Western Libraries
Collections Management Policy
Indigenous Health and Well-being Collection

Date created: April 2018 (Lauren Stieglitz)
Revised: No designated librarian. Created by Lauren Stieglitz

Purpose of the collection:

The Indigenous Health and Well-being collection at Western Libraries is intended to support the research activities of faculty, students and staff and the instructional requirements of undergraduate and graduate programs. The collection also provides support for teaching and research in a wide variety of interdisciplinary fields such as First Nations studies, Nursing, Medicine, Social Work and Sociology.

This collection was created as a recommendation of the Indigenous Health Collections Project (U:\IRSC\Indigenous Health Collection\Indigenous_Health_Collection_Report_Jan10.pdf). The goal of this collection is to bring together resources from across Western Libraries and Affiliates that are relevant to Indigenous health and well-being. Items in this collection have a Collection Statement with the collection name in field 591 in the catalogue. This collection is not directly associated with an academic program. Rather, resources collected for academic programs (such as First Nations studies, Nursing etc.) should be evaluated for inclusion into this collection upon purchase.

As Indigenous health and well-being encompasses a range of disciplines, physical material is not housed in one specific library. Material is located in the library that collected that specific resource. In general, the W.B. Weldon Library is the primary location for material supporting the research and instructional needs of the First Nations Studies department.

Creation of the collection:

This collection was created by Lauren Stieglitz and Maren Goodman from the Allyn & Betty Taylor Library. The Indigenous Health Collection Project determined that it was not feasible to create an Indigenous health collection for Taylor Library, as there were already relevant resources in multiple Western Libraries and Affiliate branches. Instead of being able to bring these relevant materials together physically, Lauren and Maren decided to bring them together digitally with the creation of the Indigenous Health and Well-being Collection.

The scope of this collection is greatly informed by consultations with Indigenous staff at Western and by an article outlining the University of Manitoba's Indigenous Heath collection (Linton & Ducas, 2017).
The acting director of Indigenous Services, Amanda Myers, and the Indigenous Liaison to Schulich, Adrean Angles, were consulted about the creation of an Indigenous Health and Well-being Collection. The findings of this consultation are described in the Indigenous Heath Collection Report.

The Indigenous Heath Collection at the University of Manitoba was also used as a guide for Western Libraries’ collection. Linton and Ducas (2017) outline the criteria for the University of Manitoba’s collection. Western Libraries used these criteria as a basis for the creation of our collection. While developing the Western Libraries Indigenous Health and Well-being Collection, items were cross-referenced with the University of Manitoba Library to help determine if they should be added to Western’s collection. For reference, each item in the U of M Indigenous Health Collection has the collection name included in the notes section of the catalogue, and the location is listed as Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library Indigenous Health.

**Scope of the collection:**

Indigenous people view health holistically and this is reflected in the scope of the collection. Instead of focusing directly on health, this collection includes information on Indigenous health as well as factors that affect Indigenous health and well-being. Resources on the spiritual, social and historical aspects of health are included in addition to resources about the physical aspects of health. As a result, this collection is broad and interdisciplinary in scope. Though the collection primarily focuses on Canada, information from the United States, Australia, and New Zealand is also included.

In general, materials are included in the collection if they pertained to the broad topic of Indigenous health and well-being. Guidelines used to make this distinction included:

- Resources had to include a minimum of approximately 25% content on Indigenous health and well-being to be included in the collection.
- In the case of uncertainty about an item’s relevance, the item was omitted rather than included.

Other considerations for inclusion are age and format:

- Age: Material that is more than twenty years old was not included. This was done to omit old and out of date information.
- Microfiche: Microfiche resources were also not included. This choice was made for a few reasons. First, many of these resources are older or too short to include; second, it is a format irrelevant to many users; and third, there are so many microfiche government documents that their inclusion would have made for a significant portion of the collection.
- Digital resources: Care was also taken when including online resources Western Libraries subscribes to (such as the Canadian health research collection and some Scholar’s Portal resources). Relevant online resources and reports were included in the collection. Included resources had to be comprehensive and
detailed. Short pamphlets or guides were omitted (typically less than 75 - 100 pages).

In addition to the above criteria, personal discretion was sometimes required to select materials for inclusion. Please refer to Linton and Ducas (2017) for more detailed information that guided inclusion into the Indigenous Health and Well-being Collection.

**Program information:**

This collection is not in support of any specific program, but will be useful to students in First Nation Studies, Sociology, Education, Nursing, Health Sciences and those in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

**Subject areas covered:**

(This list is not exhaustive)
- Indigenous health
- Indigenous health policy
- Historical information on health and health care for Indigenous peoples
- Information on the effects of residential schools
- Intergenerational trauma
- Indigenous women’s health
- Traditional Indigenous healing
- Addiction and mental health issues

**Physical format:**

Acquisitions will include resources in all types of formats with a preference for digital formats when suitable. Examples of frequently acquired materials include, but are not limited to, books and digital resources, such as grey literature.

**Accessibility:**

Western Libraries is committed to providing an environment for all library users to engage in research and scholarship. Accordingly, preference will be given to e-resources with interfaces that are accessible via screen readers and those which offer accessible format download options (i.e., versions that are machine-readable). Further information about research support through Western Libraries’ Accessibility Services is available at: [http://www.lib.uwo.ca/accessibility](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/accessibility).

**Language:**

English is the primary language of the collection and materials in other languages may be acquired to support the curriculum. English translations of major works in other languages are also acquired.
Source of publication:

Sources of publication are primarily Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Western Europe. Material published in other regions may be considered on request and will be evaluated for quality and relevance.

Date of publication:

Materials with a recent imprint date are preferred for inclusion into the collection. Older material will be considered on a case by case basis. In general, material older than twenty years was not included.

Exclusions

When adding relevant items to this collection there were a few notable exceptions. Relevant items in Western Libraries collection that were more than twenty or so years old were not included. Additionally microfiche resources were omitted. For digital resources, short and older resources were omitted. For more information see the scope of the collection.

Related collections and cooperation

The Western Libraries collection for Indigenous Health and Well-being is supplemented by collections in related fields, such as First Nations Studies, Sociology, Education, Nursing, Health Sciences, Social Work and by access to materials in Western’s affiliated University College Libraries.

Managing the collection

In order to ensure that collections remain optimally useful for our patrons, it is necessary to analyze the collection regularly. The full collection should be analyzed every 2-3 years. As new items are added to Western Libraries’ catalogue, they should be evaluated for inclusion in the Indigenous Health and Well-being Collection. Librarians should also add existing resources to the Indigenous Health and Well-being collection as they see fit.

Resources to aid in acquisition of material

Typically, materials are not directly acquired for the Indigenous Health and Well-being Collection. As new materials are purchased to support Western academic programs, they should be evaluated for inclusion in the Indigenous Health and Well-being Collection.

Judgement should be used to determine if materials are relevant to the Indigenous Health and Well-being Collection. Two documents to aid in the addition of materials are the final report of the Indigenous Health Collections Project and the Linton and Ducas
(2017) article. If uncertain about inclusion, it is also recommended that the collecting librarian cross-reference items with the University of Manitoba Indigenous Health Collection.

References