



VCU

Libraries

Statement on Challenged Materials

Collection Analysis and Investment (CAI) builds and manages collections at VCU Libraries. Adhering to the mission and values of Virginia Commonwealth University and VCU Libraries, the purpose of CAI is to [develop exemplary collections](#) that support the University's academic programs, research agenda, health care and outreach efforts, and the overall direction of the future of VCU in its local and global presence. We are committed to building collections that allow researchers at all levels across the VCU community to engage with information in the most creative ways possible.

Intellectual freedom is integral to academic research and debate. CAI adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom as outlined in the American Library Association's [Library Bill of Rights](#), the [Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries](#), and the American Library Association's and Association of American Publishers' joint [Freedom to Read Statement](#). CAI is also guided by the statement in the VCU Creed, from section 1.6 of the VCU Faculty Handbook, that the university community is expected to "Uphold academic freedom and freedom of intellectual inquiry."

As stated in the Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries, it is essential that collections contain materials representing a variety of perspectives on subjects that may be considered controversial. The inclusion of any title in the collection does not mean that the Libraries endorses the ideas in that title.

While input on the collections at VCU Libraries is welcome, censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech violates the First Amendment. Therefore, resources acquired as part of the Libraries' collections will not be withdrawn based on allegations of false, misleading, pejorative, defamatory or potentially harmful information. It is not the role of the Libraries to verify or validate the contents of what it acquires, but it is to make research available for review, rebuttal, substantiation, support or further inquiry.

Reconsideration Procedure

VCU faculty, students, or staff have the right to express concern about library resources and to have the concern taken seriously. Questioned resources will remain in circulation during the reconsideration process.

VCU faculty, students, or staff wishing to challenge a resource must make a formal written request for reconsideration by completing and submitting the "[Reconsideration of Resource Form](#)". Receipt of the form will be acknowledged via email and a response will be issued via email within 90 days. The request will be reviewed by the appropriate librarians and Associate Deans, as listed below.

1. For materials from the general collections, the title will be reviewed by the appropriate collections librarian and the Head, Collection Analysis and Investment. Together, these librarians will develop a recommendation that will be submitted to the Associate Dean for Collections, Discovery, and Budget for review and decision.
2. For special collections materials, the title will be reviewed by the Head, Special Collections and Archives, who will forward a recommendation to the Associate Dean of Libraries and Director of the Health Sciences Library for review and decision.
3. For digital collections, the title will be reviewed by the Head of Digital Libraries and Publishing, who will forward a recommendation to the Associate Dean of Scholarly Communications and Publishing for review and decision.