



MADN-LIB

31 August 2015

**Library Policy Operating Memorandum No. 3.6.13**

**USMA Library Support Statement  
Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering**

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1. **PURPOSE:** To assist the Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering (D/PaNE) in its goals, the USMA Library will seek to advance the intellectual development of all cadets enrolled in the core courses and the four distinct majors of the department. The Library will serve as the intellectual foundation for the continued development of faculty and for the lifelong learning of D/PaNE graduates.

2. **INFORMATION LITERACY OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES FOR MAJORS:** We recognize the importance of educating cadets and faculty to be competent and astute users of information. The library maintains curated guides to academic research for D/PaNE on our website to support cadet and faculty information literacy. Faculty members are encouraged to reach out to librarians and provide suggestions for additional content or guides.

As coursework for D/PaNE majors may culminate in a Capstone Project or Advanced Individual Study that synthesizes the knowledge and skills gained over their studies, the library seeks to ensure that cadets completing their research projects within D/PaNE exhibit strong information literacy and research skills in support of their academic work. The library liaison to D/PaNE is able to design and offer a variety of instruction sessions that can provide research instruction to cadets enrolled in D/PaNE courses as requested. These instruction sessions will be provided by library staff, either in the Library or in the D/PaNE instructors' classrooms. Such instruction will be tailored to the needs of the particular class and the cadets in that class, and will be designed to ensure that cadets are introduced to and learn to effectively use the resources that provide the information sought for D/PaNE topics and research areas.





Examples of skills taught to become information literate, life-long learners include:

- Locating and acquiring monographs and scholarly articles through the USMA Library website, ConnectNY, WorldCat, interlibrary loan, and general and subject databases
- Distinguishing between primary/secondary sources
- Distinguishing between scholarly/non-scholarly sources
- Reviewing literature in one's research field
- Understanding citation/plagiarism and the Dean's Documentation of Academic Work
- Becoming expert users of D/PaNE-specific library resources

All cadets should also be aware that materials not found in the USMA Library can be obtained through other means. Cadets may often encounter journal articles, conference proceedings, standards, and codes that would be valuable to their work, but which are not included in the USMA Library's collections. Library instruction sessions may demonstrate how to obtain resources through our ConnectNY consortium, and how to search for and request resources through our ILLiad interlibrary Loan service. Cadets will be assisted in signing up for and using these services as necessary. Cadets should understand the Dean's Documentation of Academic Work, and should be familiar with reference management programs such as RefME.

3. **COLLECTION PRIORITIES:** The D/PaNE is particularly interested in obtaining materials in the areas of physics, nuclear engineering, nuclear weaponry, nuclear proliferation, theoretical physics-classical mechanics, electrodynamics, statistical physics, and quantum mechanics. The department also uses materials from the life sciences and basic through advanced engineering. The library liaison will work to collect materials in support of these programs according to the following criteria:

- Lasting value of the content
- Appropriateness of treatment level
- Strength of present holdings in same or similar subject areas
- Demand, as determined by, e.g. circulation data and interlibrary loan requests for material on the same or similar subjects





- Cost effectiveness
- Suitability of format to content
- Authority of author
- Reputation of publisher
- Reviews in subject-specific and standard library reviewing sources

The general emphasis is to acquire and retain materials which are currently the most authoritative in their fields. The library recognizes the need for retrospective purchases and will use standard bibliographies and other evaluation tools to locate and fill gaps in the collection when warranted by curriculum changes and new program additions. However, it is most important to spend funds for valuable current publications of long-term worth, thus preventing a future need for retrospective buying.

Except for foreign language dictionaries and a small number of foreign language journals, the library acquires primarily English language reference and research sources.

Pamphlets are acquired only if substantial enough to justify cataloging. No pamphlet/vertical file is maintained.

Final selection of materials is the responsibility of the USMA Library liaison. Faculty members are encouraged to make recommendations for library acquisitions from their professional literature as well as for materials supporting their courses and students' research needs. Cadet requests for acquisition of materials are also welcomed, and are reviewed by the same standards as requests from all other sources.

USMA is a member of the ConnectNY consortium of fifteen other academic libraries in the State of New York. Should the research materials required by faculty and cadets not be met by holdings of the USMA Library and ConnectNY, access to additional information resources is provided through interlibrary loan services from libraries around the world.

#### 4. **FORMAT OF MATERIALS:**

##### a. **MONOGRAPHS:**

USMA Library collects monographs in multiple formats, including paper, microform, and digital. All formats will be considered when purchasing monographs, and the decision will be based on lasting value, expected use, and cost.





b. **SERIALS:**

USMA Library collects serials in multiple formats including paper, microform, and digital. While all formats will be considered when purchasing serials, we will generally purchase digital materials unless there is a strong justification for acquiring print, microform or any other format.

c. **DIGITAL RESOURCES:**

Faculty and cadets of the Department are increasingly aware of the plentiful titles in the USMA Library electronic book databases. These titles make an outstanding addition to the hard copy monograph library. Ebrary and JSTOR Books have many relevant titles; in addition, cadets and faculty can check out EBL e-books through our ConnectNY consortium.

Where possible, the USMA Library will seek to provide digital resources to support the curriculum, except in cases where print materials are superior or required based on value, use, or cost.

Generally, digital resource should meet these goals:

- Support remote users
- Be directly accessible via the USMA network/remote proxy
- Be licensed for multiple simultaneous users
- Deliver reliable access
- Be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Utilize a unified and intuitive interface

d. **GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS:**

The Government Documents area of the USMA Library holds outstanding primary source materials for D/PaNE majors and faculty. Congressional hearings and committee reports on physics developments, nuclear energy, nuclear weaponry, and environmental impact of nuclear technologies as well as Clean Water and Clean Air acts should be invaluable for research.

e. **DATASETS:**

The Department does not purchase datasets through USMA Library.





f. **OTHER NON-PRINT MATERIALS:**

Limited purchases of non-print materials (i.e. CDs for learning foreign languages, DVDs for leisure, image collections, etc) are evaluated on the same basis as monographs, with special emphasis on the suitability of the format to the content, and on the quality of the production.

5. **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES:** The Special Collections and Archives division of the USMA Library is of great significance for the D/PaNE, possessing many items of enormous interest to students of the field to include course diaries and textbooks.

6. **ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARY:** The departmental library in the D/PaNE was downsized, and any remaining items are currently in storage. Its relationship to USMA Library will be re-evaluated after construction at Bartlett Hall is finished.

7. **EXISTING OR PROSPECTIVE GIFT SUPPORT:** While there are no gift funds specifically designated for the field, topical gift funds may be used to support materials for the D/PaNE.

8. **LIAISON ENGAGEMENT:** The liaison serves as the point of contact for departmental interaction with the library. The liaison for D/PaNE is always available by email, telephone, or in person for consultation to the D/PaNE faculty and staff. Liaison responsibilities in support of D/PaNE occur throughout the academic year, and extend into the summer months, when new department staff and faculty members are typically brought on board. The liaison will conduct orientations for these new faculty members, and introduce them to the types of Library instruction that can be provided for D/PaNE classes.

The liaison to D/PaNE is responsible for the creation and maintenance of Research Guides hosted on the USMA Library website, and will make sure that members of the D/PaNE faculty are aware that Guides can be created for specific classes at their request. The liaison may assist faculty members with integrating library materials in the design of their curricula, as well as with their own professional research. Any opportunities to increase the effectiveness of the liaison's embedded library instruction efforts by utilizing existing or developing technologies, e.g. Blackboard, shall be actively pursued. Collection development recommendations are welcomed and encouraged.

The liaison may request inclusion on the departmental e-mail distribution list, attend faculty meetings, and participate in Department events to maintain an effective interface between the Library and the Department.





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USMA Library  
758 Cullum Road  
West Point, NY 10996

9. **EXPIRATION**: This policy is effective until superseded or rescinded.

CHRISTOPHER D. BARTH  
Librarian and Associate Dean, USMA

