

INTRODUCTION

Valdosta State University (VSU) offers a wide range of discipline based and interdisciplinary academic programs leading to baccalaureate and masters degrees, as well as a range of professional programs leading to baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate degrees. VSU offers a limited number of doctoral level programs. At VSU, a high priority is placed on developing and improving existing programs that aid the educational, economic, cultural, and social advancement of the region and with new programs in selected disciplines.

The mission of Odum Library is to be a major educational and cultural resource of the University, primarily by providing bibliographic and reference support to its academic programs.

The goal of the Library's collection development program is to develop and maintain a collection of materials that will further the purpose and mission of VSU by meeting the needs of its faculty and students. Our collection is shaped via a collaborative effort between librarians and faculty. The primary emphasis of Odum's collection is on materials used by faculty in conducting research and preparing courses as well as by students conducting research related to their course work.

The Collection Development (CD) Policy provides a rationale for the Library's collection development program. The policy serves as a means of defining and communicating the library's collection goals and policies to the VSU community and to the public at large.

The CD Policy is used to assess current collection levels in all subject areas, therefore, providing an indication of the strengths and weaknesses of the collection. Librarians and faculty will use the CD Policy as a guide, identifying areas in need of further improvement, and making recommendations for future acquisition. The evaluations and recommendations outlined in the CD Policy will periodically be subjected for review and revision in accordance with ongoing developments in the Library resources and University programs.

HISTORY

Established in 1913, South Georgia State Normal College offered two years of college to "young ladies." The name was changed to Georgia State Woman's College at Valdosta in 1922, and the institution began offering a four-year program leading to the bachelor's degree. In 1929, the program became accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities (SACS). The Georgia Board of Regents

changed the name to Valdosta State College (VSC) in 1950; VSC also became coeducational during this year. VSC became a Regional University within the University System of Georgia and it was renamed Valdosta State University.

The teacher preparation programs offered by the College of Education have been accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since 1960. The programs offered by the College of Business Administration, initiated in 1945, and by the College of Nursing, initiated in 1968, are currently accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and the National League of Nursing, respectively. The University's Division of Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. In addition, numerous other academic programs have attained accreditation from national professional organizations.

In conjunction with the creation of new colleges and programs at VSU and the increasing size and status of the University, the library has grown. In addition to providing the most recent resources in support of the University's present day programs, the general collection reflects the history and development of the University's academic offerings. The Library also maintains the Valdosta State University Archives, and a Special Collections with an emphasis on materials pertaining to south Georgia.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

After the beginning of each fiscal year, academic departments are allocated portions of the library materials budget according to an allocation formula approved by the Library Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate. University faculty then selects materials for the Library's collection, based upon their anticipated teaching and research needs. Materials acquired with allocations from the library materials budget will be owned by the Library and maintained as a part of the appropriate Library collection (i.e., the Reference collection, Special Collections, etc.) as determined by Library policy.

Library allocations will not be used to purchase materials with specific equipment/hardware requirements that cannot be reasonably met on campus. The Library maintains a departmental liaison program whereby librarians provide guidance to all academic departments regarding collection development.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Multiple copies of items are generally not purchased.
- Self-published books, workbooks, lab manuals, and “consumables” are generally not purchased.
- Textbooks should not be purchased for routine classroom use. Textbooks possessing reference value may be selectively added.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM, COPYRIGHT, AND RELATED ISSUES

The Valdosta State University Library supports the American Library Association’s (ALA) position on intellectual freedom, censorship, and acceptable use. The Library conforms to all requirements of the United States Code Title 17 regarding copyright.