

ALC Library

Collection Development Policy

Description

The ALC Library is the library of the Australian Lutheran College (ALC), North Adelaide, South Australia. It was dedicated in 1960 as the Löhe Memorial Library, named in memory of Johannes Paul Löhe, principal of Immanuel Theological Seminary from 1923–1944. Amalgamation with Concordia Seminary in 1967 led to the merging of the two library collections.

The library's primary role is to meet the academic information needs of ALC staff and students. It performs a supporting role in the broader community of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA).

As a college of the University of Divinity (since 2012) ALC and its library contribute to the distributed research collections of the University.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline a general framework for the development and maintenance of the library collections.

The main objectives of this policy are:

- to provide guidelines for the selection and acquisition of resources that support the needs of ALC and the wider Church community
- to assist in setting standards of quality for the acquisition, retention and discarding of resources
- to inform library clients and other libraries of the nature and scope of the collection

Scope

This policy provides guidance to ALC staff and information for students, borrowers and fee paying members, and Institutions with whom ALC has made reciprocal arrangements, in particular the libraries of other Colleges of the University of Divinity.

General principles

The acquisition and retention of materials reflect the nature of the institution as preparing people for service in various areas of Christian ministry (primarily for the LCA), through undergraduate and postgraduate studies, research, and non-award programs. More popular materials for general education and resources at the VET, secondary, primary and early childhood level may be included as resources for teaching and parish ministry.

The library will maintain resources in the major areas of study at undergraduate level, and will seek to acquire at least one copy of all titles listed in the student handbook and on course reading lists.

Collecting occurs at some depth in the following areas:

- Biblical studies and biblical languages
- Christian spirituality
- Church history
- Church worship and liturgics
- Comparative religion
- Confessional Lutheran theology
- Ecumenical studies
- Education in the Lutheran context
- History and sociology of religion in Australia

- Lutheran ethics (Moral Theology)
- Lutheran history and thought
- Missiology
- Parish ministry
- Pastoral care and counselling
- Philosophy
- Systematic theology

In selected areas the collection is of research strength, in particular biblical exegesis and theology, history and theology of the Lutheran Reformation and Lutheran systematic theology.

Principles of selection: limitations

1. Electronic format will be acquired alongside hardcover or paperback editions, and may be preferred if this increases access to the material and is more cost effective.
2. Core journals will be retained in hard copy while the budget allows, but the library also subscribes to online full text services where possible and to key indexes and abstracts.
3. Journal subscriptions will be reviewed annually.
4. Duplicate journals are to be exchanged through the Library Materials Exchange Program of the American Theological Library Association and or similar exchange programs.
5. Periodicals in the German language published prior to 1945 will be held by the Lutheran Church Archives.
6. The use of standing orders will be limited to series which the library has chosen to collect comprehensively.
7. The library will collect materials in foreign languages deemed appropriate to the academic and research needs of ALC. Acquisitions will include biblical materials in Hebrew and Greek and Patristic works in Greek and Latin as well as both biblical and theological works in German.
8. Donations of books, periodicals and non-book materials, both new and second-hand, are gratefully accepted, if they fall within the library's collection priorities and will add significantly to the collection, provided no conditions or restrictions are placed on their use or disposal. Donated material will be integrated into existing collections and unwanted items may go to book sales.
9. The library has neither the space nor the staff resources to accept significant specialist collections. Offers of donations with major resource implications may be declined, but we will advise on alternative locations.

Special collections

The Rare Book Collection will be maintained on the basis of donations, with appropriate attention to preservation and security requirements. Items in this category will not normally be purchased and no specific allocation will be made in the annual budget. New publications emanating from local Lutheran publishing sources may be added to the Rare Book collection for future preservation.

Grants and bequests

Bequests and grants will be administered according to agreed guidelines and used for purchases appropriate to their established purpose. In some cases expenditure will be restricted to the interest on bequests.

Review of the collection development policy

In order that this collection development policy remain current and relevant it should be reviewed from time to time.