

Collection Development Policy for Free Web Resources
Approved by LAC: April 12, 2001

Introduction

This policy covers e-resources that offer free access. Each web resource should be useful to a wide range of people. The Electronic Resources Subcommittee should review each web site that is recommended for inclusion in the online catalog. Those sites that meet the selection criteria will be sent to the Cataloging Department for cataloging. This will provide access in the online catalog to the various web sites.

Criteria for Selection

*Premier or outstanding sites that organize a large collection of links in the subject areas taught at the University.

*Sites identified as being related to the research needs of specific MSU courses will be included.

*Society and organization links, representing groups that have a broad campus membership or interest and which offer services and publications.

*Gateway sites to large numbers of government publications.

*Sites that are actual publications or data in full text that are highly pertinent to specific MSU courses, assignments or disciplines may be selected for inclusion. This does not include class information sites (i.e., course syllabi and assignments).

*Special collection and university archive collection type sites such as MSU sites, Starkville sites, and state of Mississippi sites.

*Sites that are based at MSU, but are not necessarily by or about MSU.

All sites selected should have quality judged on the following characteristics:

Content

*accurate information

*substantive information

*higher education level

*evaluation by reputable review source (e.g. Choice or Scout Report) is desirable

*sites which have stated selection criteria are preferred

Authority

- *clearly identified responsibility for source
- *status, affiliation, qualifications or reputation of the author is evident
- *information sources are documented
- *supported or sponsored by reputable institution
- *commercial nature of site does not impede its use or is balanced by the usefulness of its content

Timeliness

- *site should be regularly maintained
- *dates of revision should be posted
- *consideration of how long the resource has existed
- *evidence of established history and continued maintenance

Usability

- *site is easily navigated
- *site is well organized
- *graphical nature of the site does not impede use