

Policy on Library Priorities

Priorities for acquiring materials and establishing services must be determined with the needs of the users in mind.

The following provide principles for establishing priorities:

1. University Mission Statement and goals.
2. LSUA Library Services Statement of Purpose and Desired Outcomes.
3. The Library Bill of Rights and other established standards and best practices published by the American Library Association (www.ala.org), the Association of College and Research Libraries and its College Libraries Section.
4. Discussions and initiatives of the Faculty Committee on the Library.
5. Comparisons with peer institutions and contemporary literature in library and information science
6. Review of literature, information from conferences, and listserv archives to determine best-practices.
7. Annual surveys.
8. General informal feedback from students and faculty.
9. Directives of the Chancellor and/or Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.
10. Mandates of accreditation bodies.

The Director of Library Services meets regularly with library faculty and/or staff, especially public services staff and gathers input from them. The Director then drafts the mission statement and desired outcomes as part of the LSUA strategic planning process; the draft is then presented to the library faculty and staff for discussion. The Director makes modifications based on these discussions; then the draft is submitted to the Strategic Planning Committee. Selected unit desired outcomes are assessed annually.

The Director of Library Services, when the situation dictates and with advice from library faculty and/or feedback from faculty, students, or administrators, initiates changes in priorities and establishes policies and procedures to implement them. In accord with principles of faculty governance, the library faculty has the responsibility to help shape and approve library policies and procedures. Policies that have a direct impact on instruction must be forwarded to the Faculty Committee on the Library. This committee is encouraged to suggest modifications to the policy and when possible the committee is consulted in advance.

April 23, 2003

Approved by Library Faculty: 8/21/03

Forwarded to Library Committee: