funds streaming media licenses for specific disciplines (American history and music), and a general PDA (patron driven acquisitions) program (see Kanopy below). Open access streaming media sources are frequently referenced on research guides.

**Journals and Research Databases**

As of Fall 2018, the library maintains 92 print journal subscriptions, and licenses 47,775 e-journals, nearly all in bundled databases, and a few as direct electronic subscriptions. The latter include *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and journals supporting sport management, athletic training, and nursing. Requests for new journal subscriptions are forwarded from the academic program to the appropriate liaison librarian, who consults with colleagues regarding potential impact/volume of use, access and cost. Interlibrary loan data are considered in this analysis. Liaison librarians coordinate selection and retention of database subscriptions with academic departments. Proposals may also originate with the Faculty Library Committee. (An example is JSTOR.) Reference databases are licensed directly with vendors, through LYRASIS and through the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA). The latter offers jointly funded “core” resources selected by Virginia independent colleges and universities from all VIVA contracts, and optional “cafeteria” choices with consortium pricing negotiated on behalf of public and private institutions.

**Performances and Images**

In response to requests from the Music Department, the library licensed the Classical Music Library from Alexander Street Press in 2006.

With assistance from an Andrew W. Mellon grant shared by eight Virginia independent colleges and universities, the library licensed the ArtSTOR database of images and metadata and 2008.

The library licensed Kanopy Streaming Media in January 2017, with a cash deposit and 20% discount on one – three year rental of any film viewed four or more times at Averett. In November 2018, Averett’s Kanopy agreement transitioned from a deposit account to a budget cap with monthly billing for triggered licenses. The 20% discount continues for titles triggered by four or more plays in the
PDA program. Kanopy offers a broad selection of over 26,000 documentaries, feature films and training videos from thousands of producers. Touching on all topics, producers include Criterion Collection, PBS, HBO, The Video Project, New Day Films, The Great Courses, California Newsreel, Kino Lorber, Media Education Foundation, First Run Features, and the BBC.

Archives and Special Collections

The collection development policy for Archives and Special Collections is available on request from the Archivist.

Gifts and donations

Blount Library accepts gift books supporting academic programs and reading beyond the curriculum from affiliated individuals, including current and retired/emeriti faculty. Volumes not added to the collection may be shipped to Better World Books or donated to another organization. Better World Books sales generate a small rebate to the library; packaging and shipping costs are covered; unsold materials are donated to worldwide literacy programs or recycled.

The library can accept gifts that require special housing, organization, or security (archives, artifacts, and manuscript collections) only when funds and space are available to curate them.

COLLECTION ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT

Prior to 2010, Blount Library conducted periodic inventories and spot weeding. Concerns regarding the relevance and currency of holdings—which included limited runs of bound periodicals, moribund reference volumes, and decades of popular fiction received as gifts—drove a comprehensive collection analysis comparing catalog holdings to Resources for College Libraries with Bowker Collection Analysis (2011-2014). Over 14,000 titles were deaccessioned and approximately 1,000 recommended titles were added.

Current analytics reveal a growing percentage of digital holdings (81% of all monograph and serial/continuously updating titles in Fall 2018) and predominance of e-books for recent years of publication. Though resources in all formats are integrated in WorldCat Discover, several other considerations arise from these findings:

- Are students and faculty aware that e-books predominate and how to find them?
- Are e-books from multiple vendors readable on students’ preferred devices?
- Do bundled e-books (Proquest and EBSCO academic collections) and e-journals deliver the right content for Averett’s diverse academic programs and student learning objectives?
- If not, what strategies are needed to fill gaps, and should these sources be acquired in print or digital format?

In August 2018, Kevin Harden and Jennifer Robinson presented a faculty workshop on digital research at the library. Elaine Day’s (November 2018) review of e-book accessibility, licensing and open access options recommends purchase of print copies of books needed for intensive study, and ongoing licensing of e-book collections that support Averett’s increasingly diverse curriculum.

Preservation
Evaluation and preservation of subject collections is the responsibility of circulation services and liaison librarians, in consultation with technical services. Items in need of repair are addressed by technical services in-house or at the bindery. Items beyond repair are evaluated by the liaison librarian for replacement cost and value in the collection. Contaminated (e.g., moldy) items are immediately isolated on detection, and evaluated.

Blount Library has a perennial issue with high humidity in lower level book stacks during summer months, with average humidity above 60% prior to 2017. Mold on that floor periodically affects collections in criminal justice, law, education, music, art, literature, math and sciences.

Replacement of a leaky air conditioner on the main floor, and addition of two dehumidifiers on the lower (2016) have apparently resolved summer humidity issues in those collection. Two moldy volumes were found and discarded in Fall 2017, one on the upper and one on the lower level. Long term resolution will require ongoing attention to ventilation, HVAC and moisture control.

Humidity was well controlled through Summer 2018. Remediation is underway following water intrusion from Tropical Storm Michael (4 October 2018) on the upper level, and a November 2018 HVAC leak on the lower level.

Deaccessioning

When feasible, volumes removed from print collections are shipped to Better World Books. Alternatives include library book sales and donation to local charitable organizations.

Policy Creation and Revision

Collection development policy was previously communicated to the university community through a general library policies document. In 2015-2016, library policies were formalized as Access Policy and Collections Policy. Both policies are available on the library orientation web guide: http://averett.libguides.com/library/learn. Procedures set forth in the policies are not mandatory.

The Collections Policy is implemented by librarians, in consultation with academic program representatives, and can be amended by consensus of library faculty with subsequent review by the Library Faculty Committee. The library committee endorsed the Collections Policy on December 1, 2017, and the current revision on December 10, 2018.