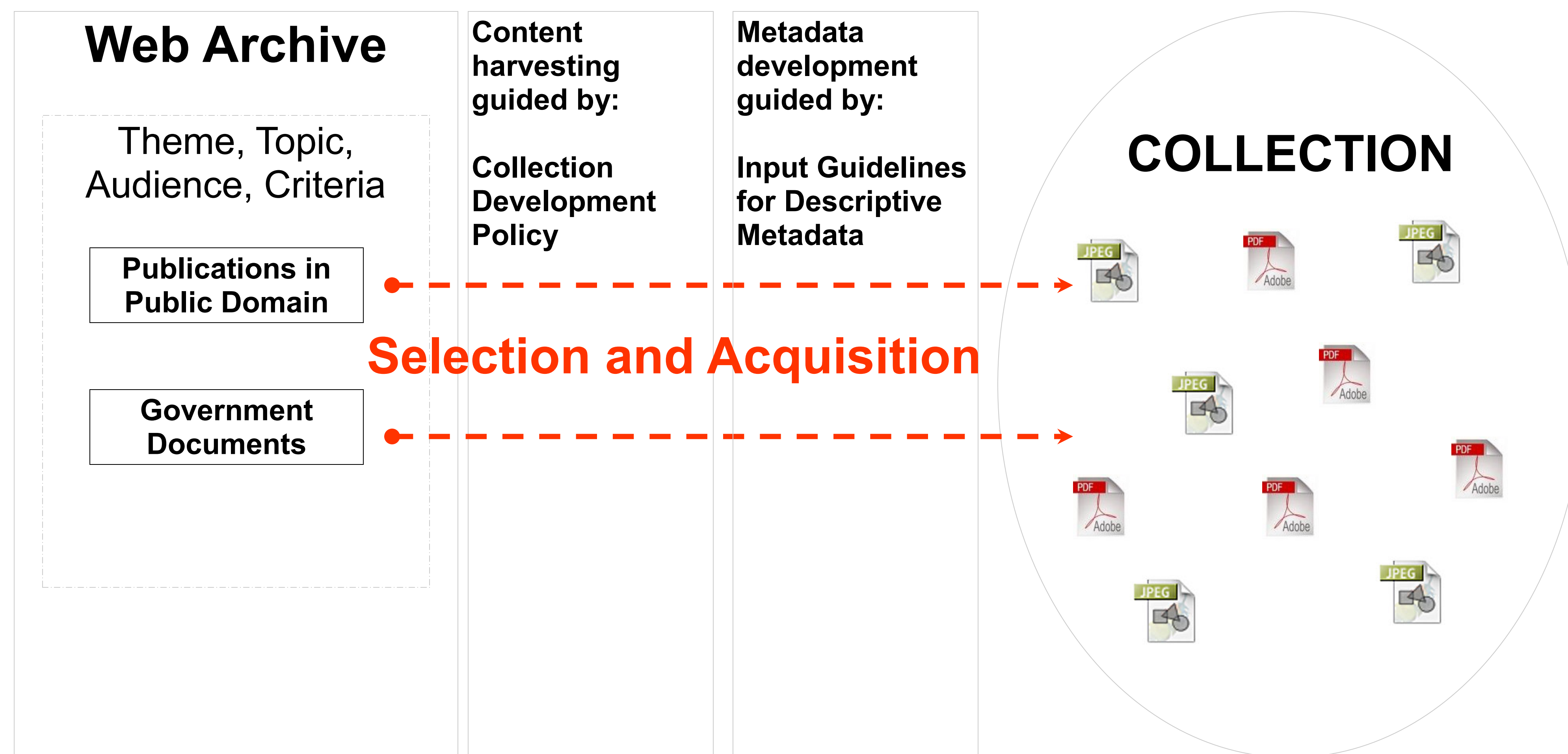


Digital Collection Development Policy: From Documenting Content to Documenting Process

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Emerging digital technologies continuously transform scholarly communication. Improvements in network capacity and capability drive more powerful data output, enabling scholars, communities, and networks to share information regardless of temporal, spatial, and format restrictions. Digital data are the common thread linking these powerful trends. New opportunities and challenges in research and practice challenge stakeholders to develop an infrastructure with best practices for handling data in new formats.

Collection development policy is a crucial tool for addressing these new challenges. Digital data collections are fundamentally different from paper-based document collections.^{1, 2} The digital environment introduces new document types, new partners, and new user expectations into the information landscape, forcing changes to existing collection policies to reflect advantages of the digital format. A library supports research and dissemination to the extent that it is a part of the growing network of inter-institutional collaborations that enable creation and use of scholarly content.



Drawing from the experience of developing digital collections and a digital library infrastructure, UNT Libraries is developing a new collection policy specifically to meet the unique needs of digital collection building.

The collection policy document will guide future digital collection development at UNT Libraries, but will also provide guidance to other institutions where digital collections are becoming increasingly prominent, and where a plan is needed to guide digital collection development processes.

Collections are groups of resources organized around a stated criteria. A collection development policy is a statement of principles which delineate the purpose and content of a collection in terms relevant to both external and internal users¹. Library collection development policies can provide information on the subject strengths of the collections.

Evaluation and Assessment Performance Matrix

Mission, Scope, Goals

	Vantage Points	Models of Accomplishment	Questions
I.	Philosophical Level	Cultivate excellence in the next generation of scholars and leaders for the global community. ³	Does this collection contribute to the development of excellence in leadership and scholarship?
II.	Cultural Level	Acquire, preserve, provide access to, and disseminate recorded knowledge in all its forms. Access will be provided increasingly through electronic networks and consortial arrangements. ⁴	How will this collection meet the goal, vision, and mission of the institution?
III.	Policy Level	Freely provide digital content to a global audience. ⁵	What communities cannot achieve access?
IV.	Strategic Level	Facilitate digital access to environmental policy documents.	Does the collection represent the interests of audience, collaborators, and content providers?
V.	Tactics Level	Use open-access, standards based tools to offer search and retrieval.	Do the tools sustainably enhance collaboration?
VI.	Logistics Level	Harvest, describe, represent, and organize environmental policy documents.	Does the collection represent diverse policies and values?

The Performance Matrix, utilized by Koremura⁶ to analyze library performance is used here to iterate the values of the institution and define ways to measure the collection's performance against those values.

Resources

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- University of North Texas Libraries Mission Statement. Available at: <http://www.library.unt.edu/administrativeoffice/mission-statement-1>.
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- Koremura, Y. (2008). Toward an ideal library: A synthesis of Wilson's library and information policy and Gilbert's performance matrix. Denton, TX: University of North Texas. Available at: <http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc9070/>.