

POLICY FOR COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND TREATMENT OF THIRD-PARTY WEB SITES

Internet resources, whether purchased or free, have become a commonly accepted part of the collections of virtually all academic libraries in support of their educational missions. This policy is only intended to discuss the selection of third-party Web sites and does not include the selection of either electronic journals or monographs, or bibliographic or statistical databases.

Web sites that are considered for addition should be primary resources. In general, third-party Web sites, which are secondary resources, should not be selected for addition to the Libraries' collection due to their non-specificity.

Any electronic resource, regardless of cost, should be selected according to the same basic criteria as any other library materials as detailed in the Collection Development Policy. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Relevance to the University's needs.
2. Scope and content.
3. Relevance to existing collections.
4. Scholarly worth.
5. Currency and timeliness.
6. Bibliographic accessibility.
7. Relative price.

Additionally, to allow effective presentation of the information, only resources with full-level MARC records with subject analysis should be selected. The Libraries do not have the manpower to perform original cataloging on third-party Web sites. Other considerations, such as the stability of the URL and complexity of maintenance, should influence decision-making. Sites with password requirements should not be added.