

UNTHSC Gibson D. Lewis Library Collection Development Policy

Introduction

History of the Gibson D. Lewis Library

The library's initial purpose was to support the privately funded Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM), founded in 1970. TCOM began receiving state support in 1975, under the auspices of the North Texas State University (now University of North Texas) Board of Regents. The current library building opened in late 1986 and was renamed the Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library, after the former Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, in 1993. With the addition of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, also in 1993, TCOM became the University of North Texas Health Science Center. Starting in 1995, a Master's in Public Health degree was added to the academic programs; the School of Public Health was created in 1999. A Physician Assistant Studies Program followed in 1999 and, most recently, a Physical Therapy program in 2010. Both PA and PT Studies are part of the School of Health Professions. A Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D) degree program, offered by the newly formed UNT System College of Pharmacy, is scheduled to commence in Fall of 2013.

At its inception, the library's collection consisted of 400 medical texts and a handful of journals. The collection was greatly increased by a National Library of Medicine Resource Improvement Grant obtained one year later. Subsequently, the library's collection grew substantially to keep pace with the expansion of academic programs on campus. Like its parent organization, Lewis Library has maintained a commitment to community outreach since its founding. It was named a resource library for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine in 1991, and began providing information literacy programming via National Library of Medicine resources to a designated geographic region in North Texas. Over the last decade, the library has turned increasingly to electronic resources to meet the information needs of its users. Beginning in 2011, the library withdrew the majority of its print journal collection and invested in electronic access to older journal volumes. A significant number of print monographic materials, mainly older clinical texts, were also withdrawn. More recently, the library has investigated open access and other alternative publishing models as a means of combating product inflation. It is expected that the conversion to digital content will continue as will the current interest in open access publishing and self-archiving.

Audience

The students, staff and faculty of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, School of Health Professions, School of Public Health and (beginning in 2013) College of Pharmacy are the primary audience for the Lewis Library collections and acquisition decisions are made with their needs and desires in mind. This includes those students participating in the OPTI residency programs administered by the university. Additionally, the library collection serves unaffiliated users that include the general public, health professionals, biomedical researchers, osteopathic physicians and students from other universities. Such users must be physically present within the library

to utilize resources and, generally speaking, materials are not purchased solely for them though authoritative freely available resources are linked from the library website for their use.

Purpose of the Policy

The principal function of the Collection Development Policy is to inform acquisition decisions regarding the subjects, publication types, formats and languages collected as well as to direct the removal of materials from the collection in a consistent and logical fashion. The policy also facilitates transparency in regards to library collecting and management of library funds and demonstrates collection alignment with institutional research initiatives and academic programs. The Collection Development Policy will be periodically reviewed to ensure continued alignment with UNTHSC academic programs, research initiatives, clinical operations and institutional goals.

Selection Criteria

Selection decisions are made by the library's Collection Development Committee. The committee considers the following criteria when selecting materials: alignment with academic programs and research objectives, price, historical inflation, format options, platform stability and functionality, licensing terms, perceived importance within a given field or discipline, faculty and student requests, product reviews and budgetary factors. The committee uses various tools to assess the efficacy of adding, retaining or withdrawing resources. These include but are not limited to vendor-provided usage statistics, institutional metrics, product reviews, journal metrics such as JCR and SCImago, core journal and book lists, scholarly research articles and accreditation documentation.

General Collection

Collection Types and Exclusions

The general collection consists of primarily current, authoritative books, journals, media, reserves, test preparation materials, reference works, databases and online tools that are in scope for the academic, clinical and research programs of the university.

Collected reference works include dictionaries, style manuals (APA, Chicago and AMA), encyclopedias related to the health sciences, anatomical atlases, drug reference materials and statistical data sources.

Test preparation materials are collected for the following exams: COMLEX, PANCE, NPTE, PANCRE, CPH, USMLE, NAPLEX and the Texas Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination.

Popular works, indices, pamphlets, atlases (other than anatomical) and trade publications are generally not collected. Dissertations and theses (other than those produced by UNTHSC authors), directories, subject bibliographies and workbooks are collected infrequently and on an ad hoc basis.

Subject Scope

Lewis Library acquires materials to support the current academic, research, outreach and clinical programs of the University of North Texas Health Science Center. Thus, a wide variety of biomedical topics are collected, including all of the major medical specialties. Additionally, social science materials are collected to the extent that they support current research and teaching. Emphasis is placed on the collection and preservation of osteopathic and related materials and thus special provisions are made for their acquisition, retention, maintenance and dissemination. Other areas of collecting emphasis correspond to current institutional research initiatives. At the time of the creation of this document, those areas included forensic genetics, ophthalmology, cancer, primary care and geriatrics. In general, the following biomedical subjects are excluded from active collecting: veterinary medicine (except laboratory animals), dentistry (except forensic) and nursing. For a complete list of subjects collected for the general collection, see appendix A.

Formats

Monographic works, including circulating, reference, test preparation and reserve materials, are collected in print and digital form. Digital format is preferred for its capacity to conserve physical space and transcend user geography and its congruence with user needs and preferences. When collecting e-books, the preference is for perpetual access and unlimited simultaneous use. Additionally, licensing terms must be sufficiently flexible to allow for conventional use and the platform must be stable and functional. Despite this preference, at the time of this document's creation, monographic works are still collected primarily in print due to a dearth of in-scope electronic materials available for institutional purchase. Thus, the library will continue to collect monographs in print and electronic form, with a preference for e-books when available for institutional access, with reasonable terms of use and with stable platforms.

Journals are collected almost exclusively in electronic format. Titles of sufficient importance to a particular discipline that are either not available electronically or only available electronically in conjunction with a print subscription, will be collected in print or "print and online" formats. Journals focusing on osteopathy or produced by osteopathic organizations are collected in print format, regardless of electronic access, as part of the Lewis Library's mission to preserve osteopathic materials.

DVDs and CDs are collected on a limited basis, usually at the request of faculty or in conjunction with a specific course. Popular CD's and DVD's are not collected. Internet based content delivery is preferred but may necessitate upgrades in existing technology and substantial monetary investment for licensing of content. The library currently collects audio-visual content when it is a component of databases, point of care tools, journal subscriptions or e-books. In the future, the library will increasingly explore streaming media as a replacement for physical media where cost, technology and terms of use are amenable. VHS materials and device-specific media are not collected.

Electronic Resources

Lewis Library collects a variety of e-resources, including electronic books and journals, databases and point of care tools, among others. Like all resources within the general collection, e-resource acquisition is guided first and foremost by alignment with the academic, research and clinical programs of the university. However, e-resources exhibit features unique from print resources that necessitate additional selection criteria. In general, Lewis library considers subject, content, terms of use, platform stability, interface functionality and search logic algorithms when acquiring e-resources.

E-resource licensing is a complex subject with clear and profound ramifications for library collections. Lewis library actively negotiates with vendors to obtain the best pricing and terms of use for all electronic resources. Whenever possible, the library secures price caps or multi-year pricing as a hedge against product inflation. Additionally, the library negotiates for flexibility in interlibrary loan (ILL) lending, preferring email or secure electronic delivery. The ability to use materials in course packs (both print and electronic) and reserves and for the purposes of scholarly sharing is also strongly preferred. When feasible, the library negotiates for perpetual access to purchased materials, whether via local archiving methods or a hosting fee paid to the vendor. Off-campus access and the ability to print or save individual copies of articles or chapters are considered necessities and e-resources that prohibit such activities are rarely purchased.

Electronic books and journals share the same general selection principles of subject scope, currency and authoritativeness as their print equivalents but with the added complexity of assessing the terms of use discussed above as well as platform stability and functionality. In terms of database acquisition, emphasis is placed on uniqueness of indexed content as compared to other resources in the collection, searching functionality, availability of full text and link resolver integration. Perpetual access to the resource upon cancellation or loss of access is not usually possible with databases. The library also assesses and makes available authoritative, freely-available databases, such as those produced by the National Library of Medicine (NLM). Since the library supports the clinical activities of students and faculty, point of care tools are an integral part of the collection. The library purchases point of care tools based predominantly on the quality and scope of content—its sources, coverage and frequency of updates. Ease of use, affordability and mobile accessibility are also important considerations.

Languages

The library overwhelmingly collects English language materials but a limited number of monographs are occasionally purchased in other languages, usually based on faculty requests, user needs or relation to osteopathy. Foreign language journals are generally collected only when part of large, publisher-specific packages or consortia purchases, where the library does not have the ability to choose individual titles. On rare occasions, the library may choose to collect foreign language serials related to osteopathy.

Publication Date

In general, Lewis Library collects recently published in-scope materials. Exceptions are made for osteopathic and forensic materials, which are collected without regard to original publication date.

Clinical and biomedical materials are usually purchased within 10 years of publication. With regard to social science materials, subject specificity generally supersedes publication date, though recent publications still comprise the bulk of purchasing.

Multiple Copies

The library purchases additional copies of materials based on use (i.e., number of checkouts), reserve status, use in multiple courses and faculty or student requests. Occasionally, titles may be purchased in multiple formats, such as print and electronic. Additional copies in multiple formats are purchased based on the same criteria described above as well as perceived usefulness for distance education.

New Editions

Generally, the library purchases new editions of select clinical and biomedical texts, high-use titles, reserve materials and required textbooks. The library retains the two latest editions of most monographs, with exceptions made for osteopathic, forensic and high-use titles.

Retention

Lewis library considers publication date, usage, terms of use, condition, availability in electronic format and discipline when formulating retention and withdrawal policies. Such policies necessarily focus on physical, rather than digital, information objects (i.e., print or media). Retention and storage of digital materials within Special Collections and perpetual access to electronic resources are discussed in separate portions of this document. Print and media materials are withdrawn on an ongoing basis according to the criteria identified above. Occasionally, special “weeding” projects may be performed as institutional academic programs and research interests evolve.

In terms of circulating monographs, retention parameters are generally discipline-specific. For clinical and biomedical materials, currency is paramount and, thus, most items are only retained for 10 years or less. However, exceptions are made for highly utilized materials, which will be retained longer or, in rare cases, indefinitely. Social science, forensic and statistical materials traditionally have a longer useful life since historical data is often utilized in current research and thus may be kept longer or even indefinitely if the material remains relevant to the field and continues to be used. Osteopathic monographs will be retained indefinitely as part of the library’s mission to collect and preserve such information objects. Only the most current two editions of reference materials are retained except when continued usage merits an exception. Important statistical sources are retained only if the data is not freely available online. Print journals are withdrawn when available in stable and affordable electronic formats, except in the case of osteopathic materials. Media is withdrawn when the format becomes obsolete, the material becomes outdated or when dictated by a lack of usage. In rare cases where the media content is unique (usually related to osteopathy or manual medicine or otherwise institutionally significant), it will be migrated to an extant format.

Special Collections: Archives Collection, Digital Collection and Rare Book Collection

Archives Collection

Purpose and Audience of the Collection

The principal purpose of the Archives Collection is to document the history of the University of North Texas Health Science Center and its predecessor institution. To this end, the library assesses, acquires, describes, preserves and makes available primary and secondary source materials with lasting institutional significance. Additionally, exceptional items related to early osteopathic medicine and the history of osteopathy in Texas have been acquired for the collection. The Archives are predominantly intended for use by UNTHSC faculty, alumni, administration, staff and students. Osteopathic physicians and researchers, medical and regional historians and members of the general public also utilize the collection except when prohibited by federal or state law, university policy or donor request.

Scope of the Collection

The Archives Collection consists of four main collections: the UNTHSC Archives, William G. Sutherland Collection, Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas historical records and Quincy Microscopes.

UNTHSC Archives

Archival materials related to the history of the university comprise the bulk of the collection. A capacious amount of documents is produced by, about and for the Health Science Center. The Archives are not intended as a comprehensive repository for all of this data. Instead, collecting emphasizes media, documents, artifacts and images that illustrate the evolution of the organization, including important events, historic decisions and significant communications.

William G. Sutherland Collection

The Sutherland collection includes materials in a variety of formats related to Dr. William G. Sutherland (1873-1954), an important osteopathic physician, and the Sutherland Cranial Teaching Foundation, established to promulgate his theories. Many of the materials were created, owned or utilized by Dr. Sutherland. Materials from the collection of Dr. Anne L. Wales, one of the original Sutherland Foundation teachers, are also included in the collection.

Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas (OMCT) Historical Records

Before closing in 2004, OMCT was located adjacent to the UNTHSC campus and served as the primary hospital training site for TCOM interns and residents. Due to this connection to the University, all available historical records from the hospital are included in the Archives. Personal medical records of former patients are of course not part of the Archive collection.

Quincy Microscopes

Dr. John J. Quincy was an area dentist who donated his collection of rare and antique microscopes to the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas. Upon that hospital's closing, the collection was transferred to the library. The collection includes 12 microscopes and related artifacts, all produced between the 1860s and 1930s. Most include their original case and several contain slides, condensers or other artifacts.

Subjects, Formats, Material Types and Languages

Archival materials are actively collected on a limited range of subjects, primarily the history of the Health Science Center and its predecessor organization, early osteopathic medicine and notable regional osteopathic physicians. Varied formats are collected, including documents, images, multimedia items and artifacts. Materials are predominately collected in English, though occasionally items in other languages may be accepted or acquired if they are in-scope for the Archive collection. The following material types are currently included in the Archives:

- Select administrative, department and personnel records
- Manuscripts, meeting notes and personal papers
- Photographs of the university campus and buildings, university-related special events, TCOM founders and other affiliated individuals as well as regional physicians, photos from the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas and photos related to Dr. Sutherland
- Microscopes and microscope slides
- Small medical equipment such as mortar and pestles, medicine bottles and beakers
- Pamphlets , flyers, announcements and other promotional materials
- Memorabilia including clothing, banners, coffee cups, pens and pencils, patches and pins
- Media materials such as VHS, audio recordings, slides, 16mm film, CDs, LPs, DVDs, microfiche and audiocassettes
- Blueprints and architectural drawings
- Certificates, awards and plaques given to affiliated individuals
- Books and articles written by, for or about the university or university-affiliated individuals
- Print dissertations and theses produced by UNTHSC students
- Oral histories of UNTHSC faculty members and researchers

It is important to note, however, that not all of these material types are actively collected. Small medical equipment, personal photographs of area physicians not related to the university, microscopes and related artifacts and some media are no longer collected and will not be accepted as gifts.

Selection, Retention and Withdrawal

Materials are assessed prior to acceptance and only those documents, media items, images or artifacts deemed to be historically relevant to the school, the region or osteopathy are acquired. A number of factors are considered when assessing items for potential acquisition including scope, uniqueness, quality and format. The scope requirement is absolute; only in-scope materials will be accepted. Generally, duplicates will not be acquired though occasionally a duplicate may be used to replace a

damaged or otherwise inferior copy. Priority acceptance will be extended to unique in-scope items. In this case, “unique” refers to rare or unusual items not widely available in other archival or library collections. The condition of materials is assessed and some items may be deemed too damaged or fragile for acceptance though all reasonable attempts to save unique in-scope materials will be made. Most formats are collected but some items may be rejected if the current format is obsolete and it is not technologically feasible to migrate the content due to condition or cost. Items gifted to the Archives are also subject to the terms and conditions of the library’s Gift Policy (Appendix B). Subsequent to the initial assessment, materials are retained indefinitely.

Preservation, Data Refreshment and Format Migration

Reasonable preservation and security measures are taken to ensure the long term survival and usability of the collection. These include environmental controls, proper storage and handling and library policies designed to limit theft risk. Occasionally, the library may outsource conservation for valuable objects in need of repair or restoration. Digitization is often used to limit handling and increase availability of the most highly-requested or unique materials. Similarly, when digitization and dissemination is not an option (due to copyright considerations, donor requests, or other reasons), the item may be photocopied or otherwise reproduced. In the case of obsolete media, items are migrated to a currently viable format when permissions can be obtained or when it is determined to be acceptable under US Copyright Law. The original information container is discarded subsequent to migration. The library is presently working to migrate all existing media to current formats; however, it is expected that this project will continue for some time and thus some items may only be available in older formats for the foreseeable future.

Digital Collection

Purpose of the Collection

The primary purpose of the Lewis Library Digital Collection is to enable the free exchange of information necessary for scientific advancement and academic collaboration. To this end, the library makes freely available two distinct types of digital content: unique materials in the public domain and the scholarly output of the UNTHSC. Digitization, while not a method of preservation, is also utilized to limit the handling of delicate or rare items while simultaneously ensuring their availability for research. Preserving digital data in its original form is important since digital material may contain unique elements as distinct from print. Furthermore, curating the intellectual product of the institution via the digital collection acts as a hedge against rising journal costs and illustrates the library’s commitment to facilitating scholarly discourse within the scientific community.

Audience and Accessibility

The audience of the Digital Collection is much broader than that of the General Collection and includes not only students, staff and faculty of the university but all students, researchers and laypeople with Internet access worldwide. Generally, the content of the Digital Collection is freely available on the World Wide Web and accessible via the Institutional Repository. Exceptions are occasionally made; the

most common exception is an embargo period placed on student dissertations and theses for purposes of publication or protection of original and potentially marketable research. The library may also limit access to affiliated users if ownership is unclear or in dispute or at the request of the legitimate copyright holder. The Institutional Repository itself has been designed according to section 508 of the Americans with Disability Act and all efforts will be made to comply with standards and best practices of the field with regard to metadata, formats and image quality.

Scope of the Collection

There are two main components of the Lewis Library digital collection: materials digitized for other library and institutional departments and materials collected specifically for the digital collection. The former includes journals and monographs, university and professional archives and other materials digitized on demand or as part of ongoing projects. The latter includes institutional scholarly output such as journal articles, book chapters, conference papers and posters, student-authored dissertations and theses, born digital content and monographs on a limited range of subjects collected exclusively for digitization purposes. Generally, collection policies pertaining to materials digitized for other library departments (mainly Archives and Rare Books) are discussed in other sections of this policy. Additionally, the library is in the process of digitizing the journal of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association (TOMA). The library does not own the rights to this content but has been authorized by TOMA to digitize and make it freely available. The library may engage in similar digitization projects for other organizations with in-scope content in the future.

Subjects, physical formats and foreign languages

In general, materials are selected for the Digital Collection based on the subjects listed in the General Collection portion of this policy. Forensic science and early scientific criminology are areas of particular emphasis within the Digital Collection. Various physical formats are collected and converted to digital formats including monographs, journals, VHS, CD, cassette tape, photographs and ephemera, among others. Foreign language materials are included in the collection only occasionally and on an ad hoc basis.

Selection and Prioritization

Curating the intellectual product of the university is a major focus of the digital collection. Theses and dissertations authored by UNTHSC students are collected and made available in the Institutional Repository, sometimes with an embargo. Print dissertations and theses predating digital submission are currently housed in the UNTHSC archives and are digitized only when consent is obtained from the authors. The library also collects journal articles published by UNTHSC authors for inclusion in the Digital Repository whenever possible. In general, this occurs when affiliated authors publish in open access journals, in journals with self-archiving policies or when the author negotiates to maintain their copyright. To this end, the Digital Projects Librarian regularly promotes open access and self-archiving and strives to educate faculty and students about authors' rights. UNTHSC authored conference papers, posters and all other forms of scholarly output are collected in the Digital Repository as well.

With the exception of older dissertations and theses, most scholarly output within the collection is born digital (though print equivalents may exist). Other born digital materials are collected as well though, at the time of the creation of this document, such content comprised only a small portion of the collection. However, the library will continue to investigate in-scope born digital content for possible inclusion in the collection.

In addition to UNTHSC scholarly communications, various physical information objects such as books, journals and other materials, are digitized and included in the collection. To be candidates for digitization, materials must be in the public domain or the copyright must be owned by the University of North Texas Health Science Center. Additionally, materials must be in scope for the academic and research programs of the university. Priority is given to unique materials that have not already been digitized and made freely available on the World Wide Web and to content that closely aligns with current institutional research initiatives and health institutes. Physically delicate, degrading or in-demand materials from the Archives or Rare Books collection will also be prioritized for digitization in order to limit environmental and human exposure.

File Formats

A number of digital file formats are created and collected in the course of building the Digital Collection. TIF is the preferred format for images and all library-produced image files are in this format. CRW, CRW2 and JPEG files will also be accepted into the collection. Since data loss is a concern with JPEG format, JPEG files will be retained until a TIF file of superior quality (i.e. bit level fidelity) is secured. Since the proprietary nature of the format, and not quality, is the concern with CRW and CRW2 formats, these formats will be immediately migrated to TIF and the original CRW or CRW2 file will be destroyed. PDF is the preferred format for text files. Word and txt files will also be accepted, but will be migrated to PDF.

In terms of video files, a number of file formats are acceptable including MPEG-2, uncompressed MXF, MJP2_FF_L, MPEG 1-4, AVI, Quicktime, WMV, FLA , SWF, SVG1_1 and SVG_1_2. However, MPEG-2 and uncompressed MXF and MJP2_FF_LL are currently preferred. The multitude of acceptable formats owes to the relative newness of this medium as a digital object, the proprietary nature of most extant formats and a lack of standards within the profession. Similarly, there are a profusion of accepted and preferred formats for audio files, including PCM, AAC, WAVE, AIFF, MP3, M4A, QTA_AAC, WMA_WMA9_PRO, WMA_WMA9, XMF, SMF, RMID and MIDI_SD. Since proprietary formats are of dubious longevity, all formats will be accepted and may be migrated at a later time as standards and best practices develop.

Copyright

Materials in the Institutional Repository are made available for the purposes of teaching, study and research in compliance with Title 17 of US Copyright Law. In general, content included in the Digital Collection meets one of the following criteria with regards to copyright: it is in the public domain, the copyright is owned by the Health Science Center or the author(s) have formally consented to have the material included in the collection. Occasionally, objects with unknown or untraceable copyright may be digitized for the collection. Such materials will be removed from the Repository at the request of a verifiable copyright holder.

Removal and Maintenance

Occasionally, digital objects may be removed from the collection for reasons including but not limited to space limitations, requests from legitimate copyright holders, migration to new formats, collection development decisions and other reasons. The format and metadata of objects will be maintained by the library's Digital Projects staff in order to ensure the continued accessibility and discoverability of objects within the collection. This includes monitoring the development of best practices for new digital media such as audio and video files and migrating file formats as necessary. Some physical information objects may also be damaged or destroyed in the digitization process. The Digital Projects Librarian, in consultation with the Collection Development Committee, will decide when to dispose of physical objects damaged during digitization and pre-migrated digital objects subsequent to format migration.

Rare Book Collection

Purpose and Audience of the Collection

The guiding principle of the Rare Book collection is to preserve rare, unusual or minimally distributed in-scope materials for future research and study. The anticipated audience consists primarily of historians, researchers and students of osteopathic or historic medicine. A secondary pursuit related to the collection is to identify the most historically or intellectually valuable in-scope materials in the public domain and make them freely available on the World Wide Web, thus eliminating geographic and temporal barriers to use.

Scope of the Collection

The scope of the Rare Book collection has significantly narrowed in recent years. In the past, the collection included materials related to the history of medicine in Texas, 18th and 19th century medical science, orthopedics, bone setting and various medical specialties. Additionally, items such as medical equipment, ephemera and media were collected. Though much of this material has been retained, it was decided that a tightly focused collection was more congruent with the library's mission. Currently, the library collects rare or unusual books and journals related to osteopathy, chiropractic and manual medicine. Areas of future interest for the Rare Book collection include family and rural medicine, forensics and criminology, public health, geriatrics, ophthalmology, microscopy and psychiatry. These interests are based on current academic programs and research areas.

Subjects, Formats and Languages

Books and journals are the only formats acquired for the Rare Book collection, with an emphasis on monographs rather than serials. Materials relating to the history, philosophy, practice and practitioners of osteopathic medicine comprise the bulk of the collection. This includes osteopathic practice manuals and technical documents, biographies of osteopathic physicians, historical accounts of osteopathy, treatises on the philosophy of osteopathic medicine and other related materials. Chiropractic and physical medicine documents are collected because they are peripheral to the study of osteopathy. As with the rest of the collection, materials are primarily collected in English but occasionally non-English

materials may be acquired based on subject, rarity, historical significance, intrinsic characteristics, provenance or other factors.

Selection Criteria and Retention

In addition to subject scope, format and language, materials are chosen based on age, condition, provenance, historical significance, rarity, intrinsic characteristics and special features such as autographs, annotations and special editions. Specifically, the Garrison-Morton Medical Bibliography is used to ascertain rarity and potential historical significance. In general, materials published prior to 1923 are preferred due to their copyright status, though materials published after 1923 will also be collected when they meet other collection criteria. Items are retained in the Rare Book collection indefinitely. However, if an additional copy of an item is received and deemed superior to the existing copy, the existing copy is replaced. An item might be judged superior based on condition, quality, special features or provenance. Multiple copies of items are generally not collected with two exceptions. Two copies of in scope items (particularly osteopathy-related) produced by societies or small publishers that are deemed likely to go out of print quickly will be collected; one copy will be placed in the circulating collection and one copy in the Rare Book collection. Similarly, materials related to the COMLEX exam will be acquired in sets with one copy in circulation and one copy in Rare Books. Though the current retention plan is to retain items indefinitely, periodic review and deselection of the collection might be necessary in the future due to space limitations.

Preservation, Conservation and Data Migration

Reasonable efforts are made to preserve items in the Rare Book collection, including temperature control, careful handling and placement in archival boxes or other protective containers. On occasion, conservation measures may be taken. Such measures are generally performed by off-site experts and may include rebinding, repair and repagination. Some items may be migrated to digital format but only if scanning can be accomplished without significant damage to the object.