

21/22 collection development policy for a fund supporting decolonisation in teaching collections

A fund has been put together on the recommendation of the CUL Decolonisation Working Group and with the support of the CUL Leadership Team to support faculty and departmental staff in the acquisition of print books and ebooks that support decolonisation in their teaching collections. This is a pathfinder for 21/22 (launched in January 2022) to formalise the support that central acquisitions teams have been doing less formally until now.

Background of the fund

FDL budgets often focus on the purchase of titles on reading lists. The new fund is particularly aimed at supporting the purchase of relevant material **beyond reading lists**, which FDL acquisitions budgets might not easily stretch to. (Similarly, some FDLs might be unable to buy titles for reasons of a lack of suitable supplier or difficulties with a specific payment route.)

Relevant material might include titles that address colonialism directly as well as titles chosen from a diversity and antiracist angle to ensure a greater range of authors and subjects in Cambridge teaching collections. Requested titles might be unique to Cambridge but do not have to be.

The fund is made up of: £3,000 of the ebooks@cambridge general fund, for ebooks, and £3,000 of the Collections and Academic Liaison English research budget, for print books.

Workflow

FDL (and College) staff should send requests for **ebooks** to ebooks@lib.cam.ac.uk. The ebooks team will acquire and catalogue these acquisitions.

FDL staff should send requests for **print books** to recommendations@lib.cam.ac.uk. CAL staff will acquire the books but arrange to have them sent on to the relevant FDL to place in their collection, unless the FDL would prefer them to be housed in the UL. We can explore the possibility of cataloguing some titles for FDLs before sending them on, if this would be welcome. Please mention cataloguing in the request email if you would like us to do this.

Further steps

CAL will report to the Decolonisation Working Group and the Leadership Team at the end of the Lent and Easter Terms about expenditure and will work with them and with school librarians in the summer to determine the right approach to take for 22/23 and beyond. Do please write to decolonisation@lib.cam.ac.uk at any point with any feedback you have.

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