

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTIONS POLICY STATEMENTS

Standards

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I. Scope

Standards are established requirements issued by international, national, and professional bodies designating the uniform attributes of objects and processes (for example, the properties and performance of materials). Standard setting typically includes the definition of terms, classification of components, delineation of procedures, or the measurement of quality in describing materials or services. As a rule, the Library of Congress will not add to its classified collections series of individual standards. However, collected sets of domestic standards or non-U.S. standards from leading industrial nations may be acquired for the classified collections selectively at the option of recommending officers. (An example of the former is the annual set of standards of the American Society for Testing Materials; an example of the latter is the Handbook series of the International Organization for Standardization). The collection also includes selective historical national standards from China and the former Soviet Union.

II. Diverse and Inclusive Collecting Statement

As the nation's de facto national library, the Library of Congress strives to build an expansive, yet selective, collection that records the creativity of the United States and is reflective of the nation's diversity and complexity. The Library's mandate is to have collections that are inclusive and representative of a diversity of creators and ideas. A priority includes acquiring material of underrepresented perspectives and voices in the Library's collections to ensure diverse authorship, points of view, cultural identities, and other historical or cultural factors. The Library also seeks to build a research collection that comprises a globally representative sample of international materials that are diverse in voice and perspective, relative to their places of origin, further supporting the Library's mission to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for Congress and future generations.

Diverse collecting is mentioned within many of the Library's Collections Policy Statements. In addition, the Library has adopted several specific collection policies in an effort to ensure it is building an inclusive and representative collection. For more information, see the Library's Collections Policy Statements on

[Ethnic Materials, LGBTQIA+ Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Independently Published and Self-Published Textual Materials, and Countries and Regions with Acquisitions Challenges.](#)

III. Research Strengths

A. General

The standards collection is one of the largest in the country, with approximately 400 individual organizations or collective associations represented. The Library's collections in standards and standard sets, non-U.S. and domestic, are of interest to the scientific, industrial, business, and government communities and are particularly strong in publications issued by the major standards disseminating organizations. The information provided by these publications support the work of Congress, and furthers the knowledge and safety of the community.

B. Areas of Distinction

The Library has strong holdings in domestic standards issued by scientific societies, national associations, and government agencies. This collection includes but is not limited to:

1. American national standards issued by the American National Standards Institute(ANSI) and its affiliated standards producing organizations like the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
2. United States federal and military standards (the latter include an historical set on microfilm extending parts of the standards collection back to approximately the 1950s).

IV. Collecting Policy

Standards are received in both print and non-print, numbering approximately 25,000 items in the collection. (Standards may be subject to removal from the collection for a variety of reasons.) Many of the publications are available or accessible in electronic format, or are supplemented by electronic content. International standards, especially those issued by individual countries, are acquired selectively. Published draft standards are not actively solicited but will be reviewed for inclusion into the collections if forwarded by issuing organizations; they will be discarded when approved standards are received. Unpublished draft standards are not collected.

The Library may collect in related areas which are similar, or supplementary to, standards, but are not standards themselves. These may include:

1. The technical problems of metrology and standardization.
2. Annual reports and other administrative issuances of international, national, and professional organizations concerned with promulgated standards.
3. Bibliographies and other reference tools on standards.
4. Individual standards falling within the Library's scope e.g., glossaries or library- related standards such as those from ANSIZ39.

Meeting the Library's Diverse and Inclusive Collecting Statement (see Section II) and the collecting guidance outlined above requires continual evaluation of the publishing landscape, sources of expression, current events, and socio-cultural trends to thus maintain effective collecting policies and acquisitions methods. Changes in publishing or in the creation of materials covered by this policy statement may necessitate collecting efforts not explicitly referenced here. Such efforts will be handled on a case-by-case basis while the Library evaluates the need for policy statement updates.

V. Best Editions and Preferred Formats

For guidance regarding best editions for material acquired via the Copyright Office, see: <http://copyright.gov/circs/circ07b.pdf>.

For guidance regarding recommended formats for material acquired via all other means; e.g., purchase, exchange, gift and transfer, see: <http://www.loc.gov/preservation/resources/rfs>.

For information regarding electronic resources, open digital content, web archiving, and data sets, see the following Supplementary Guidelines: <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/electronicresources.pdf>, <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/opencontent.pdf>, <http://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/webarchive.pdf>, and <https://www.loc.gov/acq/devpol/datasets.pdf>.

VI. Acquisition Sources

Standards are acquired for the collections from:

1. Copyright deposit (print, microform, and electronic)
2. Purchase from an Information Handling Services, Inc. (IHS) deposit account
3. Online open access sources (not common for standards)
4. Subscription databases (e.g., MADCAD)
5. Gifts from standards issuing organizations
6. Cataloging in Publication program

Revised February 2018. Updated by the Collection Development Office May 2022.