

Cambridge University Libraries 2020/21 Electronic Resources Collection Development Policy

This document sets out the approach that Cambridge University Libraries (CUL) will take in using specially released University and CUL funding for electronic resources to support teaching and learning in the 2020/21 academic year.

A [temporary collection development policy](#) first published in April 2020 provided a route by which individual titles were to be purchased. Such purchases will continue along similar lines in 2020/21, with the Journals Coordination Scheme overseeing individual ejournal purchases and central UL and faculty library staff coordinating [individual ebook purchases](#).

Funding released to support teaching and learning for the 2020/21 academic year needs to focus on larger packages: ejournal packages, databases, and ebook packages. Resources may have wide application and others a far more focused appeal but may be vital to their specific field. Some can be bought outright and others involve annual subscriptions; others involve a mixture of the two. It is important to note that the 2020/21 extra funds are secured for one year only, which means that subscriptions started in this year may have to be dropped after one year. Consideration of the longer-term need and the likelihood of committing funding into 2021/22 and following years for new e-resources started for 2020/21 will be made in each case.

Selection process

A team of librarians in the Collection Development and Management division (CDM) will lead the decision-making process, including representatives from the Electronic Collection Management and Collections and Academic Liaison departments. The CDM team will work with the following data to prioritise the longlist:

- advice from faculty and departmental librarians about the importance of resources for the delivery and support of teaching and learning for their subjects
- existing requests from academics and students for specific resources
- price data from publishers/vendors
- usage data from any recent trial access

For ejournal packages and databases the CDM team will consult the JCS Consultative Committee framework. The chairs of the JCS Consultative Committees and the CDM team will finalise the prioritised list, agreeing recommendations about final purchases.

The prioritisation of ebook packages will be made through individual consultation of faculty and departmental librarians and the oversight of school librarians. The final list of all recommended purchases will be approved by the Deputy Director, Academic Services.

This policy has been signed off by the CUL Collection Strategy Group.

Version		Updated by	Date
1.0		MB	24.09.2020