



Vision

We aim to have a dynamic, relevant and accessible collection of information resources that is responsive to the current needs of teaching and research at Leeds Beckett University (LBU).

Context

- We support LBU's strategic aim that Every Student Succeeds ensuring easy access to high quality, diverse resources for all students to enhance their learning and academic outcomes. We aim to contribute to the University's aim for World Class and Impactful Research with a focus on supporting Open Research and providing a broad range of collections.
- Within the Building our Future Library: Library and Learning Services Plan 2026-2030, our work aligns with the key strategic theme to: Empower Information Discovery and Research Success.
- We aim for our collections to be relevant, accessible, easily discoverable and high-quality, to support the University's teaching, learning and research. We work in close collaboration with Schools to achieve this. Strategic development of the collections is informed by academic and student input, the use of management data and usage statistics and through benchmarking data against that of comparator universities.

Principles

We have established 8 key principles which provide the foundation for this plan. Our collections:

1. Align with LBU priorities in teaching and research through close collaboration with Schools
2. Can be seamlessly and equitably accessed; easily discoverable, with a digital-first policy and user-focused approach
3. Promote and support Open Access and Open Research practices
4. Offer financial sustainability and value for money
5. Are curated through data driven decision making, based on usage, user feedback and cost, with a focus on quality over quantity
6. Provide diverse and inclusive resources which reflect our University community
7. Are actively managed to ensure timely, current and relevant resources are available at point of need
8. Are informed by collaboration and involvement in sector initiatives which allow us to input to and influence broader developments.

Each of these principles is outlined below in more detail.

1. Alignment with LBU priorities in teaching and research through close collaboration with Schools

The selection of new information resources is driven primarily by requests from the University community, through both resources being added to [reading lists](#) for teaching and [requested directly](#) to support research. Resources with ongoing costs, for example annual subscriptions, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Library and Learning Services (LLS) uses the reading lists created by academic colleagues to acquire resources needed for teaching. Academic colleagues are asked to submit lists by dates advertised to give sufficient time to order new resources, and to indicate resource importance. To enhance student experience, staff are asked to review lists each year, keeping them to a manageable length. Lists should be structured to match the teaching and learning of the module, with notes to guide student reading. Find out more about getting [support with reading lists](#).

2. Seamless, equitable access to easily discoverable resources, with a digital-first policy and user-focused approach

LLS takes a digital-first approach to the provision of resources, with our website and [Discover search engine](#) providing easy access to these. Digital resources are supplemented by print acquisitions and collections, including our [Archive and Special Collections](#). Priority is given to digital resources as they offer 24/7 access at any location, enhanced search and navigation functionality, improved accessibility and conversion options for disabled students, and an increased flexibility in acquiring and adding to the collection if needed. Accessibility of resources is vital, so we lobby, as institutions and through sector groups, our external suppliers to be WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) 2.2 compliant and to provide an accessibility statement for their platform or resource.

3. Promotion and support of Open Access and Open Research practices

The scholarly publication landscape is transitioning gradually from traditional subscription and large journal packages to new publishing and content models focusing on Open Access (OA). We actively include Open Access content in our Discover search engine, and we support our researchers to make their outputs [Open Access](#), so that they can be read by all at no cost. As part of our strategic focus to move to a more open, sustainable, inclusive collection, LLS is committed to supporting OA initiatives, including the creation and use of Open Educational Resources, and will allocate funding annually to initiatives matching our institutional aims. As part of our work in the wider sector, we will continue to advocate for changes to the scholarly publications landscape to ensure equitable access to information resources.

4. Financial sustainability and value for money

Information resources are subject to annual above-inflation price rises (around 5%), and some VAT charges, creating financial pressures year on year which require careful budget management. We are active in seeking out the best licences available and discussing price rises with publishers. As part of our annual review of licences, we liaise with Schools to suggest changes required, presenting usage data and alternatives wherever possible. Ongoing sector work to reduce publisher costs and seek out better financial models has been increasingly

important in recent years and we work within our sector groups to influence and drive this forward. Due to the limitations of our budget, researchers undertaking externally funded [systematic or literature reviews](#) are asked to incorporate costs into their funding bid.

5. Data driven decision making, based on usage, user feedback and cost, with a focus on quality over quantity

The collection is regularly reviewed, informed by cost and usage data, as well as user requirements and developments in the sector. We use a range of data to prioritise resource acquisition based on a set of criteria, including: relevancy to LBU, essential items on reading lists, high usage and cost per use, accessibility, licence type and user feedback, amongst other factors. Print and digital reservations and usage are monitored regularly through the year to ensure provision matches demand.

6. A diverse and inclusive collection which reflects the LBU community

LLS aims to maintain a representative and balanced collection which recognises the distinct and diverse needs of our students, and the diversity of our communities, in support of LBU's [Access and Participation Plan](#). Through diversifying our collection, we hope to reflect the lived experiences of the entire University community and to enable everyone to learn from and about all people, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, age or social background. We encourage academic colleagues to consider the diversity of the items on their reading lists, as well as encouraging anyone in the LBU community to [request items](#) for the Library collection. Some older resources in our collection, particularly in our [Archive and Special Collections](#), may present historical perspectives which are no longer acceptable today. [Find out more](#) about how we deal with the sensitive nature of some of our collections.

7. Active collection management to ensure timely, current and relevant resources are available at point of need

Collection consolidation is a regular process which ensures the collection remains relevant, current, of high quality and easily accessible. We review the collection regularly to identify items which are unused, out of date, damaged beyond repair or in a subject area no longer relevant to LBU teaching or research. Withdrawn items are disposed of responsibly via a UK charity supporting literacy programmes worldwide, with any funds resulting from this fed into LLS's income. We accept [donations](#) where relevant to current teaching or research needs.

8. Collaboration and involvement in sector initiatives to input to and influence broader developments

LLS participates in both national and regional purchasing consortia agreements offering substantial discounts to ensure that maximum value for money is achieved. We take part in national negotiations and consultations on a range of issues relating to the cost and openness of resources. Members of our team also represent LLS on external professional groups to share and learn from best practice across the sector. We take part in resource sharing and access schemes to ensure a breadth of resources are accessible to our users and the wider community.