The Fundamentals of Engineering Librarianship

Collection Management: Making the Best Match Between the Needs of Your Users and the Information Resources You Can Afford

Tom Volkening
Engineering Librarian
Michigan State University
Email: volkenin@msu.edu
Where to Finds Relevant Articles

COMPENDEX
Library Literature & Information Science
Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts
Such As:

Zhang, Li. Analyzing Citation and Research Collaboration Characteristics of Faculty in Aerospace, Civil and Environmental, Electrical and Computer, and Mechanical Engineering, *COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES*, Volume 79, Issue 2, Page: 158-178, DOI: 10.5860/crl.79.2.158

This article investigates citation and research collaboration habits of faculty in four engineering departments
Acquisitions

Approval Plans
Patron Driven Acquisitions
“Big Deals”/Package Deals
Consortium deals
Buying individuals titles
Is There Such a Thing as a Core Collection List

Is there a “good” list of core titles to support engineering programs? Resources for College Libraries?

Does ABET require a core collection of engineering information resources?
Guides to the Literature

Using the engineering literature / edited by Bonnie A. Osif., 2nd ed.
Boca Raton, FL : CRC Press, 2012
Many ELD members contributed chapters to this work.
Collection Development Policies

Not easy to write or keep current but they can be useful.

Provides a broad description of a collection and can set guidelines for collecting such as:

- Collection priorities
- Collection strengths
- General parameters such as language preferences
How do I know what to buy?

Faculty/Staff/Graduate Student Recommendations
Book Reviews
Information from departmental/college web sites on research priorities
Research interests of individual faculty from their web sites
Successful grant proposals
Information from Interlibrary Loan Service about what items are being borrowed
Citation Analysis
Print vs. Digital

When asking for recommendations ask about print vs. digital
Is there a digital version available?
Expected level of usage?
For digital how many users at what price?
Are there DRM issues?
Accessibility an important issue for e-resources
To Buy or Not to Buy Textbooks

Very dependent on local policies
Should a research library buy any introductory textbook?
How about a library that is just supporting undergraduate programs?
Engineering textbooks can be very expensive so should you buy textbooks that are being used for classes and put them on Reserve to save students money?
Standards and Codes

Many organizations develop standards so no library can own or have access to all of the standards their users may need. Often needed by only one person or a small group of people. Some major standards organizations include, ASTM, ANSI, ISO. ASTM standards probably the standards most used by engineers. Some professional societies also develop and issue standards and codes, ASCE, ASME, IEEE, SAE. Interlibrary Loan Services can sometimes borrow standards.
Standards and Codes

Cost for a subscription to all ANSI or ISO is very expensive so few if any libraries can afford them.

Individual standards can also be expensive.

Purchase on demand using deposit accounts with vendors such as:

IHS Markit Standards Store and Techstreet
Industrial Codes

Some Examples:
National Electrical Safety Code
ASME Boiler & Pressure Vessel Code
Building Codes

**International Code Council (ICC)** is the main building code developer in the United State. In some states, the codes are adopted on a state-wide basis while in other states, the codes are adopted by individual jurisdictions. In some states, jurisdictions use other building codes and standards. Historical codes can be worth retaining.

The ICC provides free online public viewing of their recent standards and codes: [https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/](https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/). The public access mode only allows viewing of the documents. It does not allow for downloading, bookmarking, coping or printing. Users can browse by category or select from a state map. Once a category is selected, users can click on the book cover icons of the available choices to see the text of the documents.

Some examples:

- [International Building Code](https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/
- [International Plumbing Code](https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/
- [International Mechanical Code](https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/
Specialized Building Codes

Some Examples:


Wind Provisions in the 2015 International Building Code

International Wildland-Urban Interface Code
The Other Side of Collection Management

Do you have any comprehensive collections where you want to keep everything?
Should you withdraw print journal volumes if you have online access to them?
Should you withdraw “dated” material such as “old” computer science materials?
Can I weed ebooks?