

Northwestern University Library Collection Development Policy Statement

Transportation Library

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I. Brief overview of the collection

A. History of the collection

The Transportation Library was established in 1956 as part of the newly formed Transportation Center. In 1959, the Library's transportation collection was merged with the Traffic Institute's much older traffic engineering and law enforcement collections. Finally, in 1973 the Library became a Northwestern Main Library branch.

B. Broad subject areas emphasized or de-emphasized

One of the largest transportation libraries in the world, the Transportation Library maintains a comprehensive collection on transportation (air, rail, highway, water, pipeline), as well as significant collections on law enforcement, police management, and environmental impact statements.

The collection emphasizes current transportation socioeconomic aspects such as management, operations, finance, planning, regulations, and safety. All transportation modes--air, rail, water, highway, and pipeline--are represented. Other aspects, such as technology and history, are covered selectively. The law enforcement collection focuses on police administration and training, and traffic law enforcement. The environmental impact statement collection contains almost all federally produced statements since 1969.

C. Collection locations

The main body of the collection is located in the Lower Level of the Main Library building. Parts of the collection are also located in the Lower Level compact storage area.

II. Purpose or objectives

The collection's objective is to support the research and teaching needs of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff of Northwestern University. This multi-disciplinary collection is utilized by the following NU departments: the Transportation Center, the Traffic Institute, Civil, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, the Infrastructure Technology Institute, the Law School, the Medical School, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, History, and the Kellogg Graduate School of Management (in such fields as marketing, managerial economics, finance, policy, marketing). The collection also serves the needs of an increasing number of non-NU transportation researchers at the local, national and international level.

III. Library unit or title of the selector responsible for this collection

The Head of the Transportation Library is responsible for the collection.

IV. Scope of the subject coverage

A. Language

The emphasis is on English-language materials. Western-European language material is purchased very selectively.

B. Geographical scope

United States transportation literature is emphasized. Foreign material is selectively acquired if published in English.

C. Chronological scope

Emphasis is on current materials with historical material acquired very selectively.

D. Publication dates collected

Emphasis in purchasing materials published within the last 3 years. Gift material is accepted regardless of publication date.

E. Formats and genres

1. *Inclusions*

The library acquires the following types of material in paper, microtext, and audio/video recording formats.

Monographs

Periodicals

Environmental Impact Statements

Conference proceedings

Reports

Government publications: Federal, state, county, and city

Dissertations

Company annual reports

Pamphlets

Electronic formats: The Library does subscribe to and receive World Wide Web and CD-ROM tools.

2. *Exclusions*

Maps

Patents

Rare books

Tariffs

V. *Acquisitions procedures affecting collection policies*

A. *Standing Orders*

The Library maintains standing orders agreements for monographic titles published by a few European and an Australian research organizations.

Although not a standing order function in the strict sense, the Library functions as a selective Government Documents repository for the U.S. and Illinois Departments of Transportation.

B. *Approval plans and blanket orders*

Two commercial vendors provide notification slips for books published in the U.S. and Europe fitting our acquisition profile. An approval plan is maintained with a major U.S. vendor.

Periodically, Main's selectors provide transportation related notification slips from other vendors.

Blanket orders are not maintained

C. *Gifts and exchanges*

Gifts are welcomed and accepted as long as they do not duplicate current holdings.

An exchange program is maintained with a small number of transportation libraries in the U.S

VI. *Duplication with other NU library units*

Duplication with other NU libraries is avoided as much as possible. However, due to the multi-disciplinary approach to transportation collection development, some minor duplication of titles exists with the following libraries: Government Publications, Main, Science-Engineering, Africana, Law, and Schaffne

VII. *Expensive purchases*

The purchase of expensive titles is considered on a case by case basis and it is dependent on the availability of funds

VIII. *Interdisciplinary collections*

Transportation's multi-disciplinary nature and Northwestern's approach to research, mandates that extreme care be exercised when selecting titles that could fall within separate collections. Close coordination with other selectors is maintained to decide who will purchase the item in order to avoid duplication. Nonetheless, some duplication is present, such as in: economics, engineering, shipping.

IX. *Purchases with endowed funds*

Currently, the Library has one endowment fund representing about 3% of the total budget. It is a restricted fund to acquire materials on air transportation.

Two other university units provide the Library funds representing about 20% of its acquisition budget

X. Cooperation with other libraries

A. Other resources, including local, regional or national libraries

The Transportation Library benefits from NUL's consortial agreements with the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) and the Committee for Institutional Cooperation (CIC) for preservation projects and access to electronic tools.

B. Consortia

As an ILLINET member, the Library receives and provides interlibrary loans free of charge to Illinois libraries.

XI. Policies for purchasing journal article reprints or electronic files on demand

Not applicable.

XII. Other factor of local importance

Not applicable.

XIII. Collection levels

Description	Est. Coll. Strength
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Substance Abuse	3
Criminology & Penology	3
Engineering: General & Civil	4
Environmental Technology	4
Highway Engineering	5
Railroad Engineering & Operation	5
Transportation & Communication	5
Bridge Engineering	5
Motor Vehicles, Aeronautics	5
Navigation, Merchant Marine	4
Naval Architecture, Shipbuilding	3
Subject & Personal Bibliography	
In Transportation	5