

Collection Development Policy

Grand Valley State University Libraries and Art Museum
Lemmen Library & Archives
May 14, 2026

Mission

Lemmen Library & Archives collects, preserves, and shares rare books, regional historical collections, university archives, and digital collections to support excellent teaching, high-impact student learning, and active scholarship at Grand Valley State University. Lemmen Library & Archives is a robust resource for research on West Michigan; the history of science, medicine, and technology; book history; military history; photography; and Grand Valley State University history. We engage in active collection development to build our resources for use by all researchers.

Collection Development

Lemmen Library and Archives actively engages in collection development to curate rare books, special collections, and archives that serve our communities. At Lemmen Library and Archives, we prioritize primary source literacy through the collection materials we acquire, provide access to, and preserve for future use. We envision Lemmen Library and Archives as a place for dynamic research, hands-on learning, and conscious preservation. We prioritize the well-being of researchers and materials in our space by providing welcoming environments for researchers, accessible resources, innovative pedagogy, and actively curated collections. We seek to engage our communities with the materials we hold through active discovery and responsive collection building practices by using the following guidelines when considering acquisition:

1. Materials support the curricular needs of GVSU students, faculty, and/or staff to encourage experiential learning, critical thinking, and innovative teaching practices.
2. Materials sustain the research interests of GVSU students, faculty, and/or staff through responsive and responsible collecting practices and collaborative conversation.
3. Materials capture the history of GVSU and provide additional perspectives to the institutional memory of the University.
4. Materials deliberately expand the voices represented in the collection through intentional curation.
5. Materials improve the context of existing collections, benefiting our researchers with connected themes, ideas, activities, and work.
6. Materials do not contain active mold or other contaminants that could endanger the health of existing collections.