Policy statement

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4.5 Collection Evaluation

1. Purpose of evaluation

Collection evaluation at QUT Library is carried out to ensure that information resources are being utilised effectively and meet the changing information needs of clients.

2. Evaluation methods

Evaluation is considered to be an ongoing process, based on meeting identified needs in a rapidly changing environment.

Evaluation is informed by the subject-specialist knowledge of librarians and the collaborative relationships that exist between librarians and faculty staff. Liaison Librarians and Branch Library Managers work closely with academics to maintain and develop the collection in particular areas. As a result they receive regular feedback from academics in relation to the adequacy of the collection and assistance in identifying collection strengths and weaknesses.
Evaluation may occur in response to:
- Course accreditation requirements (to meet the requirements of professional organisations such as the Australian Psychological Society)
- Developing bids for additional funding
- Developing a deselection plan
- Curriculum Development Proposals

Liaison Librarians employ a number of specific methods to evaluate collection areas. Different methods are used, depending on the purpose of the evaluation and the subject area being evaluated.

Key methodologies for evaluating monograph collections are indicated below:
- Usage of the collection. Using the “Analytics” function in Alma, reports can be generated to assess usage over designated time periods and describe usage patterns.
- Review of unit outlines to identify key curriculum areas
- Benchmarking against published output and/or other collections

One or more of these methodologies can be used dependent on the area or process being evaluated.

Liaison Librarians should undertake an annual evaluation of selected areas of the collections they are responsible for either in whole or in part to ensure the collection meets the information needs of their clients.

The procedure for evaluating recent monograph purchases is outlined in Appendix 1.

For Serials see: CDM Policy 3.2.2 Serials including Online Databases

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**Modification history**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>16 December 2009</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Branch Library Manager, GP</td>
<td>Extensive changes across all sections</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2011</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>KG Branch Library Manager</td>
<td>Minor changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Resource Team Leader, LRS</td>
<td>Minor changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 September 2018</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Library Adviser GP via Information Resources Committee</td>
<td>Minor changes</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Appendix 1. Evaluation of recent monograph purchases

The procedure is as follows:

- Run a report in December/January, using “Analytics”
- Period evaluated must be for 2 years, leaving a gap of 12 months between the end of the period covered and the time of the evaluation.

Follow Analytics procedures at:
https://knowledge.exlibrisgroup.com/Alma/Product_Documentation/010Alma_Online_Help_(English)/080Analytics/010Introduction/The_Basics_of_Working_with_Analytics

This process is undertaken on an annual basis and informs information resource analysis included in the Faculty Liaison Plans. The reports include findings and proposed actions as a result of the evaluation;

- Collection Development objectives:
  - Reference to the nature of the discipline as it affects selection, e.g., broad or narrow focus, particular challenges, book reliance of discipline, curriculum and research requirements
  - Context of curriculum and research emphasis

- Summary of findings, including:
  - No of items added to the collection in the review period
  - Percentage number of titles never borrowed
  - % of titles borrowed more than # times

- Graph and table of total loans

- Analysis of findings:
  - Nature of items not borrowed
  - Qualifying elements or particular impacts on use for that time (e.g. evidence of use in-house without borrowing; suspension of key units; processing delays affecting use of new items)
  - Significance for Faculty Liaison Plans and actions to be taken