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Collection Development Policy for General Interest Newspapers

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Drueke, Jeanetta, "Collection Development Policy for General Interest Newspapers" (2008). *Collection Development Policies – UNL Libraries*. 48.

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Collection Development Policy for General Interest Newspapers

University Libraries, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

rev. by Jeanetta Drueke and Signe Boudreau, November 2008

Approved: CDC, November 2008

General interest newspapers are those that contain news, articles of opinion, features, and advertising. They do not include subject specific periodicals such as *W* or *Barron's*. The audience for newspapers is wide-ranging: undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and community users.

The University Libraries provides newspapers and newspaper articles in a variety of formats: print, microfilm, electronic full facsimile collections (such as ProQuest Historical Newspapers Online), online aggregators (such as LexisNexis), free newspaper websites, and online-only newspapers.

The goal of newspaper collection development is a full and appropriate transition from print to online newspapers.

The newspaper collection serves two main purposes. Each has different needs and provisions.

1. Curriculum support for the College of Journalism, and other disciplines

- specimens for teaching business, production, writing, and media history
- news morgues for story research
- primary documents for historical research
- current news

The library currently maintains print subscriptions to a small number of local and national newspapers: Lincoln Journal-Star, Omaha World Herald, New York Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal. For historical research, microfilm back files and print indexes are maintained for the three national newspapers.

A number of full text newspaper collections, online aggregators, and public websites also provide access to local, national and international newspapers.

Archival access to Nebraska newspapers, including the Lincoln Journal Star and the Omaha World Herald, is provided by microfilm holdings in the Lincoln City Libraries and the Nebraska State Historical Society Library. Indexes for the Lincoln Journal Star are provided by the Lincoln City Libraries and the Journal Star Library. Indexes for the Omaha World Herald are provided by the World Herald Library. The Lincoln City Libraries also subscribes to Nebraska Newsstand, which provides current and archival access to Nebraska newspapers.

Online products will be selected to replace national newspapers if they are affordable and provide the full facsimile coverage and search functions that are vital for historical research. Criteria for online subscriptions are the same as those for other electronic resources: duplication, cost, collection balance, completeness, functionality, format, licensing, access, and search capability.

2. General information for personal education, entertainment and enrichment

The College Newspaper Readership Program gives students free print copies of the Lincoln Journal Star, Omaha World Herald, New York Times, and USA Today.

Library subscriptions to print or electronic versions of a small number of local newspapers and a variety of major national newspapers are supplemented by free local, national and international newspaper websites.

The current access is considered sufficient for general use. A transition to electronic only is preferred.