

## **Old Dominion University Libraries – Guideline on Challenges to Library Materials**

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ODU General Counsel: October 18, 2024

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Responsible Party: Dean of University Libraries

The ODU Libraries [Collection Development Policy](#) is the primary document guiding the Libraries' acquisition and withdrawal of materials from its collections. The Libraries builds balanced collections across the disciplines that reflect and support the mission and goals of the University.

The ODU Libraries is committed to upholding the fundamental right to free speech and intellectual freedom as well as the right to access materials. We believe that libraries play a vital role in fostering open dialogue, critical thinking, and a well-informed citizenry. Our Collection Development Policy is designed to protect every individual in the lifelong pursuit of knowledge and freedom by supporting the open exchange of ideas, innovation, intellectual freedom, diversity, equitable access, and privacy to/from information.

- Intellectual Freedom: We uphold the right of individuals to choose and read materials without censorship or restriction.
- Diversity: We maintain a broad range of materials representing various viewpoints and subject matters, ensuring that our collections reflect the needs and interests of our community.
- Equitable Access: We provide equal access to information and resources for all individuals, regardless of their age, race, religion, gender, disability, or other personal characteristics.
- Privacy and Confidentiality: We respect the privacy of our patrons and protect their right to access information without fear of judgment or surveillance. Please consult the Libraries' Guideline on Confidentiality of Library Records for additional information.

### **The ODU Libraries does not accept requests to remove or restrict materials.**

This policy is in accordance with the American Library Association's [Library Bill of Rights](#), which states: "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.... Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." Furthermore, this policy is in accordance with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The ODU Libraries believes that protecting free speech is an academic imperative.

If you would like to file a takedown request pursuant to the [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#), please visit <https://www.odu.edu/information-technology-services/computing-policies/responsible-computing/dmca>.