

Collection Review Progress, 2023-2024

Submitted by Collections Strategies Unit
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The University of California Riverside Library's 2023 Strategic Plan identified five overarching goals to guide the activities of the Library through 2030; the first of these is to build world-class collections to support the unique research and teaching mission of the UCR faculty and students.

A key initiative identified as essential to accomplishing this goal is to:

“Complete a mapping of key programs, research, and classes in priority fields and evaluation of the ability of existing collections to support them”

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Library's Collection Strategies team identified an extensive list of high priority and/or emerging programs for which they determined an assessment of the collections' capacity to fully support was needed. The CS team then launched a multi-year effort to conduct the assessments for those academic subject areas, programs, and teaching foci.

The programs assessed during Academic Year 2023-2024 (AY24) include:

- Latin American Studies – the CS unit conducted a gap analysis with a particular emphasis on establishing new - or refining and updating existing - approval plans from publishers in the United States and Mexico to ensure that materials documenting subjects related to Mexican States, a key focus of research amongst faculty on campus, are routinely shipped to the UCR Library
- Education – the CS unit identified the need to enhance the juvenile-text book media, with a particular focus on engaging in a reparative project to identify existing books in the collection that inappropriately or negatively portrayed various groups of people and to select content that portrays diverse groups of people in a positive light or as the protagonists of their own stories
- Business – the CS unit examined the Library's journal subscriptions to determine whether they maximally support the research trends of the faculty of the School of Business.
- Southeast Asia Literature – the CS unit conducted a review of existing content and future approval plans in relation to teaching and research priorities as well as usage trends

- Leisure Reading collection – the CS unit assessed the endowed Leisure Reading Collection in terms of its coverage of issues related to wellness and current event topics
- Water Resources Collection and Archives – this project included both a gap analysis and development of a framework for re-organization and relocation of collection materials to bring water resources materials together utilizing standard academic library standards and organizational protocols to improve the discovery experience for library users accessing the collections

Additional areas that were reviewed during this academic year include:

- Government documents (select sections)
- Library Science
- Various sub-medical topics

This work focused on the local needs of the UCR campus with a particular emphasis on identifying when use of the large University of California systemwide collections, Interlibrary loan, and on demand acquisition options are not optimal for supporting the academic work on campus. The CS unit used a multifold approach to their analysis, including more traditional gap analysis and comparative work with other academic research libraries supporting similar teaching and research agendas. In some cases, this work included doing gap analysis with targeted de-selection to remove materials which no longer serve as foundational, which have seen no use in decades, or for which there is updated content.

This work did not rest solely on assessing the historical strengths or relative comprehensiveness of the Library's collections but conducted such analysis with an eye on where the programs are now and where they are going and how that differs in relation to past emphases of the research on campus.

As such, this work involved close consultation with people in the programs and taking into consideration their informational needs and the optimal methodologies for communicating this information to these stakeholders (e.g., LibGuides, in-person or online orientations, etc.)

The next set of programs for which the Library's collections are being queued for assessment in Academic Year 2024 –2025 (AY25) include:

- Public Health, in support of the new School of Medicine Public Health Program
- Humanities approaches to sustainability and environmental studies in support of the new College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Science emphasis
- Latin American Studies, with an emphasis beyond Mexico

This effort will be ongoing over the period covered by the current strategic plan. Based on college strategic plans, the next group of programs that have been identified for review or engagement in Academic Year 2025-2026 (AY26) are;

- Bourns College of Engineering – Materials supporting experiential learning to support BCOE’s goal “Introduce new courses that utilize makerspace(s)”
- College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences – Review opportunities to support CNAS’s “Create work-flexible Masters of Science programs,” which may include remote education, part-time, and weekends teaching modalities.
- School of Public Policy – Assess the Library collection’s ability to support “affiliated programs developing local output” with a focus on grey literature
- Campus - “Expand high impact programs such as Honors, Education Abroad, Undergraduate Research, Internships, Learning Communities, and Community Engaged Learning” Work with library Teaching and Learning to support needs