

MU Libraries priorities for mold remediation and materials disposition – March 2014

In deciding how to address the mold bloom in the UMLD2 remote storage area, the MU Libraries' principal goal has been to ensure that no faculty member, student, or independent researcher will lose access to any of the materials affected by the mold. Due to funding limits and time constraints, it will not be possible to decontaminate every item in the storage area, so we must determine what should be salvaged and what must be permanently withdrawn from our collections. We have therefore chosen to identify three broad categories of materials to guide our decisions in prioritizing items for either mold remediation or discard.

Category 1 – rare, distinctive and scarcely-held items to be treated and retained.

Examples in this category include:

- Materials published prior to 1871
- Materials that have unique characteristics or that form part of a distinctive collection
 - Items containing autographs or other marginalia noted in the catalog record
 - Jacques Flach collections of books and manuscripts
 - Elmer Ellis Humor collection
- Materials that have local significance or value
 - MU theses and dissertations
 - Journalism Library collections (Also identified as a collection of national distinction, according to OCLC analysis of U.S. library holdings.)
 - Missouri government documents (MU has a more extensive and accessible collection than most other Missouri libraries.)
- Materials held by 10 or fewer libraries worldwide (as determined by OCLC analysis)
- Materials with distinctive characteristics (e.g., non-English language works; graphic arts, illustrations or photographs; mathematical formulae; etc.)

In addition, librarians in the Law Library, Health Sciences Library, and Veterinary Medical Library have reviewed contaminated materials belonging to those locations, and they have identified specific items to retain or to discard.

Category 2 – multiple copy or readily accessible items to be withdrawn permanently.

Materials in this category may be discarded because they may be immediately accessed online, easily replaced via purchase on demand, or readily obtained from partner institutions via interlibrary loan or document delivery. Examples include:

- Materials at UMLD2 that are physically duplicated elsewhere on campus, either in the MU Libraries, or in UMLD, the primary storage facility.
- Federal documents published post-1950, and federal congressional hearings published post-1963. (Other libraries in the state have generously offered to replace mold-damaged copies with documents from their collections.)

- Materials duplicated electronically in JSTOR, or other trusted digital repositories of academic journals and books. (These must be available in a stable and accessible electronic form, and the content backed up by multiple regional physical depositories.)
- Materials duplicated at one or more of the other three UM System libraries. (Loan period would be the same as for MU materials, with delivery typically in two to three days.)
- Materials duplicated within the MOBIUS consortium of some seventy Missouri libraries. (Loan period may be somewhat shorter, and delivery time somewhat longer.)
- Materials not in MOBIUS, but readily available via interlibrary loan from Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) and other regional partners. (Delivery typically within two to three days.)

Category 3 – decision deferred until more information is gathered and consultation is completed.

Materials not falling directly into categories 1 or 2 will be retained until final decisions can be made either to retain or to withdraw permanently. However, because we must vacate the contaminated UMLD2 caverns before June 30, we need a new space in which to hold these volumes until we can make final decisions. Moreover, we are committed to having MU faculty assist in selecting materials to be salvaged and retained for our collections, and this cannot realistically begin until fall semester, 2014. Consequently, we must maintain a storage space into which we can relocate the materials that fall into category 3 as needed, until their final disposition is determined.