

Collection Development Policies

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background of this document

The purpose of this document is to aid staff members of Barger-Richardson Learning Resource Center in their effort to follow and enforce the mission of the university and, in turn, of the library. Our goal is to acquire material, in a variety of formats, to enhance the learning experience for students as well as provide research material needed for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff.

The mission statement for BRLC is closely linked to that of the University's statement, which reads as follows.

Oakland City University Mission

Oakland City University in Oakland City, Indiana is a learning community dedicated to:

- academic excellence, technical preparation, and life-long learning;
- the promotion of Christian ethical and moral values;
- the enhancement of each person's intellectual, spiritual, and social development;
- community service through positive leadership; and
- the preparation for gainful employment through academic excellence.

MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE BARGER-RICHARDSON LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

It is the mission of all involved in the endeavor to educate and enrich the lives of our students and community to dedicate our time and talents to:

- Provide informational services and resources to meet the requirements of the educational programs of Oakland City University
- Provide a setting conducive for academic excellence, technical preparation, and life-long learning
- Aid in the promotion of Christian ethical and moral values
- Strive to become a leader in preparing our students and community for success in their endeavors to productively enter into the 21st century; spiritually, intellectually, and morally

Description of Oakland City University

In June of 1885, the Educational Board of General Baptists organized and then gained a charter from the state of Indiana to operate a college at Oakland City. However, because of a lack of funds, the first building, a two-story brick structure housing the administration and classrooms, was not complete until 1891 - the same year Oakland City College actually opened its doors for classes. In those early days the school was called "the college on the hill."

By the mid 1920s, the school had reached a zenith for the first half of the century. There were now several college buildings gracing the grounds including: an expanded administration building, Wheatley Hall, a women's dorm, a field house, Memorial Gym, which housed a library in the basement, Cronbach Hall, a building used for agricultural and industrial arts classes, and a two-story brick building called the president's house. Beside the normal, liberal arts and theological school, the college had added a large industrial and agricultural department to respond to the vocational needs of the rural area which it served.

Sports teams of the 1920s, included basketball, baseball, football, and track. Teams regularly played Indiana State, Evansville College, University of Louisville, and Ball State. By the mid 1920s a legion of clubs could also be found on campus. Among them were the YMCA, YWCA, Phi Alpha Literary Society, Germanae Literacy Society, Athenian Literacy and debating team, a standard debating team, the ETOSCA club, the Dramatic League, the French Club, the German Club, the Glee Club, the college orchestra, and the college band. Enrollment during these prosperous times often broached 1000 students a semester.

Sadly, this comfortable world came to a screeching halt in 1930 with the coming of the Great Depression. Grimly the school held on with faculty and staff often forgoing paychecks in order to keep the school running. The end of World War II and the GI Bill saw a resurgence in enrollment and by the mid 1960s the "college on the hill" experienced an upswing comparable to the 1920s. Several new buildings now crowned the campus including four dormitories, a new library, Brengle Hall, a science building, and Stinson Hall, a classroom building containing an auditorium.

But the good times would not last. The winding down of the war in Vietnam wrought a substantial drop in enrollment. By the fall term of 1973, the college found itself with an overabundance of empty dorm rooms. Fortunately, the sponsoring denomination, the General Baptist, rallied around the school by making an intense effort to raise funds to keep the school open. They also made an important decision of hiring a retiring Marine Colonel and General Baptist minister, James Murray, as the new college president. Dr. Murray's success was nothing short of miraculous. In the 1990s the college moved to university status under Dr. Murray's leadership. Presently the school has an enrollment of 2000 and has seen the construction of six new buildings in the last few years. Today, the university stands fully accredited and offers five graduate degrees and over forty undergraduate programs.

by Dr. Randy Mills, Professor of Social Science at Oakland City University

Selection Responsibility:

The charge of building the collection for BRLRC will, ultimately, rest with the Library Director. The Library Director will be responsible for assigning selection processes to other library staff when appropriate.

The faculty and staff of OCU are strongly encouraged to make suggestions and request material to support their courses and/or planned courses. Suggestions and request are also welcomed from students and staff and are evaluated by the same standards of all other items.

Selection:

Our selection process will be handled in a positive way, meaning that we will do our best to fulfill the anticipated and/or real needs of our academic community. We will attempt to fill any deficiency in our collection. The emphasis of our collection will be on providing access to updated and/or historical materials that will support the curriculum, faculty, and student body. We will strive to represent a balanced collection of all responsible opinions. A balanced collection does not, however, always reflect quantity of material but access to quality, current and relevant material. Selection tools may include, but are not limited to: Book Review Digest, Book-list, Books in Print, Library Journal, book reviews, Publisher's announcements, catalogs, faculty/staff/student requests, recommended readings by faculty (as listed in course information sheets), and reviews published in specialized subject publications.

This policy includes all print and non-print materials. However, due to the unstable and transient nature of technology, inconsistencies and incompleteness of electronic sources, and the constraints of a budget, the majority of this information will be in printed format and be supplemented with electronic sources. An on going evaluation of the collection and other sources of information will be made by the director and assistant and items deemed irrelevant or inappropriate will be removed from the library.

Archival material:

The archive room of BRLRC is dedicated to housing material that has a direct link to OCU's history. The library director will actively collect and preserve materials that are directly connected to Oakland City University. This material will consist of items such as: monographs, newspaper clippings, periodical articles, pictures, artifacts that are connected to the university, and materials that contain information about the university (i.e. CD, DVD, etc) exclusively. No personal items such as birthday cards, personal letters, postcards, etc will be accepted unless they contain pertinent information about the university.

Anything that is donated to the Archive Room that is not directly linked to OCU will be offered to the General Baptist Headquarters in Poplar Bluff, MO. If it is not suitable for the collection at the headquarters, the items will be returned to their owner.

Evaluating/Weeding (collection maintenance policy):

In an effort to provide a collection that meets the university's needs efficiently, the library's collection will be evaluated/weeded regularly and systematically. This process will include books, periodicals, pamphlets, audio, and visual items.

Materials that are no longer suitable/relevant for the collection will be discarded. First edition books and/or historical material will, naturally, receive special consideration.

The criteria for weeding will be as follows:

1. **Appearance:** Books of antiquated appearance which might discourage use; badly bound volumes with soft or shoddy bindings; poorly printed works including books with small print, poor illustrations or paper which is translucent; are candidates for weeding. Also, worn out volumes whose pages are dirty, brittle, yellow or missing; and frayed bindings, broken spines, or worn covers.
2. **Unnecessary titles:** Examples of titles which are no longer needed include duplicate titles whose popularity has waned; inexpensive reprints; older editions of currently held works; highly specialized works including information in their materials or subjects that are of little interest and outdated.
3. **Poor content:** Materials which contain dated or incorrect information; poorly written or performed works; or items which have been superseded by newer, improved editions.
4. **Age:** Items that are outdated. For those titles that are still relevant and are still a vital part of class instruction, we will do our utmost to rebind, replace and/or update instead of simply discarding.

Items withdrawn may be offered to the campus community, PALNI member libraries, and/or the general public.

"There are two kinds of fool; One who says 'This is old and therefore bad,' and one who says 'This is new and therefore better.'" --John Brunner

Intellectual Freedom:

The Barger-Richardson Learning Resource Center supports the American Library Association's Bill of Rights and their statement on challenged materials:

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948, by the ALA Council; amended February 2, 1961; amended June 28, 1967; amended January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 24, 1996.

An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association declares as a matter of firm principle that it is the responsibility of every library to have a clearly defined materials selection policy in written form that reflects the Library Bill of Rights, and that is approved by the appropriate governing authority.

Challenged materials that meet the criteria for selection in the materials selection policy of the library should not be removed under any legal or extra-legal pressure. The Library

Bill of Rights states in Article I that “Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation,” and in Article II, that “Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.” Freedom of expression is protected by the Constitution of the United States, but constitutionally protected expression is often separated from unprotected expression only by a dim and uncertain line. The Constitution requires a procedure designed to focus searchingly on challenged expression before it can be suppressed. An adversary hearing is a part of this procedure.

Therefore, any attempt, be it legal or extra-legal, to regulate or suppress materials in libraries must be closely scrutinized to the end that protected expression is not abridged.

Adopted June 25, 1971, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; January 10, 1990.