

**Center for Research Libraries (CRL) and
Linda Hall Library (LHL) of Science, Engineering and Technology**

**Collection Management Policies for Books and Serials
Executive Summary**

The Center for Research Libraries and the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology entered into a strategic partnership to preserve and develop historical research collections in the fields of science, technology and engineering. The Partnership builds upon the rich holdings of print serials assembled by the two institutions during the past six decades. Together, these two collections constitute a premier library of global science. The Collection Management Policies for the CRL LHL Partnership were created to establish priorities within the Partnership for managing and developing the shared collections. Serials collections are the primary focus for this partnership, with monographic collections a secondary concern with a focus on how those collections can bring value to the serials collections.

The Partnership's collections include current and back issues of over 50,000 journal titles acquired and maintained by CRL and Linda Hall over the years. These include print serials from Elsevier, Wiley, Springer, and other publishers; historical serials published by the Russian Academy of Sciences and other learned societies in Europe, Asia, and the U.S.; foreign serials in the fields of Physics, Chemistry, and Engineering received through the Library of Congress Cooperative Acquisition Program; engineering specifications, technical reports, standards and other publications of U.S. and foreign government agencies; and other retrospective serials held by CRL and Linda Hall. With such a vast and varied set of materials it is necessary to create priorities for the management and continuing development of these collections. That is the purpose of the two attached policy documents.

The Collection Management Policies were developed based on the results of a detailed collections assessment that compared the combined serial and monographic holdings for the CRL/LHL Partnership with the combined titles held by the twenty largest ARL libraries and with the combined titles held by the libraries from universities representing the ten top Science, Technology, and Engineering programs in the US according to US News and World Reports. This assessment identified areas where the collections were truly excellent based upon subject area as well as language. These areas will be the highest priority for continued development and active management. "Continued development" includes insuring that active subscriptions are maintained, and depending on available resources, new titles are added to enhance the

collections. “Active management” includes preservation of the physical object, the possible digitization of the materials, managing metadata to insure that holdings data is complete and disclosed to the library community, and the possible relocation of physical volumes from CRL to Linda Hall.

The collecting levels in the policy are intentional. It is important to note there are no subject or language areas where the CRL / Linda Hall Partnership will create exhaustive collections, collecting everything possible. Those areas that have higher collecting levels will be priorities for collection development and active management:

- Subscriptions will be maintained;
- If new funds are available, new titles will be added
- Every effort will be made to preserve the physical volume, and these
- Materials will be the focus for digitization and relocation efforts.

Areas that have low collecting levels will have fewer resources available for the development and management of the collection.

- The physical volumes of existing content will be kept and maintained, but subscriptions may be cancelled if resources are needed elsewhere.
- It is unlikely that new subscriptions would be purchased, and these materials would not be priorities for digitization and relocation from CRL to Linda Hall.

Serials are the major focus, with books secondary and other types of materials of peripheral interest.

What does this mean for the CRL / Linda Hall Partnership’s user community? The combined collection will serve as a permanent print archive and the holdings of the archive disclosed through the Print Archives Preservation Registry (PAPR) system (<http://papr.crl.edu/>). The user community can rely upon the Partnership to maintain these archives and to provide access to the materials when needed. Based upon the Partnership’s commitment to preserve these materials and provide access to the content, libraries may decide to withdraw physical volumes from their collections with confidence the materials would be available to them if needed in the future.

The Collection Policy documents also outline where the Partnership will invest its resources in the future. The user community can use this information to inform local collecting decisions. If engaged in a round of serials cuts, library staff could review the collection strengths of the Partnership and if a subject or language area has high collecting levels, those may be areas that locally could be targets for reductions. The Partnership’s collection could then be relied on to

supply that content in the future. For example, the CRL / Linda Hall collections are extremely strong in the area of chemistry especially in foreign languages. If planning a serials reduction, it would be possible to look at the overlap between the local collections and the Partnership's holdings. Local reductions could be made with a fair degree of certainty that the Partnership is going to maintain its subscriptions and collections in the field of Chemistry.

Conversely, if a subject area is designated a "level one," there would be no guarantee that the Partnership would maintain all subscriptions into the indefinite future. It would not be appropriate to make local reductions assuming the current serials listed for the Partnership would continue to be developed permanently into the future. For example, Engineering is a strength of the CRL / Linda Hall collections, but not all areas in Engineering are assigned the same collecting levels. Handicrafts, Arts & Crafts (LC Class TT) is not a priority for further development and has been assigned a level of one. If a local decision was made to cancel a serial title in the TT Class based upon the Partnership currently collecting the title, there would be no guarantee that the Partnership would still subscribe to that journal three years from now. The subject is not assigned a high collecting level, and since it is not a priority for development the Partnership could cancel titles if needed. The serials holdings of the Partnership would be maintained but possibly no new content added.

The intent of the Collection Management Policies is to make the priorities of the CRL / Linda Hall Partnership transparent to the user community. The Partnership will invest its resources based upon the collecting levels in the documents. High collecting levels will be the areas of primary focus, low level areas may see resources reallocated in order to sustain higher priority areas. Like most libraries, the CRL / Linda Hall Partnership must make choices about what it can provide to the user community. The Collection Management Policies communicates these choices so that the user community can use this information in local planning.

The mission of the CRL and Linda Hall Library Global Resources Partnership is to contribute to the common good by collecting, organizing, preserving, communicating, and sharing the print record of human knowledge in the fields of science, technology and engineering. The Partnership will achieve this outcome by:

Developing a collaborative approach to managing and preserving the shared STE collections held by CRL and Linda Hall Library and through exposure of these efforts through CRL's Print Archives Preservation Registry (PAPR), join with other initiatives, toward development of network-level shared print archives. The resulting print archive ensures global access to the scholarly print record and allows CRL member institutions to rely upon this archive as a permanent print repository.

Developing a cooperative approach to acquiring journals and other serial publications and to a lesser degree monographs, conference proceedings, indexes and abstracts, documents, technical reports, and other reference materials that need to be acquired to support the journal collection.

Providing global visibility and access to the combined CRL and Linda Hall STE print serials for CRL libraries in the United States, Canada, and Hong Kong through on-demand digitization and through traditional document delivery services using the RapidILL service.

Combining CRL's and Linda Hall Library's human and financial resources to support these efforts and by developing new business models to ensure the future financial support required for the continuing preservation, digitization, and further development of the shared collections.