Building Collections with Faculty CVs and Syllabi

Want to learn more about building collections aligned with both the curriculum and faculty research interests? Here are some step-by-step suggestions to help get you started.

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Step 1: Find faculty CVs

o Explore departmental websites, social media, author bios, and more. Remember that you won't always be able to find a traditional CV but should look for other information, such as research interests, dissertation titles, and classes taught.

Step 2: Identify key areas of interest

o Keywords often jump out from faculty descriptions of their research or areas of interest, but most particularly from their list of publications and/or works in progress. Once you get a feel for their work, you'll notice that common terms and subjects recur.

Step 3: Do some research

o Once you've developed a list of subjects or keywords from the CV, use appropriate selection tools to identify well-reviewed/recently published titles in the subject areas of interest. These tools can include library-centric resources like CHOICE, scholarly journals that review books specific to their subject areas, and publications like *The New York Review of Books* and *TLS*.

Step 4: Use the Syllabus

o Use course syllabi to align collections with the curriculum. And remember not to be too dogmatic! Most faculty research informs their teaching, and if you explore the CV first, its connections with the curriculum will become readily apparent. Explore lecture topics and assigned readings to get ideas.

Step 5: Do some more research

o Are the authors that faculty assign represented in your collection? Have they published anything new? Use Amazon author's pages and suggestions to dig more deeply.

Step 6: Reach out

o When new materials arrive, reach out to the faculty member who's work informed that purchase. This step is often neglected but can be crucial in building support for the library by demonstrating that you're paying attention to their needs and interests.