RBMS Collection Development Discussion Group Report for Information Exchange, February 6, 2023

On January 6, 2023, co-conveners and 15 participants met at 2pm Eastern / 1pm Central / 12pm Mountain / 11am Pacific via Zoom to discuss collection development policies and strategies.

The conversation covered:
- helpful examples of policies (see appendix below)
- the prompts for and processes of policy revision (the majority of participants' organizations were in the process of revising policies)
- what a "living policy" and its goals are, recognizing that
  - collecting to support academic programs and faculty interests may change
  - collection needs change as collections grow
  - deaccession is a component of healthy collection growth

Co-conveners are interested in supporting continuing discussion of collections policy creation and revision: please get in touch!

Appendix: some policies discussed

Smith College Libraries Special Collections:
https://libraries.smith.edu/special-collections/about/collection-development-strategy

Amherst College Archives and Special Collections:
https://www.amherst.edu/library/archives/accessuse/collection-development-policy

Williams College Special Collections:
https://specialcollections.williams.edu/collection-development-policies/

Brown's John Hay Library and its new collection policy:
https://library.brown.edu/hay/collectionpolicy/
(See also the university's press on how the policy came to be:
https://www.brown.edu/news/2021-05-11/policy)

University of Kansas, Kenneth Spencer Library Collection Development Policy:
https://spencer.lib.ku.edu/collections/collection-development
Special Collections: https://spencer.lib.ku.edu/collections/special-collections/policy

University of Wyoming, American Heritage Center:
https://www.uwyo.edu/ahc/_files/policies/collection-mgmt-policy.pdf

University of Virginia Special Collections:
https://www.library.virginia.edu/special-collections/collections/collection-development-policy