

Collection Development Policy

Electronic Monographs

I. Context

The following guidelines apply primarily in the context of decisions about individual monographs. The Library will continue to acquire large packages of content, including retrospective content that duplicates that in print collections, as an important strategy for building electronic collections, responding to trends in user preference, and, in some cases, conserving shelf space.

II. General Guidelines

Duplication of content in print and electronic formats should generally be avoided.

When content is available in both print and electronic format, the electronic version should usually be preferred.

III. Exceptions

When considering exceptions to the above general guidelines, collection development decision makers are expected to take the following into account:

- patron behavior and need;
- ease and flexibility of access;
- long-term access (especially with regard to aggregators and subscription packages);
- completeness of content;
- arrangements/mechanism for updating content;
- cost and space issues.

IV. More to think about

This policy arose from the recommendations of a task force on electronic monographs selection, submitted to the Collection Management Committee in March, 2010. The report includes a record of the task force's work, a more extensive discussion of the issues, a bibliography, and notes about related issues.

Completion Date:

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