

DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

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The Research & Library Assistant, academic faculty, researchers (students and faculty), President, Executive Vice President, and Program Administrator are requested to evaluate the LRC annually. This evaluation contains a request to review the holdings of the LRC and to offer suggestions for additions. Publications in anesthesia and anesthesiology are evaluated for potential purchase, on the basis of cost, cost-benefit ratio, and potential use in MTSA's program. The Research & Library Assistant provides NAP Council a presentation of hits and costs/hit for current holdings and takes recommendations for renewal/revision.

Some potential purchases are identified by announcements of monographs and journals to the Research & Library Assistant by virtue of their presence on library mailing lists, and to the Executive Vice President and Program Administrator by virtue of their presence on CRNA mailing lists. Other titles to be considered for purchase are submitted by faculty members. Student requests are given serious consideration, and if they are not honored, the requesting student is informed of the reason why.

The Research & Library Assistant monitors the release of new editions of items in the collection.

Indexing in the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE is a major criterion for evaluating new anesthesia journal titles. While it is acknowledged that a reasonable cost for a medical journal is likely to be higher than for a non-technical one, cost is a factor in the decision. While no exact figure can be given as a definition of "reasonable", consideration is given to frequency, size, and content, and the reputation of the publisher.

The Research & Library Assistant ensures that the Learning Resource Center maintains reciprocal lending agreements with other libraries to supplement any gaps in the collection. These agreements include FreeShare, a cross-regional library group for National Library of Medicine (NLM) libraries that would like to participate in free, reciprocal lending. To join, libraries must report serial holdings in NLM's DOCLINE and agree to exchange free interlibrary loans with other participants. The Librarian also belongs to Tennessee Health Sciences Library Association (TheSLA), a statewide library resource sharing group whose members participate in free reciprocal lending practices and the Medical Library Association (MLA), a global, nonprofit educational organization, with access to Medlib Listserve, its global, free reciprocal lending site.

An additional consideration is available library space; and for this reason, frivolous purchases are unlikely. Non-anesthesia and non-medical materials are evaluated for basic reference value, and appropriate general interest.