Old Dominion University Libraries ʹ Guideline on Challenges to Library Materials
Draft: October 9, 2024
ODU General Counsel: October 18, 2024
Final: November 13, 2024
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. x Intellectual Freedom: We uphold the right of individuals to choose and read materials without
censorship or restriction. x 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. x 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. x 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.