Queen's University Law Library Collection Development Strategy

The William R. Lederman Law Library is responsible for supporting the Faculty of Law's teaching programs and is committed to providing barrier-free access to authoritative legal information. We support the Faculty's undergraduate, graduate, and "Beyond the JD" programs; the varied and evolving research interests of law faculty; and the legal information needs of the greater Queen's community.

Context:

Our collection reflects the tradition of a long-established university and the history of colonization in Canada. Our collection development and management activities today reflect the changing academic environment and are responsive to current and anticipated priorities at Queen's, including supporting the Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, and Indigeneity (EDII) pedagogical and curriculum-based initiatives of the faculties, departments, and schools of the university.

We work towards building and curating inclusive, responsive, and enduring collections that represent Western and non-Western perspectives and Indigenous ways of knowing. The Law Library aspires to be an inclusive space where all members of the community can see themselves reflected in our collections.

Numbers of Copies:

Typically, one copy of any title is purchased unless multiple copies are absolutely necessary. When purchasing ebooks, selectors will consider expected use of the resource and difference in cost when deciding among 1-user, 3-user, and unlimited user licences, with preference given to unlimited user licenses when possible. Duplication of content available through multiple publishers or packages will be avoided wherever possible. Similarly, when the library subscribes to or purchases an ebook, it will not, as a rule, also purchase it in print, or vice-versa.

Subjects and Collecting Levels:

Areas to be collected to support advanced study:

- Canadian law
- Indigenous legal orders

Areas to be collected to support initial study:

- International law
- Legal philosophy
- Political and legal thought

- Law and EDII
- Feminist legal studies
- Conflict analytics

Areas to be collected to support foundational study:

- Government
- Legal education and pedagogy
- Legal skills
- Legal materials related to other common law countries

General Selection Guidelines:

Guided by Queen's University Library's collection development context, we will consider, as appropriate:

1. Significance of the work
2. Language
3. Authorship
4. Publisher
5. Recommendation and Reviews
6. Price and Model
7. Format

1. Significance of the work

- How essential is this resource to teaching and research?
- Is this resource in an area historically unrepresented or under-represented in the collection that requires remediation?

2. Language

- English with some Canadian French-language material
- Indigenous languages, particularly with side-by-side translation into English or French

3. Authorship

What makes the authors authorities on their subject? Particularly in regard to resources about Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized communities, we will consider the position of authors in regard to their topics. What is the relationship between the author and the community? Are they members of the community they are writing about?

4. Publisher

In addition to analyzing the reputation and quality of existing, traditional publishers, we will consider materials from non-traditional, new, and independent academic publishers. We will make efforts to build collections that include titles from university presses and other small and not-for-profit presses such as association and society publishers, in addition to academic and commercial publishers.

5. Recommendations and Reviews

- Has this resource been recommended to us?
- Has this resource been reviewed in journals or elsewhere?
- If a preview is available, we will conduct our own analysis as needed.

6. Price and Model

What is the cost, and how does the price compare if available in different formats? One-time purchases are generally preferred over subscriptions. Even yearly, ongoing purchases are better than subscriptions, as they allow us to retain and build on previously purchased titles. Print naturally offers that advantage, while electronic offerings have to be further scrutinized.

When examining a subscription offering, we will consider:

- Is there any alternative to the resource or subscription model? For example, is there a competing product that would fill the same need?
- Is the resource updated regularly with significant, substantive additions? In other words, is it worth subscribing to this title rather than purchasing it cyclically on a typical monograph publication schedule?
- How much staff time is anticipated in updating and maintaining the resource?

7. Format

We acquire material in various formats (print, electronic, streaming video, etc.). Whatever the format, selectors will consider accessibility.

When Electronic Will Be Preferred
Ebooks and other online versions are preferred when they are requested, or anticipated, to support the Graduate Diploma in Immigration and Citizenship Law, the Undergraduate Certificate in Law, or other primarily online programs.

They are also preferred when they are available with a multiple concurrent use licence at a reasonable cost (versus the print), if they support a mandatory or core course or other area where high use is anticipated, such as items that in print would go into the reserve area.

Additional Considerations for E-Materials

- Does the vendor have a reputation for reliable access or frequent technical issues?
- How does it integrate with existing systems (e.g., library management system, discovery layer, citation management systems)?
- How is the user experience of the interface?
- What Digital Rights Management (DRM) is present? Preferably, as little as possible.
- Does it offer the appropriate licensing model for anticipated use (1-user, 3-user, unlimited?)
- What are the display, download, printing and email options?
- What are the licensing terms? (e.g., Are certain users excluded? Does it allow for interlibrary loan? Does the vendor allow Text Data Mining (TDM)?)
- Is IP access possible? Or is it by username and password? (IP access is preferred)
- What are the staffing implications inherent in purchasing the electronic source? (i.e., training, troubleshooting, manipulating the record for the discovery layer)
- What usage statistics are available?

If the evaluation of the electronic version, based on criteria listed above, does not lead to confidence in the electronic version of the resource as good value or meeting the needs of our users, we will select the print.

Considerations for Video

Streaming video is preferred over DVDs, given available technology and online learning. Because streaming video is generally only available in time-limited subscriptions, it will only be acquired when requested for teaching.

Policy last revised: April 2024