QUT Library Collection Development Manual

1. Introduction

Identification Block

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<td>Contact Officer</td>
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Policy Statement

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1. Introduction

1. Statement of purpose

The QUT Library Collection Development Manual (CDM) guides library information resource management at QUT Library. It outlines the current principles and practices that inform the selection, maintenance, access, assessment of return on investment, and deselection of information resources (electronic and print) across all branch libraries and made available via the QUT Library website.

The primary purpose of the CDM is to provide guidelines for Library staff involved in information resource management activities. At the same time, the CDM informs the wider QUT community and staff from other libraries about the acquisition and management of the Library’s information resources.

The CDM is a living document. It is updated as necessary and reviewed on a rolling three year cycle.
2. University and strategic context

QUT Library contributes to and aligns with the QUT Blueprint, the QUT Real World Learning 2020 Vision and the QUT Research and Innovation Strategy. The Library’s Strategic Priorities articulate the Library’s commitment to the University community in relation to the provision of information resources, including the following priorities:

- To enhance information resource provision, discovery and return on investment based on customer experience and feedback and sustainable budget management.
- To partner as key stakeholders to support QUT’s strategic research priorities

3. Funding

The Library Resource Allocation (LRA) funding model facilitates a standard level of base funding and the ability to adjust base funding in response to exchange rates, resource costs and resource requirements. Over the last few years, the LRA model has enabled the Library to maintain purchasing power and purchase adequate information resources to meet the needs of the University community. CDM 3.1.1 Budget Allocation provides additional information.

4. Scholarly publishing and the higher education environment

The Library has a leadership role in providing expert advice to the university on developments in scholarly communication as contemporary publishing models become increasingly available as alternatives to traditional publishing. The Library provides expertise and guidance in open access and traditional publishing to academics and researchers to support the visibility, accessibility and impact of their research outputs. The Library promotes and administers financial support for researchers to publish in gold open access journals selected for their quality and peer review status.

QUT aims to provide a learner experience which reflects the physical and digital nature of the world, enabling learners to develop depth in professional knowledge with broad perspectives, including exposure to other disciplines and ways of thinking. The learner experience is enhanced through online and blended learning, technologies and tools. Students continue to use the library’s physical facilities to a high degree but increasingly as study spaces. The number of researchers using on-site Library facilities has reduced to a few with most researchers firmly expecting that they will be able to meet almost all of their information needs from their desktops. Library clients generally prefer accessing information resources online unrestricted by physical location and time, and more than 95% of resource acquisition funds are expended on online information resource provision.

The Library has a policy of selecting and procuring access to relevant, high quality online information resources and making them easily accessible to the QUT community. As a result, the Library now provides access to a range of high quality full text journals, ebooks, online video, reference works and bibliographic databases, as well as non-bibliographic and research datasets.

Not all of the information needed by QUT staff and students is, however, available online. A small proportion of relevant published information is still published in print format only and a declining proportion of books are published in print format before the ebook is released. The Library’s physical holdings include collections of monographs, serials and audiovisual materials selected over time and not available in electronic form at the time of purchase. Where appropriate and affordable the Library has replaced print back sets of scholarly journals with online holdings and discarded the duplicate print backsets. A majority of books are now being published in ebook format and the Library’s e-preferred ebook acquisition
strategy has rapidly transitioned the Library’s collection to comprise three times as many ebooks as print books. Publishers of student textbooks are increasingly releasing ebook versions and while models for licensing etexts to libraries are slowly becoming available, they remain unaffordable except as a supplement to student purchase in compliance with legislative requirements.

The Library’s online collection is supplemented by a reducing physical collection as the progress in online resource availability accelerates.

5. Digital repositories

In addition to its role building a collection of published information resources, the Library is the curator of collections of the University’s digital assets. Specific collections currently available include:

- **QUT Media Warehouse** - QUT’s multimedia repository
- **QUT ePrints** - QUT’s institutional repository of published research outputs
- **QUT Theses** - a collection of research higher degree theses
- **QUT Research Data, Software** and **Spatial Data Finder**

Guidelines describing these collections are included in the Collection Development Manual.

6. Access

QUT Library’s collections are available via a range of discovery channels and services including:

- **QUT Library web site**
- **Library Search**
- **Library Databases**
- **Subject Guides**
- **Digital Workplace**
- **QUT Digital Collections**
- **Delivery from other libraries (document delivery)**
- **Borrowing**
- **Browsing the shelves online** or physically

7. Collaboration

**University collaboration**

The Library collaborates with other universities to improve the range of resources and services available.

The Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) operates as a consortium on behalf of all Australian university libraries facilitating procurement of online resources. Regional cooperation on collection development practices occurs through the Queensland Universities Office of Cooperation (QULOC).

**Vendor relations**

QUT Library partners and contracts with vendors for the cost-effective acquisition, cataloguing and shelf-ready processing of new monographs and supply of selected subscriptions.
8. Collection development principles

The Library’s Collection Development Principles underpin its policies and practices.

Modification History

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