# Department of Life Sciences

## Library Collection Development & Management Policy

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1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to service the research and teaching requirements of faculty within the Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science and Engineering, University of Limerick. Consideration must be given to the extensive teaching portfolio conducted by faculty consisting of supervising research PhD Students, taught postgraduates and extensive undergraduate programmes, many of which are interdisciplinary.

1.1 Application

This policy will inform Department and Library decision-making in recommending items for purchase or de-selection. The identification and implementation of key procedures and mechanisms will enable constructive review of existing resources as well as the selection of new resources targeted at areas of strategic growth in Departmental teaching, learning and research.

1.2 Collection Development & Management at University Level

The university’s Collection Development & Management policy should be referred to for information on non-department specific information, including for example policies regarding donations, withdrawals, preservation and digitisation.

1.3 Collection Development & Management at Faculty Level

The Faculty of Science & Engineering is academic home to 3,500 students and over 250 enthusiastic faculty and staff. The faculty offers a wide range of design, science, computing, engineering and mathematics education programmes, and is committed to developing a collection to support those programmes.

2.0 Profile of the Department of Life Sciences

The Department of Life Sciences is one of ten departments within the Faculty of Science & Engineering, University of Limerick. The current Life Sciences team consists of seventeen full time faculty, eight technical and administrative staff, twenty seven postgraduate students and 10 post-doctoral associates/research fellows undertaking research programmes.

2.1 Department Programmes

Undergraduate Programmes

- Bachelor of Science in Equine Science
- Bachelor of Science in Food Science & Health
- Bachelor of Science (Education) in Biological Sciences with Physics or Chemistry
- Certificate/Diploma in Science, Equine Science
- Certificate/Diploma in Science (Equine Science) Distance Learning
2.2 Research Specialisms

Key research areas within the department include: Food Science & Health, Equine Science, Environmental Biology and Cell and Structural Biology.

2.3 Relationships with other Departments, Faculties, Universities and Industries

3.0 Scope

The scope of the collection of resources will reflect the Department’s teaching and research activities and resource management will be facilitated by the relationship between the Department and the Faculty Librarian.

3.1 Subject Coverage

All material purchased or otherwise taken into stock should contribute to enriching the scholarly collections identified by the Department as its core areas of teaching and research.

3.2 Classification & Collection Levels

The American Library Association (ALA) collection levels model will be applied in assessing all book requests. Texts considered outside the remit of the Department’s teaching and research areas shall not be purchased.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALA Collection Levels</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Out of Scope</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal Level</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Information Level</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study or Instructional Support Level</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Level</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Level</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Glucksman Library uses the Dewey Decimal system to classify material in all formats. The primary classification range for Life Sciences is 570.

Below are listed subjects with Dewey classification and recommended collection level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Dewey Decimal Classification</th>
<th>Recommended collection level (ALA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earth Sciences</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paleontology</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Biology</td>
<td>571.9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunology</td>
<td>571.96</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>
4.0 Budget

The distribution of the annual book budget is agreed by the LIRD committee based on the needs identified by the Faculty Librarians in collaboration with their academic representatives.

4.1 Distribution within the Faculty

Book fund allocations are distributed across all departments within Science and Engineering.

4.2 Distribution within the Department

The fund designation for the Department of Life Science is as follows:

- A Departmental fund: to purchase items on reading and resource lists for modules across Life Sciences.

Purchases may include electronic resources not requiring yearly subscriptions

5.0 Selection of Resources

The Life Science collection is composed of a range of subjects which reflect the teaching and research interests of the Department. These resources are evaluated regularly in terms of scholarly merit and relevance to their individual subject field.

5.1 Module and Programme Support

The Library will continue to actively review its resources to ensure that modules and programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level are adequately supported and that the
impact on library resources can be correctly assessed.

5.1.1 Reading List Items

Reading lists will be given to the faculty librarian prior to the start of each semester, using the agreed procedures for collection of module reading lists. Where possible, items on reading lists will be purchased and placed in the most appropriate collection area (Normal loan, Week loan, or Short Loan Collection), depending on class size and numbers of copies. For items that are difficult to source or considered to be too expensive for lending, the Reference Collection (i.e. Library use only) will be used. Items will be moved between collections, as required, to facilitate maximum use of resources by users.

5.1.2 Research Material

Faculty can submit order requests for material.

5.2 Partnership between Department and Library

The Faculty Librarian liaises with faculty members when making collection development decisions in line with the collection development policy. Together they determine priorities, and decide which material should be acquired, which methods for delivery are most suitable, the number of copies to be purchased.

To ensure the timely purchase of resources, the Faculty Librarian will need to be informed as soon as possible about the following:

- The introduction of new modules
- Any modification to existing modules
- The introduction of new programmes
- Current modules on offer in each programme for the new academic year
- The introduction of new methods of teaching
- Introduction of new faculty with novel research interests
- The Faculty Librarian monitors usage of the collection and will order replacement or extra copies of items due to:
  - Damage
  - Loss
  - Multiple requests for an item over a short period of time
  - User needs based on information received from Information Desk, Library
  - Suggestions for books and online queries

5.3 Procedure for Purchase

Items recommended for purchase should contain as much detail as possible including:

- Title
- Author
- Date
- Publisher
Requests to support Teaching and Learning should, additionally, specify the module name, the estimated number of students taking the module, programme name and year of programme.

5.3.1 Language

Priority is given to publications in the Irish and English languages. Works published in other languages are acquired where they are required to support the curriculum and research.

5.3.2 Multiple Copies

The Department working in consultation with the Faculty Librarian will decide on the number of multiple copies to be purchased for each module depending on the class size. A maximum of 15 copies will be purchased for undergraduate classes consisting of 350 students or more, and placed in the Short loans collection.

5.3.3 Item Format

5.3.3.1 Print

While there is a growing preference for electronic format, print format continues to be the preferred format for the general book collection. (See 5.4.1.1 for journals policy.)

5.3.3.2 Electronic

Electronic format is the preferred format for high demand textbooks and reference material. (See 5.4.1.1 for journals policy.)

5.3.3.3 Multimedia

When selecting multimedia material – e.g. CDs and DVDs – ease of access will be the priority. The existence of appropriate licencing and archiving requirements will be taken into account to ensure high quality and reliable service.

5.4 Procedure For Acquisitions Outside The Allocated Budget

The Library Information Resources Development committee agree book fund allocations. Funds for journals and subscriptions are managed centrally.

5.4.1 Journals & Subscriptions

Subscriptions to journals and databases are regularly reviewed. Where new titles are required either a) the department/faculty agree cancellations to the same value or b) departmental funds are allocated to the subscription.
5.4.1.1 Journals Format

Electronic format is the preferred format for journals.

5.4.2 National Initiatives e.g. IReL

IReL – Irish Research eLibrary - funded resources are reviewed regularly and decisions are made based on a cost per use/value for money model, alongside consultations with faculties and researchers.

5.4.3 Donations

Working in collaboration with the Department the Faculty Librarian will assess any potential donations under the following criteria:

- Contribution to existing scholarly collections.
- Teaching resource.

5.4.4 Legal Deposit

Working in collaboration with the Department the Faculty Librarian will accept Legal Deposit material which meets the following criteria:

- Contribution to existing scholarly collections.
- Teaching resource.

5.4.5 Departmental or Faculty Funding

The Library will endeavour to support new academic initiatives wherever practicable. In the absence of any special funding allowance provided by the University, new courses, new faculty or new research centres will be supported from within the standard Departmental materials allocation.

6.0 Collections

6.1 Department or Discipline Specific Collections

6.2 Location of Collections

The main collection is located on Level 1 of the Glucksman library. Older material not heavily used is located in the Garden Level.

6.3 Dissertations and Theses

Electronic versions of doctoral and research masters theses will be accepted by the library provided the author has not placed an embargo upon them. The Department will retain any electronic versions of theses which have an embargo upon them until it expires. This Department would like to see electronic access to Final Year Projects across campus to ensure that very useful information is kept.
7.0 Library Support for Resource Use

The Library is committed to supporting the promotion and use of all information resources. To this end, the Faculty Librarian will continue to work with library colleagues and academics to maximise the exploitation of key Life Science sources using accepted international frameworks for information skills delivery to support undergraduate teaching, academic research and postgraduate studies.

The Library will work with the Department to:

- Identify the level and detail of training required
- Identify a suitable place within the timetable to deliver training at point of need
- Identify the most suitable delivery mechanism
- Evaluate the training’s impact on assignment quality via assessment

8.0 Stock Review

Print resources will be reviewed frequently, and the Department consulted regarding the removal of journals and older editions of textbooks. These older editions no longer in use or superseded by a newer version will be transferred to the stores. One copy for each of these texts will be retained for future scholars.

9.0 Future Considerations

The Library is committed to aligning the provision of information resources to the strategic priorities of the Department. Identification of best practice will facilitate effective resource management to support the teaching and research of the Department. Issues impacting on planning include:

- Future trends in Life Sciences research.
- The development of inter-disciplinary and thematic research
- The provision of lifelong learning and information skills to library users

10.0 Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis by the faculty librarian and the Head of Department.

11.0 Contributors

Liz Dore, Science and Architecture, Librarian.
Appendices

October 2013.