

Appendix 1: Tri-College Collections Policy

Part 1: Public Statement

The Tri-College Libraries work closely together to build and maintain a rich collection that serves the needs of students and faculty at all three Colleges. Because of the unified catalogue, Tripod, and the speed with which books can be delivered among the three campuses, the Tri-College Libraries are able to combine their resources to build a single collection and jointly engage in regional collections partnerships that will increasingly address the research as well as curricular demands of students and faculty.

The Tri-College Library consortium also benefits our communities by presenting a unified negotiating position with vendors and developers of electronic resources; by managing our collections and library spaces more efficiently; and by sharing the knowledge and expertise of a larger group of colleagues than would normally be available at a small college.

To attain the goal of building a research collection to support the work of all of our faculty and students, the Tri-College Libraries have adopted the following practices:

- The Libraries will minimize the *unnecessary* duplication of monographs and other easily-shared resources, in order to release funds to purchase materials that would not otherwise be bought. Nonetheless, duplication is not only appropriate, but is strongly encouraged for books that are put on reserve, heavily used in courses, or needed as reference materials. The Libraries retain unique titles even if they are unused or out of scope for the current curriculum.
- The Libraries acquire most academic press books issued in the United States as they are published through a series of approval plans operated by one of the major book vendors. The major plans involve all three Libraries, which makes it possible for the books to be divided equitably across the Tri-Colleges in subject areas where there is interest on more than one campus.
- When purchasing electronic resources, the Libraries prefer to acquire access for all of the Tri-Colleges. Tri-College-wide access is not always possible, though, because of differences in budgets and academic interests.
- Because of the ease of access to electronic collections, the Libraries are making ever greater commitments to acquiring books, journals, reference materials, research collections, and indexes and abstracts in electronic form.
- The Libraries leverage the expertise of local bibliographers by maintaining strong daily communication links among them, holding regular meetings of the Heads of Collection Development, convening occasional bibliographer meetings to discuss specific areas of the collection, and holding an annual collections symposium.