

## **Collection Development Policy**

### **Cooperative Collection**

#### **I. Context**

The following guidelines apply to resources of all types purchased by the Northwestern University Library, the Galter Health Sciences Library, and the Pritzker Legal Research Center. The Northwestern University libraries will continue to work cooperatively when acquiring electronic resources and will increase already strong cooperative collection building practices for other formats, including monographs.

#### **II. General Guidelines**

When making decisions about acquisitions, the holdings of Northwestern University Library, Galter, and Pritzker should be conceptualized as a single Northwestern University collection dispersed over several physical locations, rather than as distinct collections unto themselves. While some duplication of resources is necessary, every effort should be made to limit duplication while providing Northwestern library users seamless access to resources regardless of their physical location. The following are guidelines to insure achievement of these goals:

- systematic communication, in regard to collection building, among selectors as well as collection development decision-makers at all Northwestern libraries should be pursued
- individual libraries should avoid purchasing titles held at other Northwestern locations unless there is a specific demand for the duplicate title
- electronic resources should be licensed for all Northwestern campuses whenever possible
- periodic collection assessment aimed at measuring duplication and buying patterns should be undertaken
- the relationship among collections of the NU libraries should be addressed in the collection development policies for individual subjects or other subdivisions. For NUL, this information would usually appear in the section entitled "Related Collections and Consortial Activity."

#### **Completion Date:**

November 2010