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As unfathomable as it may be, within a few weeks we will be at the midpoint of the 47th year of instruction at UCF (although the university was established in 1963, the first academic year was 1967-1968).

As we approach the end of another semester, bear in mind that if you wish the Libraries to acquire materials — especially monographs — that will be used to support your course(s) this spring, please forward those requests through your department’s library liaison or send them to me directly.

Textbook Policy Revisions

Even at this late date in the semester, we continue to encounter students both at the Research and Information Desk and via Ask-a-Librarian who ask: “Do the Libraries have my textbook?” The quick answer is the UCF Libraries do not purchase textbooks. Recently, we updated our textbook policy as follows:

“The UCF Libraries builds collections that support the teaching and research mission of UCF. The goal is to build breadth and depth in the various UCF supported disciplines while taking into account two key factors — funding and space. These factors weigh in the decision by the library not to purchase textbooks. The number of textbooks used at UCF each semester would require both funding and space that the library does not have. These textbooks often change editions very quickly, leaving the library with outdated copies that take up valuable space. Finally, without the ability to purchase most of the textbooks any attempt to collect would result in the library benefitting some students while negatively impacting most. Occasionally students will find books in the UCF Libraries that are assigned as textbooks. This happens because the book has been selected on its merits and not because it is an assigned textbook.”

Fast Facts

The Bryant West Indies Collection in Special Collections and University Archives contains over 2,500 items, including 1,800 books and periodicals on the history, geography, economy, and social life of the West Indies and the Caribbean area.