

SCHOLARLY RESOURCE STRATEGY - LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Document information

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Context

Digital collections and online access to information has transformed the way information is created, discovered, accessed, shared, reused and licenced. The scholarly communication, teaching and learning, and research environments also continue to be transformed by digital enablement and rapid technological developments.

Griffith University Library has a digital first approach to strategically and proactively managing and developing the Library collections. Griffith Library continues to challenge traditional thinking around academic library collection development and management and adapts and adopts to the new technologies, acquisition models, resource sharing practices and discovery models that best fit Griffith University's needs.

The *Scholarly Resource Strategy – Library Collections* is aligned with the Griffith University Strategic Plan [Creating a future for all – Strategic Plan 2020-25](#) and functions within the framework of the University's core principles of excellence, ethics and engagement with a focus on the 6 inter-related core commitments to our Values, Students, Research, People, Engagement and Infrastructure.

Intent

The intent of *Scholarly Resource Strategy – Library collections* is to ensure that the Library collections are managed and developed to meet the specific needs of teaching, learning and research at Griffith and to ensure that Griffith's students, academics and researchers have timely digital access to the resources they need to engage in outstanding scholarship. The Library collections also support the work and development of professional staff.

The key goals of the Scholarly Resource Strategy are to:

- Ensure the scholarly resources in Griffith's Library collections are highly relevant, discoverable and accessible.
- Provide access anytime and from anywhere to the scholarly resources required for teaching, learning and research.
- Minimise the reliance on print and physical resources.
- Ensure the ongoing financial sustainability and responsible management of the Library Resource Budget.
- Ensure the Library collections are part of the broader ecosystem that enables the discovery and access to the scholarly outputs of the University.

A set of core collection principles and key interconnected strategies grouped under the headings of collection management; collection development; and collection discovery, access and accessibility are enablers to ensuring that the goals and intent of the *Scholarly Resource Strategy – Library collections* are achieved.

Collection Principles

The Collection Principles provide a framework and foundation for the strategic and operational decision making relating to the Library Collections, ensuring that Griffith Library can be flexible and agile in response to the changing information resource environment and the evolving needs of learning, teaching, and research at Griffith University.

- **Digital first** – Digital access and acquisition of digital scholarly resources is preferred over print, subject to availability, licensing conditions and cost.
- **User centred** – Resource selection and acquisition will best meet the needs of our users taking into consideration issues such accessibility and usability.
- **Open scholarship** – The use and discovery of Open Educational Resources (OER) will be supported as a valid alternative to subscription and paywalled resources where appropriate.
- **Just in time** – Access to specialist resources and resources outside of Griffith’s core collections will be provided through collaborative resource sharing networks or acquisition at the time of need.
- **Flexible procurement** – Resource procurement will include the use of consortia agreements, outright purchase, subscription, evidence-based and patron driven models, read and publish agreements and other emergent models.
- **Culturally respectful, safe, and inclusive** – The collections will reflect and support Griffith’s values in diversity, equity and inclusion and will be culturally safe and respectful.
- **Active and relevant** – The collections will be managed and maintained within an information lifecycle to ensure they remain relevant to the current learning, teaching and research needs of the university.
- **Collaborative** – The collections will be developed collaboratively with academics and researchers ensuring they meet the learning, teaching and research needs of the University.
- **Sustainability** – Strategies and operations will be aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), will minimise environmental impact and will be financially sustainable.

Collection Management

The value of the Library Collections lies primarily in its ability to meet the current needs of teaching, learning and research. Griffith University's Library collections include both digital and physical resources and the digital first approach ensures as much of the collections as possible can be accessed from anywhere at any time.

Collection management practices recognise that the role of the Griffith University Library is to function as an academic library and that it is not a legal deposit or last copy library. As a young university, Griffith's Library collection can be broken into two broad categories:

- **Core Active collection** - the core resources used for the current teaching, learning and research needs of the University comprising of the digital and physical campus collections.
- **Legacy Collections** - collections which have been donated to the University rather than being selected to meet the needs of learning, teaching and research needs.

The core active collection of resources is continuously reviewed to ensure that it meets the teaching, learning and research needs of the University and Griffith Library uses evidence-based collection management practices for decision making. The core active collections are managed within an information lifecycle that is targeted and suited to academic library collections. Over time the digital first approach will result in ageing physical and print collections which will continue to be reduced in size.

Collection management is informed by the Griffith Strategic Plans, the Griffith University Reconciliation Statement and Griffith values. Griffith Library is working to improve cultural safety and the inclusive nature of our collections and to ensure that all diversity groups are respected and valued.

The Library Collections form part of the broader information ecosystem that provides access to the scholarly outputs and history of the University. The systems in the broader ecosystem are managed under their own collection policies collections out of scope of the *Scholarly Resource Strategy - Library Collections* and include:

- [Griffith Research Online and Creative Works](#)
- Griffith Archive

The Library Collections do not duplicate the resources in these collections.

The key collection management strategies are:

- Continuous review of all resources in the collections, physical and electronic.
- Maintain only active and relevant collections.
- Donations of scholarly resources are not accepted with special exceptions for some Griffith authored works as noted in the [Library Collection Donation Guidelines](#).

Collection Development

Collection development occurs within a complex and evolving information resource environment and changing learning and teaching and research needs. It requires collaborative and proactive identification of resources with the practicalities of licencing, enabling digital access and financial sustainability overlaid as critical aspects of the selection and procurement process.

Selection and procurement of digital resources is undertaken to enable the best possible user experience of the Library Collections and to ensure that Griffith University can meet any legislative requirements under the Higher Education Support Act (HESA) 2003, for TEQSA registration compliance and to ensure we meet any licencing conditions and comply with the Copyright Act.

Collection development will continue to contribute to the transition of existing core active print and physical resources to a digital environment maximising the availability of online resources and reducing the reliance on print and physical resources across the curriculum and for research.

Identifying the needs

Identifying what is needed to meet the learning, teaching and research needs of the University is achieved through evidence-based practices and collaboration with stakeholders.

Evidence based practices include the use of data from resource sharing consortia, usage data and turnaway data from vendors and analytics for library systems.

Collaborative practices include identifying requirements through Reading Lists, Course reviews (through the Curriculum Management System), accreditation reviews, direct feedback to Librarians and suggestions and feedback made via the [suggest a purchase](#) form.

Selection and Procurement

Procurement is undertaken in accordance with the *Procurement and Supply Policy* and the University's *Purchasing, sourcing and contract management guidelines and processes*.

The selection and procurement strategies employed ensure that students, academics and researchers have access to key high use resources through the core active collection and to a greater breadth and depth of additional resources through cost effective "just in time" access to resources.

Due to the extensive amount of information resources available it is not possible to collect comprehensively and own all the resources that may be required to support teaching, learning and research. Selection and procurement of resources is achieved through an optimised balance of owned, subscription and patron and evidence-based resource procurement to achieve the best return on investment from the Library Resource Budget. Licencing, access conditions, format and accessibility are also critical considerations in the selection and procurement process.

The availability of quality open access scholarly resources is growing and the use of these resources as viable alternatives to commercial resources is encouraged. This will be achieved through enabling the discovery and awareness of resources that could be used in Griffith programs and courses.

Selection and procurement of resources is driven by some key strategies:

- Digital first acquisition for all new resources using models that maximise access.
- Resources are selected and procured based on program and course requirements, usage data and the strategic research directions of the University.
- Support and enable the use of open access scholarly resources including eTexts, books and journals where the material is relevant to Griffith's needs.
- Undertake proactive engagement with vendors and publishers to influence and develop new models for online resource access, delivery and procurement.
- Collaborate with academics, committees and other stakeholders to ensure the intent of the Scholarly Resource Strategy – Library Collections is appropriately embedded in the relevant University policies, processes and services.
- Leveraging the value obtained through participating in the CAUL Consortia for Content Procurement

Financial Sustainability

There are multiple pressures on the Library Resource Budget. These include a large exposure to volatile currency markets (80% of expenditure is in foreign currency), annual increases in the cost of resources above CPI, and the need to provide greater access to new and existing resources online.

To maintain the financial sustainability of the Library Resource Budget several key strategies are adopted:

- Evidence based decisions are made on resource selection, renewal and deselection and in selecting the optimal procurement model for resource acquisition.
- Foreign currency requirements are projected 6-9 months ahead of the renewals and known acquisitions to allow the Library to work with Finance on Foreign Exchange Risk as set out in the [Treasury Policy](#) to provide budget certainty.
- The use and return on investment of existing resources in the Core Active Collection is maximised through policy and guidelines that influence resource selection for programs and courses.
- Engage with relevant stakeholders including, CAUL (Council of Australian University Librarians), publishers and vendors, to negotiate fair terms and conditions for access to resources and take a firm position on not procuring resources with models that are financially unsustainable.
- The underlying Library Budget Model is continuously reviewed to optimise the balance of ownership, subscription, consortial resource sharing and evidence-based acquisition.

Collection discovery and access

The discoverability of and ease of access to the resources in and outside of the Library Collections is critical to ensuring students, academics, and researchers can find and access what they need when they need it and to maximise the use and potential of the Griffith Library Collections.

Discovery and access to the resources within the collections should be possible at the point of need and in the digital space the users are working in wherever this can be enabled such as within the learning management system or through search engines like Google Scholar.

Key strategies for discoverability and access include:

- Use technologies to improve access to required and recommended course readings and support academics in providing access to resources within online learning environments.
- Enable access to resources outside of the Core Active Collection through consortia agreements such as, interlibrary loan, document delivery and emerging alternative models for resource access and delivery.

Appendix

Definitions

Evidence Based Acquisition (EBA)

EBA is an acquisition model which allows access to a large publisher collection over a period (typically 1 year) with a contractual to a minimum level of spend at the end of that period. The usage of resources over the period is then often used to determine which resources are then purchased in perpetuity up to the contracted value.

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Open Educational Resources are those that can be accessed freely online. OER's include Open Access journals and Open textbooks.

Patron Driven Acquisition (PDA) / Demand Driven Acquisition (DDA)

PDA and DDA are acquisition models that allow resources to be made discoverable by the library to users, but the resources are only selected and purchased by the library after a defined trigger action such as a number of views or uses by library users. PDA and DDA models are available for ebooks and streaming video resources. Typically, ebooks will be owned in perpetuity after acquisition in a PDA / DDA model but video PDA / DDA is often subscription based, providing time limited access.

Paywalled

Resources which can be discovered but require a payment to access the resource are often referred to as being behind a Paywall or being Paywalled.

Read and Publish Agreements

[Read and Publish agreements](#) accelerate the transition to open access publishing by changing the way we pay for access to research. These transformative agreements bring journal subscription and open access publishing fees together into a single agreement managed by the library.

Resource sharing

Resource sharing involves borrowing, lending and supplying copies of books, book chapters and journals articles and other scholarly resources between libraries. The is often referred to as document delivery and interlibrary loan.

Scholarly resources

Scholarly resources are the information resources used in the process of teaching, learning and research. They include books, ebooks, textbooks, eTexts, journals, articles, reports, standards, scores, video, audio, visual resources and digital archives. Learning technologies are not scholarly resources although in some cases there can be a blurring of boundaries such as with digital anatomy resources.

Scholarly outputs

The outputs of Griffiths academics and scholars which may take the form of books, book chapters, journal articles, conference papers, Higher Degree Theses, grey literature, creative works and published data.

Subscription

Subscription resources are time limited and require an annual subscription payment to be maintained to continue access to the resource.

Related Documents

[Library Resources and Spaces: conditions of use](#)

[Learning Resources and Reading Lists Guideline](#)

[Collection statement for the research repositories \(Griffith Research Online and Creative Works\)](#)

[Creating a future for all – Strategic plan 2020-2025](#)

[Higher Education Support Act 2003](#)

[TEQSA Guidance Note: Staffing, Learning Resources and Educational Support.](#)

[Griffith Procurement and Supply Policy](#)

[Griffith Treasury Policy](#)