A. Introduction

This collection plan concerns library resources for Arkansas Tech University, a state-supported institution of higher education, dedicated to nurturing scholastic development, integrity, and professionalism. This plan applies to the general collection; the Ross Pendergraft Library & Technology Center Special Collections management policy will be covered in a separate document.

- The library collection will continue to grow, but the growth will primarily be seen in electronic resources, in the areas of Special Collections and institutional repositories, or through the strength, number, and variety of developing access partnerships.
- While our physical, visible collection may remain steady in its total size, maintaining a robust electronic collection and adequate housing for special collections materials will demand a budget at or above current levels. Librarians will continue to buy print monographs that support the curriculum. As electronic books become more readily available and software that enables library lending is available for e-books, we will explore options for electronic book access. Disciplines are not all alike in respect to library materials; this means that practices concerning additions to and withdrawals from the collection may vary by discipline.
- A robust, user-initiated borrowing network for both print and electronic resources already exists and is heavily used by the Arkansas Tech community.

B. Material types

1. Journals

We will subscribe to print and electronic journals that support the curriculum. Whenever possible, we will provide access to journals in electronic format; ample evidence suggests that the Arkansas Tech community marks greater use of journals in this format. We will:

- Convert print subscriptions to electronic subscriptions, in many cases accepting the risk of aggregators discontinuing a title. If this happens, we will subscribe in another manner if there is strong need for the journal;
- When possible, appropriate, and cost-effective, buy permanent access to electronic format back files of core journals;
- Retain some print back files because of image quality or assignment requirements;
- Retain some print publications because they are well-used but are not available in electronic form;
- Retain in print some newsstand periodicals (weeklies, monthlies, etc.) for browsing and for assignments that require a modest back file.

2. Microforms

Statistical evidence indicates that students avoid these formats for all but highly specialized materials. We will:

- replace our holdings with online access when possible;
- offer to other libraries or discard our obsolete and low-use microforms.
3. Reference Collection
We will maintain a print and online reference collection that supports the curriculum. Print subject encyclopedias, handbooks and guides will be held in the reference collection. We will review all reference materials based on:
- Currency;
- Duplication of information in other resources;
- Use within the last few years;
- Availability and cost of the resource online.

4. Databases/Online Indexes
We subscribe to databases that allow our students to locate the best information in a widely accessible format. We will annually review databases for:
- Usage;
- Coverage and redundancy;
- Cost effectiveness.

5. Circulating Book Collection
Our collection of printed books will consist of well-used titles of current and, in some fields, classic interest. The longer a book is not used, the less likely it is to ever be used. If a book does not circulate within the first six years of ownership, its chance of ever circulating is highly unlikely.

Most recently published books now have, or will have, a digital version. It is very likely that digital versions through aggregators such as Google Books and the Hathi Trust will become electronic archives that back up long-standing permanent print collections at large research libraries and the Library of Congress. Based on this, we will:
- Purchase materials that support curricular needs, as determined by librarians’ research, students’ interlibrary loan requests, and faculty members’ suggestions;
- Review low or no use books published in the last 10-15 years for deaccession. This guideline may be adjusted by discipline;
- Consult Resources for College Libraries to identify a core collection if deemed appropriate for that discipline;
- Check for number of copies held in OCLC before deaccessioning a book. If fewer than 20 copies are held in OCLC, we will verify that an additional copy is held in Arkansas. If not, we will retain our copy.

Based on the strategy outlined above, we aim for a vibrant collection containing approximately 160,000 circulating monographs & bound journals.

6. Video Collection
Videos are held in our circulating, instructional reserve and permanent reserve collections. We will:
- Purchase videos based on faculty request and their assurance that the videos will be used towards their curricular goals;
- Purchase a limited number of videos of motion pictures and television programs determined to be of high interest to students;
- Replace frequently used videos with updated formats as necessary;
- Review videos for deaccession using the same guidelines as circulating books.