SYDNEY COLLEGE OF DIVINITY
JOINT COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Sydney College of Divinity (SCD)

The Sydney College of Divinity was incorporated in 1983. It is a community created through a federation of Christian theological colleges for the accreditation of awards. The Member Institutions of the College commit themselves to ecumenical co-operation in sustaining a teaching programme of excellence. The College is committed to providing accredited theological education at a tertiary level, in order to prepare students for ordained and lay ministries and for further theological studies, while being very diverse in its theological traditions.

Membership of the SCD

The composition of the SCD has changed over the years as new institutions have been accepted into membership and others have departed. Within the last five years three members have joined while another three have left. The current membership comprises eleven Member Institutions:

Australian College of Ministries
　　　　　　　　(Churches of Christ)
Canberra College of Theology
　　　　(Christian & Missionary Alliance)
Catholic Institute of Sydney
Centre for Christian Spirituality (Catholic)
Coolamon College, Qld. (Uniting Church)
Emmaus Bible College
　　　　　　　　(Christian Brethren)
St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological
　　　　College
Salvation Army College of Further
　　　　Education
Southern Cross College
　　　　　　　　(Assemblies of God)
United Theological College
　　　　　　　　(Uniting Church)
Wesley Institute for Ministry and the Arts
　　　　　　　　(Uniting Church)

Each of these institutions has its own library, except for Coolamon College, which is a distance education provider

and uses the resources of Trinity College Library, situated on the same campus in Brisbane.

SCD Libraries' Committee

One of the committees of the SCD is the Libraries' Committee. This is composed of representatives from each library and meets regularly for workshops and to discuss matters relevant to the SCD. The convenors attend meetings of the SCD Academic Board, reporting on library activities, and of the Institutional Membership Committee which assesses applications from institutions wishing to join the SCD.

Purpose of the Joint CDP

One of the tasks of the Libraries' Committee is to prepare a Joint Collection Development Policy. This document, which demonstrates the capacity of SCD libraries to support the curriculum and research needs of students and staff of the SCD, becomes part of the submission presented by the SCD to the Higher Education Unit Accrediting Panel. This process takes place approximately every five years.

The Joint CDP has various purposes. It seeks to:
* raise awareness of the areas of specialisation in the various libraries and to maximise their use by faculty and students;
* maximise the benefits gained from limited financial resources by avoiding duplication of specialist materials;
* provide foci for resources for post-graduate studies, and enhance the inter-dependence of the constituent Member Institutions of the SCD;
* raise awareness of the resources we offer to the Church as a whole and to the general community;
* play our part in contributing specialist information to the wider research community.

The first Joint Collection Development Policy for the libraries of the SCD was published in 1992. At that time eight libraries were involved in the process. A revised edition was published in 1997, with another revision having just been completed in 2002.

Strictly speaking the document is not a true Joint Collection Development Policy, although it does contain the individual Collection Development Policies of each participating library. It is more a collaborative report on the holdings and future plans of the various libraries of the SCD and outlines the nature and scope of their collections, showing their particular strengths and areas of specialization.

It aims to demonstrate the continuing and important role the libraries play in supporting the academic work of the Member Institutions of the SCD and to highlight the areas deemed important in the Higher Education Accreditation Guidelines for libraries.

Methodology for evaluating the collections.
The conspectus method was first used to evaluate the SCD library collections in 1991. This approach enables collections to be assessed according to standardised criteria. For each subject it identifies the level of the existing holdings and the level of current collecting in the area. It may also indicate desirable future collecting levels.

Conspectus techniques of measurement used in the 1991 assessment included shelf list measurement, shelf scanning, list checking (against standard collection lists), evaluation by outside experts and citation analysis.

An estimation of collection strengths was then made for each library using the collecting intensity codes as described in the Australian Conspectus Manual. These range from level 0 (subject area not collected) through minimal, basic, instructional and research levels to level 5 (comprehensive holdings able to support high level research).

In 1996 the Joint Collection Development Policy was revised and staff from each library were responsible for the evaluation of their collection. For the 2002 revision it was decided not to effect a substantial change in the review process, but to update and modify the previous document so that it provides a current representation of the collections of the SCD libraries.

Contents of the Joint Collection Development Policy
The document is in three sections:

The **first section** gives an overview of the collections of the SCD libraries. It covers the mission of the SCD, purpose of the CDP, clientele of the libraries, access to the collections, background to the collections, acquisition budgets, selection principles, serial subscriptions, special collections and subject specialisation. It also covers co-operative activities by the SCD libraries, theological resources in the Sydney region and the role of religious resources available on the internet.

The **second section** contains the individual Collection Development Policies of the SCD libraries. These cover in far more detail the same areas already mentioned in the overview, plus others such as relationship to mission of the parent institution, description of the collection, detailed subject coverage, collection evaluation, preservation activity and de-selection policy.

The **third section** contains a number of appendices. These include a policy statement on lending in SCD libraries, a table of monographic series received by SCD libraries (both standing orders and substantial holdings), a table of indexing tools available in SCD libraries, conspectus level definitions and an overview of the revision process for the 2002 Joint CDP.

Conclusion.
It is envisaged that the next Joint Collection Development Policy we prepare in five years' time may require a different methodology and format. A review of the literature of library and information science and discussion with various

experts suggests that the conspectus method of evaluating and describing library collections needs review. This should take into consideration the new electronic climate and the changing emphasis in libraries from collection development to collection management and from the ownership of resources to providing access to them.

However, in the meantime, the current Joint Collection Development Policy remains a good indication of the strengths and weaknesses of the collections of the SCD and stands as the most useful way of illustrating how the libraries of the SCD collaborate, share resources and work together in a successful ecumenical endeavour.

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NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

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CONFERENCE PHOTOGRAPH

Canberra, Blackfriars Retreat and Conference Centre
4-7 July, 2002