

NWHSU Faculty Scholarship Archive

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Title:	Making an Impact on Your Collection Policies in a Post-Pandemic Era
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Author(s)/ Presenter(s):	Emily Waitz, Susan Vossberg
Abstract (or Book Review):	Collection Development Policies are essential documents in all libraries. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly changed library user behavior and subsequently collection decisions. All library staff can play a role in ensuring these policies are effective and support the library's mission. Learn why and how to develop and influence your library's CDP in the modern era.



Making an Impact on Your Collection Policies in a Post-Pandemic Era

Emily Waitz & Susan Vossberg
Northwestern Health Sciences University


About Us

- Small academic library at a school with professional programs.
- Library staff is small: 4 Librarians, 4 Paraprofessionals
- Decision making is simpler for us – we know that is not true in all organizations.



Collection Development Policies – Generally

- ❑ A document* that describes how the library builds and manages their collection.
- ❑ Keeps library collections in alignment with the mission of the organization/library.
- ❑ Includes descriptions of subject areas, assessment practices, selection criteria and deselection processes.
- ❑ A communication tool, especially with other libraries, if you chose to make them public.



*Can be a set of documents or web pages.

What are some of our favorite CDP parts?

Communication:

- Library Mission
- Donation policy
- Special purchasing areas, like our Textbook policy



COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of the Greenawalt Library is to ensure access to information in support of the University's mission and programs to students, faculty, staff, healthcare providers, and alumni. We will support the curricula by providing resources to our community of users and developing access to resources that anticipate the dynamic nature of the University's information needs. We strive to provide a respectful environment that allows for effective learning and the opportunity for personal and professional development.

The Greenawalt Library's professional library staff are committed to assisting learning by collecting, organizing, and providing access to information that supports the University's curricula, teaching research strategies, and modeling the professional values, attitudes, and behaviors that the University expects of our students in academic settings.

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically changed how our users interact with the library collection. Print circulation is much lower and more students and faculty access our resources remotely. During that time, the University also began offering a small number of fully-online programs. Therefore, this document was updated in 2024 to reflect collection policy changes due to changes in library usage and student behavior post-pandemic.

Greenawalt Library Mission Statement

Greenawalt Library provides collections, expertise, services, and facilities that are essential to achieve the University's mission of preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals to deliver and advance healthcare.

Intellectual Freedom

The Greenawalt Library is committed to freedom of inquiry and supports information-seeking in the pursuit of evidence-informed practice. The library is also guided by the principles of intellectual freedom, as expressed by the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights."

Privacy

Per the American Library Association, confidentiality of library records is a core value of librarianship. The Greenawalt Library respects the privacy of all who use our services and does not share personal patron information with outside parties/requestors.

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What are some of our favorite CDP parts?

Internal:

- Responsibility
- Selection Criteria
- Collaborative Collection Development and Management

 **GREENAWALT
LIBRARY**
NORTHWESTERN HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

**COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT
POLICIES**

Responsibility for Collection Development
The Director of Library Services has the final responsibility for the development and maintenance of the library collections. Library Faculty also play a critical role in defining library collection decisions. The Director also welcomes input from the NWHSU community.



Selection Criteria
Factors influencing decision to add new materials to the collection include, but are not limited to:

- Requested by faculty or students
- Format, with an emphasis on electronic to provide maximum accessibility
- Evidence-based
- Relationship to the University's curricula
- Program-specific career preparation
- Supporting the research needs of faculty and students
- Reputation of the author or publisher
- Cost
- Existing holdings
- Availability from other libraries
- Scarcity of material on the subject

We will buy or subscribe to new items in the following broad subject areas. This list will change based on programs and current course offerings:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acupuncture• Anatomy• Biochemistry• Bioethics• Biological Sciences• Chinese Medicine• Chiropractic• Complementary & Alternative Medicine• Cultural Competence in Healthcare• Functional Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthcare Equity• Health Coaching• Herbal Medicine• Human Biology• Integrative Care• Massage Therapy• Medical Laboratory Science• Medical Laboratory Technology• Nutrition• Physical Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology• Radiation Therapy• Radiologic Technology• Sociology• Sports Medicine• Sports Rehabilitation• Strength & Conditioning• Trauma-Informed Practice
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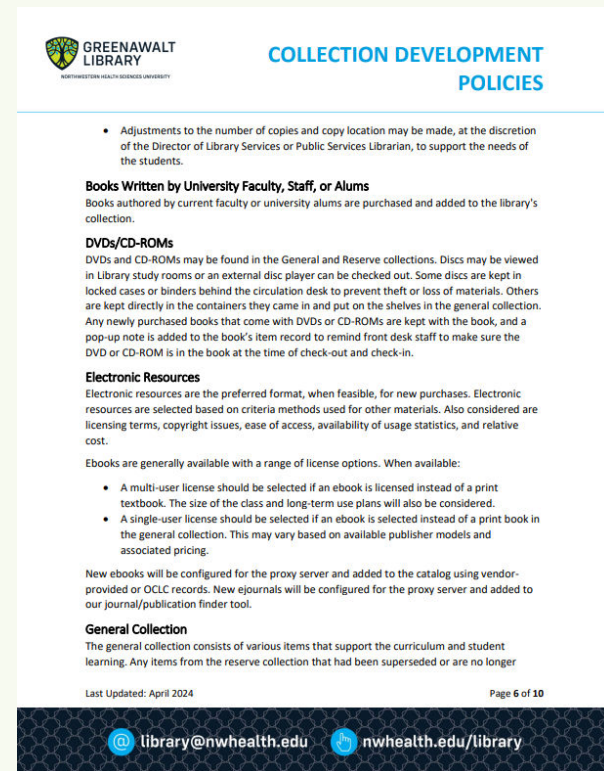
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What are some of our favorite CDP parts?


Internal (continued):

- Collection Descriptions: format preferences and retention
- Inactive Collections
- Collection Maintenance (weeding, etc)





**What does the
pandemic have to do
with this?**

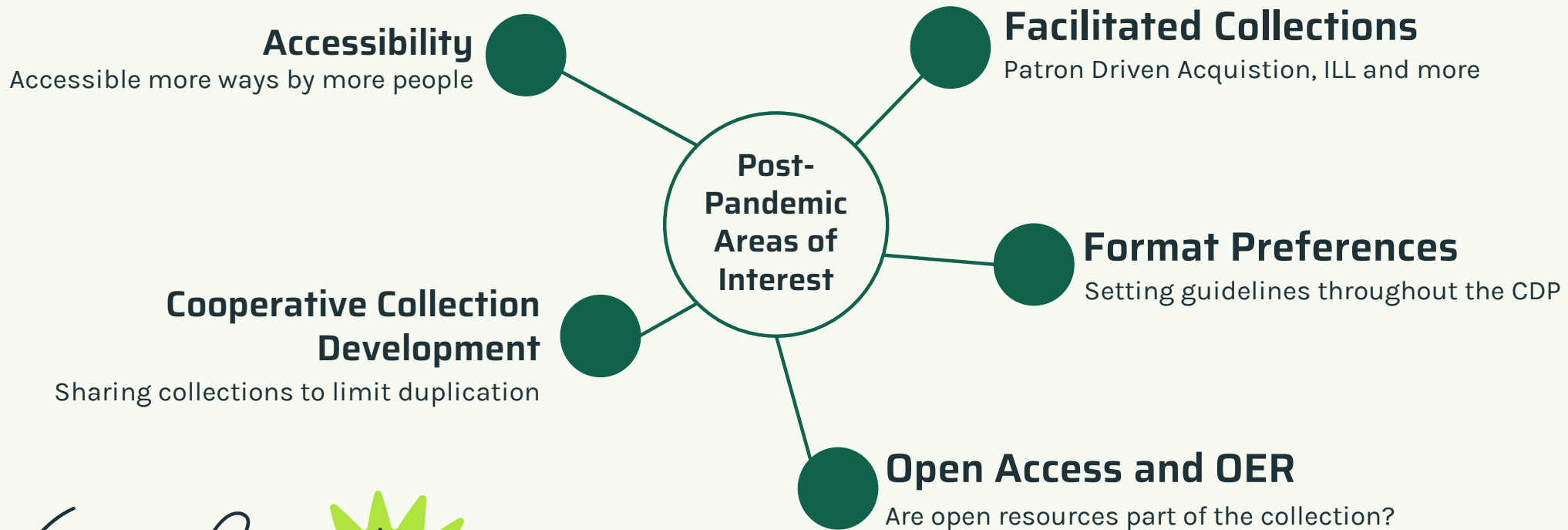


Post-Pandemic Changes to Libraries

- During the pandemic, students had to figure things out themselves. Now they continue and are not interacting as much with the staff or the physical collections.
- Students more interested in the library as a space, than anything.
- The shift to online resources made necessary by the pandemic resulted in old-standby print resources becoming obsolete.

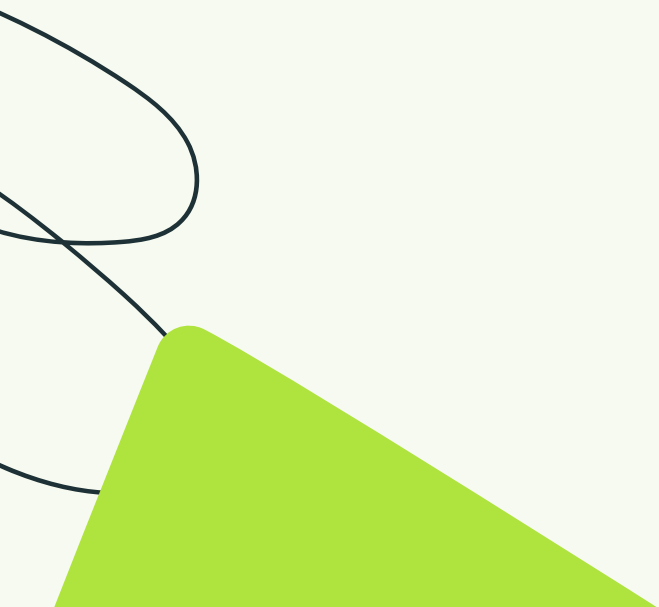


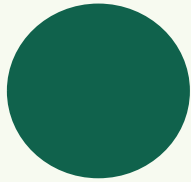
Collection Development Policies of Interest





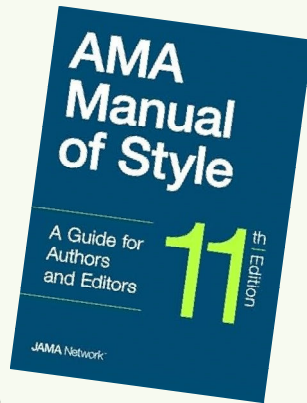
**What is your role in
all of this?**





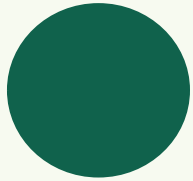
Accessibility

Accessible more ways by more people



Circulation and Shelving Staff will notice previously popular items collecting dust. Habits changed for reference items.





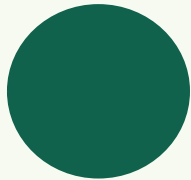
Cooperative Collection Development

Sharing collections to limit duplication

Collection Development Staff
and others are invited to help
and share.



Libby.



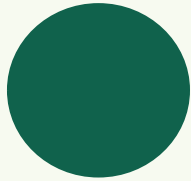
Facilitated Collections

Patron Driven Acquisition, ILL and more



New options entirely change
how we think about building a
collection.

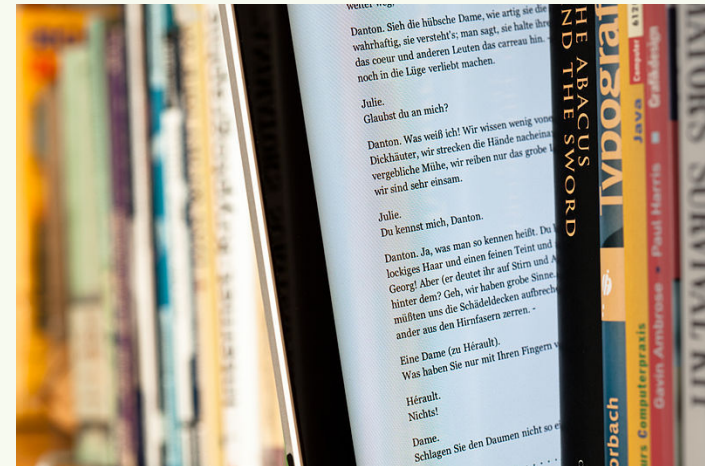


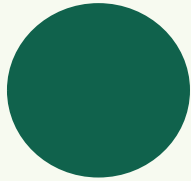


Format Preferences

Setting guidelines throughout the CDP

Documenting new methods
helps with clarity





Open Access and OER

Are open resources part of the collection?


How do open
resources factor in?







Back to the CDP

When more library staff collaborate, the people who manage the Collection Development Policies will be better informed and the documentation will truly serve its purpose.





**Questions or
Comments on your
Experiences?**



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

ewaitz@nwhealth.edu or

svossberg@nwhealth.edu

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