

Minneapolis Community & Technical College Library Collection Development Policy

Appendix A: Alternative Materials

The Minneapolis Community & Technical College [MCTC] Library is committed to developing a substantial collection of alternative materials to support the needs of our unique, nontraditional college community.

The MCTC Collection Development Policy will be followed whenever possible. However, because alternative materials are alternative, and therefore often fall outside mainstream review and acquisition resources, the following guidelines will also apply to the development of alternative materials collections.

Additional selection resources:

Additional resources that MCTC librarians will scan for reviews and announcements of alternative material include:

- Periodicals indexed in the alternative indexes, such as the Alternative Press Index.
- Alternative review sources, such as Counterpoise.
- Other alternative periodicals
- Alternative publisher catalogs, in print and on the World Wide Web
- Catalogs from alternative press distributors such as Consortium.
- Bibliographies of alternative materials
- Internet newsletters and resources

Traditional Review Sources:

Selectors will evaluate reviews of alternative materials in traditional review sources with added skepticism. "Review journals reject controversial books by (1) giving them very negative reviews, (2) ignoring them, and (3) recommending the book for graduate use only."¹

Local Resources:

Selectors will identify and visit alternative bookstores and other sources for alternative material in the Minneapolis St. Paul Metropolitan area.

Partnerships:

The MCTC Library will work with local alternative publishers and organizations to develop mutually beneficial relationships.

Acquisitions:

Once identified, alternative publications can be difficult to acquire from mainstream distribution channels. To overcome these difficulties, MCTC may set up accounts with distributors of alternative material.

Approval Plans or Regularly Scheduled Visits to Publisher Websites

The library may establish approval plans for alternative publishers from whom many publications have been ordered in the past and whose titles are reviewed sporadically by traditional review sources. Alternatively, selectors will visit alternative publisher website regularly.

Funding:

The MCTC Library will devote up to 15% of its materials budget each year for the purchase of alternative press material. In addition the library will seek out supplemental funds to support the ongoing development of the collection.

Collection Location:

Alternative press material will be integrated into the general library collection.

Exception: **The Zine Collection** which is in file cabinets.

Access

A searchable note field for Alternative Press Material will be added to alternative material bibliographic records.

Exception: **The Zine Collection** has a separate catalog with a link from the library home page.

1. Willett, Charles. "Politically controversial monographs", Progressive Librarian, No.4, Winter 1991/92 http://www.libr.org/pl/4_Willett.html.