

Collection Development Policy*

The Wyoming State Law Library serves as one of the two primary legal resource facilities in the state. It provides legal information services for the Wyoming Supreme Court, all courts within Wyoming, members of the Bar Association, all branches of state government, and the general public. The Law Library also provides educational support to the ABA accredited paralegal studies program offered by Laramie County Community College. The goal of the Law Library is to provide a well-rounded, viable collection to meet the current and anticipated legal information needs of its patrons. The law library will select and purchase the materials necessary to meet this objective.

Responsibility for selection

The Law Librarian has final responsibility for collection development, but welcomes and encourages suggestions from Law Library patrons and staff.

The Collection

The collection consists of reported cases of the American courts, federal and state laws and statutes, federal administrative regulations and decisions, U.S. and Wyoming Attorney General Opinions, legal treatises, legal periodicals, selected U.S. government publications, all available material published on Wyoming law, as well as digests, abstracts, and indexes to access the collection.

A reasonable level of "self-help" publications will be purchased to assist pro se litigants.

As a rule, the Law Library does not collect the following: casebooks, publications in foreign languages, international law, and treatises or digests for which the focus is on the law of another state.

Selection Criteria

In evaluating a potential purchase, the following points will be considered:

- availability of funds
- awareness of the existing nature of the collection, including similar or comparable material
- suitability of the subject matter
- purpose of the book
- audience the book is designed to reach

- known demand or use by law library users
- merits of the book
- author's reputation
- publisher's reputation
- reviewer's reputation
- objectivity of the book
- format of the book as to updating
- kind of binding and other physical properties of the book
- ephemeral nature or mootness of the book
- date of publication
- price of the book, as well as future update costs

Requests by Supreme Court Justices will override the general policies and will be given budgetary priority.

Microforms

The decision to purchase publications in microform format will be determined by:

- alternative choices of format
- differential of cost between various formats
- amount of use the item is expected to receive
- need for item to be able to leave confines of Law Library
- whether it will be the only copy in the collection or an additional copy
- space

CD-Rom and DVD formats

The decision to purchase publications in CD-Rom or DVD format will be determined by:

- alternative choices of format
- differential of cost between various formats
- equipment and software requirements
- amount of use the item is expected to receive
- need for item to be able to leave confines of Law Library
- whether it will be the only copy in the collection or an additional copy
- space

Computer Programs and Audiovisual Materials

The law library will not make any effort to purchase either computer programs or audiovisual materials. Videos which accompany publications or arrive as part of a depository program will be placed into the collection at the Law Librarian's discretion.

U.S. Government Documents

The Law Library is a selective depository for U.S. government documents. In accordance with the Federal Depository Library Handbook, only items best suited to the needs of the Law Library will be selected. Item selection shall focus on primary legal source materials, including but not limited to:

- United States Code
- Code of Federal Regulations
- Federal Register
- United States Reports & Slip Opinions
- Statutes at Large and Slip Laws
- United States Tax Court Opinions
- IRS Bulletins
- Interior Department Decisions

Since the Wyoming State Library is also a selective depository, a cooperative selection effort will be undertaken to avoid unnecessary duplication.

State Justice Institute Documents

The Law Library is the sole Wyoming depository for State Justice Institute grant publications. The items come automatically and those items suited to the needs of the Law Library shall be retained.

Selection Tools

The following sources may be used to select materials for the Law Library: publishers' brochures and catalogs, Current Publications in Legal & Related Fields, Law Books in Print, book reviews in legal newspapers and periodicals, lists of government publications available to depository libraries, and lists of periodicals indexed in Index to Legal Periodicals and Current Law Index.

Gifts

Gifts of books are accepted by the Law Library with the stipulation that the Law Library can dispose of them in any way it wishes.

Exchange Program

The Law Library currently has an exchange program with a number of other states to exchange copies of state statutes. Additionally, as mandated by W.S. 5-2-402, the Supreme Court will purchase copies of the Wyoming Reporter to be distributed by the Law Library to designated state and federal agencies.

Staff Attorney and Chamber Libraries

The staff attorney and chamber libraries are separate entities from the Law Library. Except in rare circumstances, books for the staff attorney and chambers libraries should not be purchased with Law Library funds. To avoid unnecessary duplication and expenditures, requests for books for the staff attorney library should be forwarded to the Law Librarian. A determination will be made as to whether 1) the Law Library has the item, 2) the Law Library should purchase the item for its collection, 3) a duplicate copy should be ordered for the Law Library collection, 4) the amount of use suggests the item should be purchased for the staff attorney library with court funds or 5) the item is not appropriate for purchase.

* This policy is meant as a guideline only and is subject to exception and revision at any time.