

# Collections and Open Strategies Policy

Iowa State University Library

## Introduction

The Iowa State University Library exists to support Iowa State University's [mission](#) to “create, share, and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place.” As both a research university and land-grant institution, ISU holds a unique role in the state. The Library provides a wide range of information resources that support the teaching, learning, and research taking place at the university while also addressing the general information needs of Iowa residents and the public at large.

This statement outlines the values and strategies that guide the Library as we build an open and relevant information ecosystem that shares our values and provides our communities with the information and services they need. We apply these values and strategies to create our General Collections found online and physically located in Parks Library, the Design Reading Room, the Veterinary Medicine Library, and the Library Storage Building.

## Values

### Intellectual Freedom

The University Library adheres to the tenets of intellectual freedom as espoused in the [Library Bill of Rights](#) and the [Freedom to Read Statement](#) of the American Library Association. We are guided by these to the fullest practical extent regarding, among other things, creating a diverse collection for the “interest, information and enlightenment of all people” we serve. All points of view, both current and historical, honorable and repugnant, are represented in our holdings to the degree to which they meet our communities’ teaching, learning and research needs.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Library values [diversity, equity, and inclusion](#) and works to dismantle the divisive biases that have shaped library collections. The identities, knowledge, perspectives, and experiences of minoritized communities, including those based on ability, age, culture, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic background, have been marginalized in collections.

In adherence with the Association of College & Research Libraries' [Diversity Standards: Cultural Competency for Academic Libraries](#), we commit to building collections that are inclusive of the needs of all persons in the Iowa State community. This includes ensuring that library collections

are representative of marginalized communities by acquiring works created, published, or distributed by authors and creators identifying as members of those communities, and that center and uplift the knowledge of those communities. In building our collections, we give consideration to small and independent publishers and vendors, including women- and minority-owned businesses, and businesses and organizations located in the Global South.

## Openness

Iowa State University Library works to create an [open scholarly ecosystem](#). We believe knowledge should be shared and that an open scholarly ecosystem can create more equitable research and learning spaces inside and outside our institution. We use our collection funds to make [journal articles written by ISU authors](#) openly available to all. We prioritize work with publishing partners that share the values stated here, including non-profit and society publishers. The University Library values discovery tools that make open content visible and findable by our community. We are institutional members and supporters of [organizations](#) establishing the infrastructure, standards, and workflows we will need in this new environment.

## Accessibility

The Library strives to make our collections accessible to all. A variety of [accessibility services](#) is available to patrons interested in using our tangible collections. With electronic content, our goal is to license material that is compliant with university policy, federal law, and W3C guidelines.

## Privacy

The Library prizes our patrons' privacy. The [Library Privacy Policy](#) addresses our responsibilities in the work we perform with patron data. Regarding the online content, resources, and tools we license for our patrons' use, we endeavor to partner with organizations that share our respect for patron privacy and strive to protect that privacy.

## Strategies

The current information landscape is fraught with massive and exponential growth. The Library, like other research libraries, cannot afford to acquire and manage every available piece of credible material. We work to build collections responsive to the needs of our community, supporting the values of ISU and the Library, while employing sound budgetary stewardship.

Library purchase and subscription decisions are based on subject knowledge and relationships with the campus community, responding to current information needs. Collections decisions with broader scope incorporate information about where ISU researchers publish, as well as use data. Materials are collected in the formats and languages determined to best fit the needs of our communities. Consideration includes, but is not limited to availability, space, price, quality,

accessibility, access, and our values. The same considerations are used when evaluating collections for the purposes of replacement, transfer, or withdrawal.

The Iowa State University Library collaborates with other libraries, vendors, and organizations to support the information needs of our community. These collaborations are guided by the values listed above and allow us to provide more and better access to information resources to our ISU community, the residents of Iowa, and the general public.

## Related Sources

### University Library

- [Subject collection development policies](#)
- [Donating materials](#)
- [Principles for Advancing Openness through Journal Negotiations](#)
- [Special Collections & University Archives Collection Development Policy](#)

### Guidelines and Standards

- American Library Association
  - [Freedom to Read Statement](#)
  - [Library Bill of Rights](#)
  - [Privacy](#)
- Association of College and Research Libraries
  - [Diversity Standards: Cultural Competency for Academic Libraries](#)

## Contact

For more information, contact the Director of Collections and Open Strategies, Robin N Sinn, [rsinn@iastate.edu](mailto:rsinn@iastate.edu).

## Document Control

Version history			
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