



The Library

Policy No.: 5

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Responsible Executive: Associate University Librarian, Collections

Title: E-preferred Monographs Acquisitions Policy

Background & Purposes:

UBC Library purchases monographs (i.e. books) that support the teaching and research interests of the University of British Columbia. Electronic books (e-books) are the preferred format because they offer convenient 24/7 access to content, irrespective of location and often to multiple users simultaneously. From an organizational perspective, e-books save space and are protected against physical damage or theft.

Scope:

This policy applies to the acquisition of electronic books (e-books) which are books in digital format, accessed either online via the Internet or on a mobile device.

Governing Principles:

UBC Library prefers to purchase books in electronic format (versus print) when appropriate. In selecting an e-book, the following criteria are desirable.

- 1) Multiple users can access the content simultaneously.
- 2) Users can copy, print and download content with minimal restrictions.
- 3) Content is owned versus leased by the Library.
- 4) Titles can be purchased individually or as part of a package.
- 5) Cost of the e-book is not prohibitively expensive when compared to the print version.
- 6) Publishers/aggregators provide records to improve discovery of content.
- 7) Content is available beyond the UBC community to walk-in users or through resource sharing agreements.

Exceptions to the E-preferred Policy:

- 1) There is no electronic version available.
- 2) The print format is preferred by the learner or researcher.
- 3) The content is better suited to the print format.
- 4) The content is part of a special print collection.
- 5) UBC Library has an institutional focus in the subject area, and long-term preservation is a concern.

Please note that the UBC Library does not generally purchase a title in both print and electronic formats. See the *Duplicates Policy #3* for exceptions.