

## **Clinical Medicine Collections Management Policy**

**Date created:** September 2009

**Subject librarian:** Robin Featherstone

### **Purpose of the Collection**

The medical collection of the Allyn & Betty Taylor Library is intended to support the research activities of faculty, staff and students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The collection also supports the instructional requirements of the medical program in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, including the undergraduate medical curriculum, and the post-graduate medical program. In general, collecting in any specific subject area will focus on materials dealing with clinical research and clinical instruction in medicine.

### **Scope of Coverage**

- 1) LANGUAGE: English is the primary language of collection in medicine.
- 2) GEOGRAPHY: sources of publication are primarily Canada, the United States, Australia and Europe with the language restriction applied. Wider geographic coverage will be considered upon request and dependent upon funding availability.
- 3) CHRONOLOGY: The nature of Clinical Medicine instruction and research requires the most current material to be available and therefore an emphasis is placed on collecting material with the most recent publication date. Previous editions are not considered for purchase and material with an imprint older than five years is only considered for purchase if suitable demand can be demonstrated.

### **Type of Material Collected**

In general acquisitions will include monographs, book series and journals. All theses and dissertations affiliated with the School are also collected. Alternate formats such as DVDs and portable handheld device formats are considered on an individual basis. The focus of collecting is now shifting to resources available online and these resources are preferentially selected over their print counterparts in serials and monographs. Point of Care information resources, which support the clinician at the bedside (e.g. *Clinical Evidence*), are also considered for purchase as new products come to the market, however they will be carefully assessed in terms of their unique content. Priority will be given to materials that contain information not duplicated elsewhere in the collection.

Due to the nature of the work performed by medical practitioners, standard textbooks are frequently a core source of information and referral. Core textbooks are collected and updated and form an important part of the collection.

## **Exclusions**

With the exception of individual requests and some selective acquisitions the following items are not actively pursued:

- 1) Popular or consumer health literature
- 2) Conference and symposium proceedings,
- 3) Theses or dissertations from other institutions
- 4) Trade publications
- 5) Pocket books and small general reference texts intended to be carried to the bedside in a lab coat pocket

Materials intended for medical paraprofessionals are not actively collected.

## **Material transfer to the Archives and Research Collections Centre**

Periodically it becomes necessary to analyze space availability in order to accommodate the growing collection. At these times, titles will be identified that can be transferred to our long - term storage facility in the Archives and Research Collections Centre (ARCC) or to our off-site storage facility. Criteria for transfer selection include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Outdated or previous editions of titles
- 2) Medium to low use items with consideration given to currency and importance to the current research focus of the institution
- 3) Material that is available in alternate formats from reliable providers, i.e. online from Scholars Portal or Portico
- 4) Older materials that would benefit from storage in a more controlled environment.

Materials sent to ARCC will continue to be accessible via requests made through the “request item” option in the library catalogue.

## **Specific Subject areas collected in support of medical education and research**

In addition to textbooks and material of a general clinical nature purchased to support the undergraduate medical curriculum, specific subject areas collected to support research and post-graduate medical education offered at Western are identified below. These specialty areas are based on postgraduate medical education programs offered by the Schulich School of Medicine which lead to certification by either the College of Family Physicians of Canada or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).

Anatomical Pathology  
Anesthesiology  
Cardiac Surgery  
Cardiology  
Clinical Immunology & Allergy  
Clinical Pharmacology  
Core Surgery  
Critical Care Medicine  
Diagnostic Radiology  
Emergency Medicine  
Endocrinology & Metabolism  
Family Medicine  
Gastroenterology  
General Pathology  
General Surgery  
Geriatric Medicine  
Gynecological Oncology  
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology  
Hematology  
Internal Medicine  
Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Medical Microbiology  
Medical Oncology

Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine  
Nephrology  
Neurology  
Neuropathology  
Neuroradiology  
Neurosurgery  
Nuclear Medicine  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Ophthalmology  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery  
Paediatrics  
Plastic Surgery (limited to reconstructive surgery and excluding cosmetic surgery)  
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
Psychiatry  
Radiation Oncology  
Respirology  
Rheumatology  
Thoracic Surgery  
Urology  
Vascular Surgery

Taken from the Schulich website on August 28, 2009.

[http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/Education/pge/Documents/Programs/Programs\\_Contact\\_Info.pdf](http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/Education/pge/Documents/Programs/Programs_Contact_Info.pdf)

Note: Some of the specialties listed above have somewhat different titles on the official RCPSC list. It is possible that Schulich has altered the names slightly.

### **Support from Other Collections**

The collection for clinical medicine is further supplemented by collection activities in related fields such as all the basic medical sciences, epidemiology, biostatistics, allied health, rehabilitative medicine, and health sciences. The physical collections for all these areas are housed in the Taylor Library. Additionally the collections in anthropology, psychology, sociology and history of medicine, housed in the D.B.Weldon Library, could support some of the research and teaching activities of the clinical medicine program.