

Library Collections at Nevada State

Collection Overview

The Marydean Martin Library collection at Nevada State College is curated to support the mission of the institution, with the primary goal of supporting the curriculum at Nevada State.

The Marydean Martin Library is the first digital library in the state of Nevada. A small collection of print materials is still available by request from off-site storage, but the Library employs a digital-first collection philosophy with library space entirely dedicated to serving our student community.

The Marydean Martin Library is committed to the college mission of providing quality, affordable four-year degree programs. The collection supports this through a robust textbook affordability initiative and by prioritizing student savings as a metric of collection effectiveness.

By providing a collection that is teaching-focused, digital-first, and student-centered, the Marydean Martin Library is able to provide information resources with a level of currency, depth, and breadth sufficient to support and sustain the institution's mission, programs, and services.

Collection History

When Nevada State was founded in 2002, the Library began with a small collection of 6,000 books and 100 journals stored in classroom 105 of the Dawson Building. In 2007, a branch library opened in the institution's downtown Henderson location on South Water Street. This Water Street library housed the nursing and education collections, which were partially funded by a grant from the Silver State Schools Credit Union.

In November 2012, through a named donation by Marydean Martin, the Dawson Library moved out of the classroom space and into a newly remodeled library space in the Dawson Building, becoming the new Marydean Martin Library.

In 2015, the Rogers Student Center was opened and provided an opportunity to consolidate the Basic and Water Branch and Dawson building space into one central campus library. The Marydean Martin Library now resides on the 2nd floor of the Roger's Student Center.

Alongside the opening of the new space, the Marydean Martin Library became the first digital library in the state of Nevada. The library space in the Rogers Student Center is entirely dedicated to serving students, and the online collection has expanded significantly to meet their needs. The print collection, which has grown to roughly 15,000 volumes, is retained in storage in the Dawson Building. Print books remain available by request, typically within one business day.

As of fall 2022, the digital collection includes access to over 460,000 ebooks, 98,000 online journals, and 35,000 streaming films. Between offsite storage and partnerships with other Southern Nevada libraries we are also able to provide access to more than 2 million print books.

Collection Impact and Value

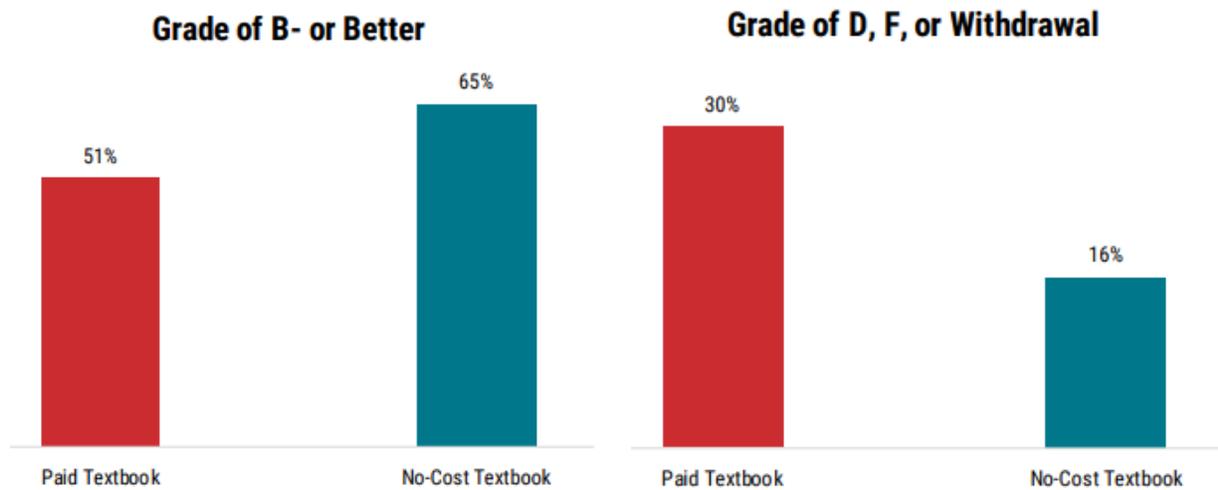
Student Success

Through a deep collaboration with the Office of Institutional Research, the Marydean Martin Library is able to demonstrate a statistically significant correlation between library use and numerous student success outcomes such as retention, GPA, and academic standing. Moreover, there are no significant equity gaps in use of the digital collection by ethnicity, first-generation status, or gender. This work is possible due to the innovative student data warehouse created and maintained by the Office of Institutional Research. This research has also been nationally recognized by the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ARCL) [Assessment in Action](#) program, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (Nevada State's accreditor), and the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Committee.

No-Cost Textbook Savings

Librarians at Nevada State view course material affordability as an equity issue that impacts whether students can afford to be prepared for class. Nearly fifty percent of Nevada State students receive need-based federal financial aid. A recent campus-wide student survey identified cost as the number one reason that students select Nevada State and the number two reason that they consider withdrawing from their program of study.

Since 2017, the Marydean Martin Library has led numerous campus initiatives to reduce textbook costs for students resulting in over \$1.1 million in student savings. These initiatives include close collaborations with teaching faculty who update their curriculum to a freely available online textbook, as well as library purchasing initiatives for ebooks that are already assigned texts in Nevada State courses. These efforts were recognized with a commendation from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in their 2019 accreditation report of Nevada State College. The No-Cost Textbook program was also highlighted in the Marydean Martin Library's 2020 Excellence in Academic Libraries award.



In addition to saving students money, no-cost textbooks contribute to improved student outcomes. Using data from the Library’s No-Cost Textbook Summer Institute, the Library team has analysed course sections for instructors who converted to a no-cost textbook through the institute and compared them to previous semesters in which those same instructors taught the class with a traditional paid publisher textbook. The data indicates that 14% more students received a grade of B- or better in sections with a no-cost textbook and there was a 50% reduction in grades of D, F, or Withdrawal in sections where students were not required to purchase a textbook.

Academic and Intellectual Freedom

The Marydean Martin Library is committed to building a collection that supports the free exchange of ideas and resists censorship, in accordance with the American Library Association’s [Library Bill of Rights](#) (1996).

A well-maintained library collection requires the regular withdrawal of materials in order to ensure that the collection continues to support the needs of our campus community in terms of supporting the curriculum, exemplifying up-to-date science, and authentically representing the diverse backgrounds of our student population.

Decisions about withdrawing library materials will be made by library faculty using the guidelines outlined in this collection development plan, and will not be based on challenges from individuals seeking to limit the free exchange of ideas.

Collection Development

Collection Assessment

The library conducts ongoing assessment to ensure that the collection is meeting the needs of the Nevada State College community. This includes, but is not limited to, regular feedback from faculty on the Library Advisory Board, an annual review of ongoing subscription use, and a periodic review of student success metrics related to use of the collection.

Collection Budget

The library collections budget is set by the annual college-wide budgeting process which involves preparing budget proposals in October for budgets that will be accessible in the following July.

On average, the price for online library subscriptions inflates by 6% per year. As a result, an increase in the library's budget may or may not be enough to allow for additional resources to be added to the collection. A flat budget will result in the need to cancel existing subscriptions.

Every fall, library faculty review cost and usage data for all ongoing library subscriptions and consider new subscriptions or cancellations for the following fiscal year. We consider the collection as a whole rather than having specific allocations by discipline. This allows us to be responsive to the changing needs of a growing campus.

If specific collections are needed to support new curriculum or programs, it is required that these needs be included in course and degree proposals that are subject to NSHE approval and funding from the Board of Regents. New collection funding outside of the curriculum proposal process is highly unlikely. Faculty preparing new degree proposals should consult with the Library Director (nathaniel.king@nsc.edu) about their collection needs.

Collection Acquisitions

The Marydean Martin Library will consider new acquisitions of one-time purchase items, such as books and films, at any time. Faculty, staff and students may send requests to libraryacquisitions@nsc.edu. Ongoing purchases that require an annual subscription, such as databases and journals, require significant planning, funding, and coordination.

The following considerations are taken into account when making decisions to add or remove content from the library collection:

Content Considerations

- **Curriculum:** As a teaching-focused institution, the library collection focuses on supporting the curriculum. Content that is embedded into classes will be given higher consideration for initial purchase and ongoing access.
- **Price:** The Library's budget reflects that of a teaching-focused institution, with limited resources for non-curriculum expenditures. Price factors include: state of the Library's current budget; cost-per-use; and size of the program.
- **Textbooks:** Textbooks are purchased by the library when they are available in a format that supports use by multiple students at once (online with an unlimited user limit).
- **Accreditation Needs:** Program-level accreditation needs are prioritized.
- **Overlap with collections in Southern Nevada:** For physical materials, overlap with other collections in Southern Nevada is avoided in order to provide the community with the widest possible range of content.
- **Faculty publications:** The library will prioritize acquiring faculty publications whenever possible. Faculty can submit requests for their books to be added to the library collection at libraryacquisitions@nsc.edu.
- **Representation:** The library strives to build a collection that is representative of the diverse backgrounds of our community members.
- **Quality:** The library evaluates the quality of information sources that are individually selected for the collection considering authority, currency, and the reliability of the information source.
- **Interlibrary Loan Activity:** Regular interlibrary loan requests for particular items will influence purchasing decisions for the permanent collection.

Format Considerations

- **Digital-first:** Strong preference is given to adding content online rather than purchasing physical items. A small collection of physical materials is maintained in off-site storage and available by request to students, faculty, and staff.
- **Accessibility:** Online content must meet the accessibility guidelines outlined in Nevada State's [campus policy](#).
- **Usability:** When multiple platforms are available, preference is given to online formats that provide the best user experience for students, faculty, and staff.

Collection Gifts and Donations

Regrettably, because of limited space, the Library team cannot accept gifts or donations of physical materials.

Interlibrary Loan

The Marydean Martin Library's collection is extended through the use of Interlibrary Loan, a program where the library borrows and lends materials to other libraries throughout the country. Students, faculty, and staff can submit requests for curriculum-related items the library does not own and we will borrow them from another institution and have them delivered physically or electronically to Nevada State College at no cost to our users. Depending on available funding, the library may purchase items requested through interlibrary loan on demand in order to provide them more quickly to borrowers.

This service follows nationally recognized guidelines, which place limits on the number of articles that can be requested per journal in order to comply with copyright law (National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works, 1978).

Collection Partners

The Marydean Martin Library engages with local and national partners to expand the library collection and utilize cost-efficient buying strategies. Over 56% of the library collections budget is purchased through these partnerships. The cumulative impact of these partnerships is an estimated \$1,381,440 in cost savings per year.

National Consortia

The Marydean Martin Library participates in two national consortia, SCELC and Lyris. These groups work with libraries across the country and are usually able to negotiate better deals than local or regional partnerships, with less staff time required from local libraries. About 27 percent, or \$116,590, of the library collections budget is spent with national consortia. In return the consortia are able to provide the library with an estimated \$1.3 million in content every year.

Nevada State Library and Archives

The Nevada State Library and Archives provides free access to 28 databases for every academic and public library in the state using grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. At Nevada State College this represents nearly 30% of the databases we are able to provide access to and an estimated value of over \$73,000 per year.

Partner Libraries in Southern Nevada

While online access to most databases and journals is best organized and negotiated at the national level, certain types of resources benefit from local and regional partnerships. Our partner libraries in Southern Nevada include UNLV and the College of Southern Nevada. In partnership, we collectively purchase a specially curated collection of SpringerLink journals that is not available from national consortia, unique “add-on” pricing to expand some databases provided for free through the Nevada State Library and Archives, and our shared library services platform ExLibris Alma.

Our partnership with Southern Nevada libraries also includes reciprocal borrowing agreements where students, faculty, and staff of any institution can visit a partner library and check out materials, or access online collections while physically present within that library. Remote access to online collections cannot be shared with partner libraries due to limitations in the licensing terms of these materials. For more information see the [Borrowing Items](#) page on the library website.

Henderson Public Library

The [Henderson Public Library](#) hosts the college’s [Oral History Collection](#) on their accessible and user-friendly platform. The Archives and Special Collections librarians at Henderson Public Library have also provided their valuable expertise and made themselves available to lead internships for students from our history department.

References

American Library Association. (1996). *Library Bill of Rights*.
<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>

National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works (CONTU). (1978). CONTU Guidelines on Photocopying under Interlibrary Loan Arrangements. In *Final Report of the National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works* (54–55). Retrieved from <http://digital-law-online.info/CONTU/>.