

Science Technology & Medicine Collection Development Policy

The British Library has one of the largest collections of modern scientific, technical and medical literature in the world and covers almost all branches of science, technology and medicine. The material collected is of a high technical standard, (usually but not invariably at postgraduate and professional research level) and are relevant to current research and development. The collection is largely built through the action of legal deposit legislation and by the purchase of material to build a balanced collection across disciplines. The collection is developed to support inter-library loans and document supply as well as the Science Reading Rooms.

Periodicals and Other Serials:

The Library collects as comprehensively as possible (given budgetary constraints) all serials of sufficient value within the right field and regardless of language. The collection includes peer-reviewed scholarly journals as well as trade and professional publications.

An increasingly large range of journal titles are available and subscribed to as electronic journals.

Books:

Books in English which are of sufficient value and within field are taken as comprehensively as budgetary constraints allow (books in French and German are taken very selectively when the subject is not covered adequately in English). In other languages, books are collected only when they cover a specialty of the country. Lower level books (e.g. undergraduate text books) are only acquired selectively. They are collected to serve the needs of specialists working in areas of science and technology who need to familiarize themselves with the basic principles of subjects which are outside their main interests.

Electronic Resources:

The Library subscribes to an extensive collection of online services and resources to help users find the information that they need. Due to current license conditions researchers must be on the British Library premises to access the resources.