

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: THE DILEMMA OF DONATIONS OF LIBRARY RESOURCES IN GHANA

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<https://doi.org/10.37602/IJSSMR.2025.8331>

ABSTRACT

The study investigated collection development policy (CDP) in academic libraries twist with the dilemma of donations of library resources in Ghana with the view of making appropriate suggestion per the outcome of the research. The research explored objectives such as influence of collection development policy on donations, forms of donations acceptable and relevance of donations to collection development of the Technical University Libraries (TULs) in Ghana. The population of the study consist five technical university libraries in Ghana. The study adopted a survey design with quantitative approach. Out of 135 copies of questionnaire distributed, 121 copies were retrieved valid for analysis. This represented 90% of the valid sample size for analysis. The study reveals the existence of collection development policy in the libraries studied. The research establishes that the collection development policy clearly stipulates the handling and treatment of all kinds of donations, however more attention is given to digital information resources and materials. The research brought to bear that donation forms a vital part of the collection of technical university libraries in Ghana. Based on the findings, the study made some recommendations. Among them are enhancing technical university library staff awareness and training on CDP, strengthening policy implementation and reviewing mechanisms among librarians, developing clear and accessible donation guidelines for all stakeholders, promoting diversity in accepting donations in academic libraries, improving donation evaluation and management systems of all kinds and strengthening donor engagement and collaboration among all stakeholders in Ghana and beyond.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Technical university libraries are essential to sustaining scholarly and research endeavours in Ghana's changing higher education environment. These libraries must have strong collection development policy (CDP) in order to select current and pertinent materials that satisfy the wide range of user needs. Nonetheless, a number of African academic libraries, including those in Ghana, deal with issues such a lack of finance, rising information material costs, and a growing need for electronic resources (Yakubu, 2023).

A well-designed CDP can be a useful tool for overcoming these obstacles since it offers precise instructions for choosing, acquiring, and maintaining library holdings. A well written CDP can solve the collection development issues that African university libraries face and offer the standard collections required for the teaching and research activities of the university community (Yakubu, 2023). An efficient CDP guarantees the availability of high-quality

materials that complement institutional objectives, thus enhancing access to pertinent academic resources (Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey & Frempong, 2020).

Additionally, it has been determined that donations are essential to improving library collections, particularly in situations when financial limitations make it difficult to acquire new materials. For example, research on the library at Communication Technology University in Ghana found that aggressively requesting donations from former students, businesses, and foreign organisations might greatly enhance service delivery and add to current collections (Frempong-Kore, 2023).

In a similar vein, institutions such as the University of Cape Coast have strengthened its resource base by implementing organised programmes to promote donations (University of Cape Coast Library, n.d.). Although donations can improve a library's collection, insufficient policies governing their selection and integration may lead to the accumulation of out-of-date or irrelevant materials. Despite the potential advantages, the integration of donations into library collections must be carefully managed to ensure alignment with the institution's academic objectives and the current CDP (Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey & Frempong, 2019).

In the same vein, by contributing books and educational resources to university and community libraries, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) like Biblionef Ghana play a crucial part in promoting library growth (Biblionef Ghana, n.d.). When appropriately incorporated into CDPs, these gifts can aid in closing information access gaps, especially in technical universities that receive inadequate funding. Furthermore, institutions like Presbyterian University in Ghana have implemented programs like "Friends of the Library," which invite people and groups to support the growth of library holdings (Presbyterian University, Ghana, n.d.). In order to identify best practices and suggest tactics for maximising resource acquisition and management, this study intends to evaluate the efficacy of collection development policy and the role of donations in technical university libraries throughout Ghana and beyond.

1.1 Problem statement

Even while technical university libraries are becoming more and more important for assisting with research and academic endeavours, many of these libraries in Ghana struggle to grow and manage their holdings. Lack of finance is still a significant problem that prevents libraries from acquiring print and electronic materials, which are necessary to meet staff and student research and pedagogical demands (Yakubu, 2023). Additionally, inconsistent collecting procedures frequently result from unclear and incomplete collection development policy (CDP), leaving gaps in the resources available for academic use (Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey, & Frempong, 2020).

The growing reliance on donations to augment resources exacerbates this issue; yet, in the absence of well-defined policy, the incorporation of donated items may result in the build-up of obsolete or superfluous resources (Frempong-Kore, 2023).

Furthermore, although technological developments present chances to improve collection development through digital resources, infrastructure constraints and insufficient training for library employees further hinder the efficient integration and administration of digital resources (Dadzie & Van der Walt, 2020). These difficulties show how urgently Ghana's technical university libraries must optimise donations and implement more efficient collection

development plans in order to stay relevant and able to meet the country's expanding academic needs. For Ghanaian technical university libraries, integrating new technology like digital resources and online databases into collection development procedures continues to be a significant problem, in addition to financial and policy concerns. Even while the value of digital collections in advancing research and teaching is becoming more widely acknowledged, many libraries still lack the technical know-how and infrastructure needed to properly manage and use these resources (Boakye, 2020).

Asamoah-Hassan and Frempong (2021) point out that the transition to digital resources necessitates a large investment in staff training and technology infrastructure, two areas where many Ghanaian libraries lack enough funding. Furthermore, libraries frequently struggle to choose, obtain, and preserve pertinent electronic assets that meet institutional objectives in the absence of explicit recommendations within CDP to promote digital resource management (Opoku, 2023). Another obstacle is the speed at which technology is developing; libraries must constantly modify their approaches to stay up with new tools and formats while simultaneously addressing issues with the sustainability and preservation of digital content (Alemna, 2021).

1.2 Research objectives

- To assess the existing collection development policy in TULs of Ghana
- To examine the influence of the collection development policy on donations in TULs of Ghana
- To identify the forms of the donations acceptable in the TULs of Ghana
- To ascertain whether the donations are relevant to the collection development of the TULs in Ghana

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was the assessment and evaluation of collection development policy in academic libraries with reference to the treatment of donations of library resources in Ghana. The intention is to address the gaps and adding to existing body of knowledge on collection development in technical university library in Ghana and beyond.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Technical university libraries must build their collections in order to support research and academic endeavours; however, many Ghanaian libraries struggle in this regard. Good collection development policy (CDP) are crucial instruments for directing resource management, acquisition, and selection. A well-structured CDP offers precise instructions for acquiring resources that meet the institution's academic requirements, claims Yakubu (2023). Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey, and Frempong (2020) also emphasise the significance of having thorough CDP that support the university's long-term strategic objectives and guarantee that collections are current, pertinent, and suit the various needs of staff and students.

Limited funds are one of the main obstacles to collection development; this is a problem that many African institutions, especially those in Ghana, face. According to Boakye (2020), university libraries are under more strain as a result of the rising expenses of obtaining scholarly

materials, especially in view of the growing demand for digital resources. Many libraries have therefore resorted to other funding sources, like donations, in order to augment their holdings. Donations from alumni, businesses, and foreign organisations have grown to be a significant source of extra materials in Ghanaian libraries, according to (Frempong-Kore, 2023).

The difficulty, as noted by Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey, and Frempong (2019), is in efficiently handling these contributions to make sure they complement the school's educational goals and avoid the buildup of out-of-date or unnecessary materials. For Ghanaian technical university libraries, integrating digital resources has grown to be a major challenge in addition to budgetary limitations. Alemna (2021) contends that digital resources, such as databases, e-books, and online journals, are becoming more and more necessary to satisfy staff and student research and learning requirements. However, many institutions have been unable to completely integrate digital collections into their services due to a lack of adequate infrastructure, including dependable internet connectivity and contemporary technological equipment (Opoku, 2023).

Asamoah-Hassan and Frempong (2021) point out that in order for library employees to effectively handle these new forms, the shift to digital resources necessitates both infrastructure construction and continual training. Furthermore, collection management problems have been made worse by the difficulty of physical space in libraries, especially in older establishments with inadequate infrastructure. According to Owusu-Ansah and Bamfo (2021), cramped physical areas frequently result in ineffective management of digital and print resources. Inadequate shelving systems and outdated library management software make it even more difficult for library employees to keep holdings accessible and well-organised. Additionally,

Several Ghanaian technical universities have taken steps to enhance their collection development procedures in spite of these obstacles.

Mensah and Amankwah (2022) assert that strategic planning and collaborations with outside groups are essential to resolving the financial and infrastructure issues these libraries face. The implementation of organised donation programs, like those at Presbyterian University and the University of Cape Coast (University of Cape Coast Library, n.d.; Presbyterian University, Ghana, n.d.), has been successful in enhancing library holdings and increasing access to resources. The sustainability and applicability of library collections in Ghana's technical universities depend heavily on these efforts as well as the execution of strong CDPs.

3.0 METHODS AND DESIGN

A quantitative survey research approach was employed in this study. The study assessed collection development policy (CDP) and the role of donations in enhancing the stock of technical universities libraries in Ghana. The use of a quantitative survey method was deemed appropriate due to its ability to collect data from a large sample of participants. This method is essential for establishing the relationships between various constructs related to collection development (Creswell, 2018; Bryman, 2016).

By utilising surveys, the researchers were able to reach a broad population within the technical university library, ensuring that the data collected is representative and robust (Ponto, 2015). Consequently, the study was based on a quantitative research design to enable the collection of

objective and measurable data, which could be used to draw meaningful conclusions about the collection development policy in TULs of Ghana (Leedy & Ormrod, 2019).

3.1 Population

The target population for this study consisted of library staff and librarians from five technical university libraries in Ghana, thus, Koforidua Technical University library (KTUL), Accra Technical University library (ATUL), Ho Technical University library (HTUL), Cape Coast Technical University library (CCTUL), and Takoradi Technical University library (TTUL). The total population for the study was 135 participants. The researchers obtained this data from the technical university libraries.

3.2 Sampling and sample size

Sampling provides a valid alternative to a census when it would be impracticable to survey the entire population, or when budget constraints or time constraints prevent the researcher from surveying the entire target population for the study (Saunders et al, 2016). Convenience sampling technique was adopted for the study. The study distributed 135 copies to the identified population for the study. Out of the 135 copies, 121 copies were retrieved valid for analysis. This represented 90% of the valid sample size for analysis.

3.3 Data collection instrument

A questionnaire was used to gather data for this study. This was executed in five technical university libraries in Ghana, thus, Koforidua Technical University library (KTUL), Accra Technical University library (ATUL), Ho Technical University library (HTUL), Cape Coast Technical University library (CCTUL), and Takoradi Technical University library (TTUL). Questionnaire was the instrument adopted for the study. The researchers designed their own questionnaire based on the objectives of the study. The variables were measured using the Likert Scale five-point measurement scale. The questionnaire was divided into sections, section A-demographic while sections B, C & D covered the objectives of the study. Sample of the questionnaire is attached as appendix A.

3.4 Data collection procedure

Convenience sampling was adopted to distribute the questionnaire to the respondents. The researchers distributed the protocols to the library staff and librarians at TULs in Ghana. The respondents were given tags which indicated the specific number to avoid duplication and multiple selection of respondents. The collection of the data was executed in February -March, 2025.

3.5 Ethical consideration

The researchers sought permission from the research and quality assurance directorate of the universities in focus to collect the data from the participants. The principles of confidentiality of information were strictly adhered to. In this instance, no information provided during the period of data collection was divulged, and no participant was forced to provide information and data against their wish (Saunders et al, 2016).

3.6 Data analysis

SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) version 26.0 was used to analysed response obtained from the field. SPSS was selected as the best tool for analysing the data due to its capability of handling sizable datasets (Field, 2018). For accurate and trustworthy results, the program enables the effective cleaning, coding, and analysis of data (Pallant, 2020). Descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation were performed in this study.

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Demographic

Table 2: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	48	39.67%
Female	73	60.33%
Total	121	100

Source: Field data 2025.

Table 2 was on the gender distribution of the respondents. The results reviewed that among the respondents; 73 respondents were female constituting 60.33% of the entire research population whiles 48 respondents were males constituting 39.67%. This revealed that more females participated in the research than males.

Table 3: Age of Respondents

Age Range	Frequency	Percentage
20-30	40	33.06%
31-40	44	36.36%
41-50	20	16.53%
51-60	17	14.05%
Total	121	100

Source: Field data 2025.

Table 3 was on the age of respondents. From the table, 44 respondents were within the age range of 21-40 which constituted to 36.36% of the population. This was followed by 40

respondents falling within the age range of 20-30 constituting 33.06%. Again, 20 respondents fell with the age range of 41-50 which also constituted to 16.33% and at last place was 17 respondents falling within the age range of 51-60 years old constituting 14.05% of the entire population. This revealed that, among respondents, most of them every young falling within the age group of 21-30 were more involved in the research.

Table 4: Educational Distribution of Respondents

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Diploma	38	31.40%
Degree	44	36.36%
Masters	28	23.14%
PhD	11	9.09%
Total	121	100

Source: Field data 2025.

Table 4 was on educational distribution of respondents. Table reviewed that 44 respondents constituting 36.36% were degree holders whereas 38 respondents were diploma holders constituting a total of 31.40%. Followed by these were 28 masters certificate holders and 11 PhD certificate holders constituting 23.14% and 9.09% respectively. The results revealed that degree holders took part in the research as compared to others.

4.2 RQ1: Existing collection development policy in TULs of Ghana

Objective one was on the existing collection development policy in TULs of Ghana. The variables measured were, institution has a documented collection development policy, collection development policy is reviewed regularly, staff are familiar with the contents of the collection development policy, policy is effectively implemented, policy addresses user needs and institutional goals, and policy guides decisions on materials retention and weeding. A Likert Scale of 2.0 – 3.0 and 3.1 – 4.0 were used to establish variables of influential and more influential.

Table 5: Existing collection development policy in TULs of Ghana

Statement	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
The institution has a documented collection development policy	121	3.6777	1.25310	5 th
The collection development policy is reviewed regularly	121	3.7603	1.16207	4 th
Staff are familiar with the contents of the collection development policy	121	3.6612	1.32636	6 th
The policy is effectively implemented in resource acquisition	121	3.7851	1.26627	2 nd
The policy addresses user needs and institutional goals	121	3.9835	1.23142	1 st
The policy guides decisions on materials retention and weeding	121	3.7769	1.23483	3 rd
Total				

Source: Field data 2025, M = Mean, SD = Std. Deviation.

Table 5 was on the existing collection development policy in TULs of Ghana. Among the six variables that were measured, the policy addresses user needs and institutional goals with an M of (3.9835) and SD of (1.23142) came first and was followed by the policy is effectively implemented in resource acquisition with an M of (3.7851) and SD of (1.26627) at second position. Again, at third position was the policy guides decisions on materials retention and weeding with an M of (3.7769) and SD of (1.23483) while at fourth place was the collection development policy is reviewed regularly with an M of (3.7603) and SD of (1.16207). The institution has a documented collection development policy came at fifth place with an M of (3.6777) and SD of (1.25310) and at last place was staff are familiar with the contents of the collection development policy with an M of (3.6612) and SD of (1.32636). The results established that collection development policy addresses user needs and institutional goals and is effectively implemented in resource acquisition were established to be more influential.

4.3 RQ2: Influence of the collection development policy on donations in TULs of Ghana

Objective two was on the influence of the collection development policy on donations in TULs of Ghana. Variables measured were, policy outlines criteria for accepting donations, donations are evaluated in line with the collection development policy, donors are informed about the collection development guidelines, policy has helped reduce irrelevant donations, policy encourages quality over quantity in donated materials, and collection policy has improved the donation review process. A Likert Scale of 2.0 – 3.0 and 3.1 – 4.0 were used to establish variables of influential and more influential.

Table 6: Influence of the collection development policy on donations in TULs of Ghana

Statement	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
The policy outlines criteria for accepting donations	121	4.0000	1.14746	1 st
Donations are evaluated in line with the collection development policy	121	3.5950	1.37585	6 th
Donors are informed about the collection development guidelines	121	3.6860	1.29121	4 th
The policy has helped reduce irrelevant donations	121	3.9339	1.15279	3 rd
The policy encourages quality over quantity in donated materials	121	3.9421	1.17826	2 nd
The collection policy has improved the donation review process	121	3.6777	1.25310	5 th
Total				

Source: Field data 2025, M = Mean, SD = Std. Deviation.

Table 6 was on the influence of the collection development policy on donations in TULs of Ghana. Among the six variables that were measured, the policy outlines criteria for accepting donations with an M of (4.0000) and SD of (1.14746) came first and was followed by the policy encourages quality over quantity in donated materials with an M of (3.9421) and SD of (1.17826) at second place. The policy has helped reduce irrelevant donations with an M of (3.9339) and SD of (1.15279) was at third place and was also followed by donors are informed about the collection development guidelines with an M of (3.6860) and SD of (1.29121) at fourth place. The collection policy has improved the donation review process came fifth with

an M of (3.6777) and SD of (1.25310) and at the sixth place was donations are evaluated in line with the collection development policy with an M of (3.5950) and SD of (1.37585). The results revealed that among the variables measured, policy outlines criteria for accepting donations, followed by the policy encourages quality over quantity in donated materials were established to be more influential.

4.4 RQ3: Forms of donations acceptable in the TULs of Ghana

Objective three was on the forms of donations acceptable in the TULs of Ghana. The variables measured were, books are the most common form of donation received, library accepts digital resources, equipment is an acceptable form of donation, donations of periodicals and journals are encouraged, donations in local languages are accepted and valued, and donated materials must meet specific academic and relevance criteria. A Likert Scale of 2.0 – 3.0 and 3.1 – 4.0 were used to establish the variables that are influential and more influential.

Table 7: The forms of donations acceptable in the TULs of Ghana

Statement	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
Books are the most common form of donation received	121	3.9669	1.18978	1 st
The library accepts digital resources (e.g., e-books, databases) as donations	121	3.6694	1.26747	5 th
Equipment (e.g., computers, scanners) is an acceptable form of donation	121	3.9339	1.21611	2 nd
Donations of periodicals and journals are encouraged	121	3.7025	1.32064	4 th
Donations in local languages are accepted and valued	121	3.6116	1.25414	6 th
Donated materials must meet specific academic and relevance criteria	121	3.8017	1.20153	3 th
Total				

Source: Field data 2025, M = Mean, SD = Std. Deviation.

Table 7 was on the forms of donations acceptable in the TULs of Ghana. Among the six variables that were measured, at first place was books are the most common form of donation received with an M of (3.9669) and SD of (1.18978) and second place was equipment (e.g., computers, scanners) is an acceptable form of donation with an M of (3.9339) and SD of (1.21611). This was followed by donated materials must meet specific academic and relevance criteria with an M of (3.8017) and SD of (1.20153) at third place. At fourth place was donations of periodicals and journals are encouraged with an M of (3.7025) and SD of (1.32064) with fifth place being the library accepts digital resources (e.g., e-books, databases) as donations with an M of (3.6694) and SD of (1.26747). Donations in local languages are accepted and valued came last with an M of (3.6116) and SD of (1.25414). The results confirmed that among the variables measured, books are the most common form of donation received and equipment (e.g., computers, scanners) is an acceptable form of donations were more influential.

4.5 RQ4: Donations are relevant to the collection development of the TULs in Ghana

Objective four was about the donations being relevant to the collection development of the TULs in Ghana. The variables measured were, donations received align with the academic

programmes, materials are regularly used by library patrons, donations enhance the overall quality of the library collection, staff evaluate the academic relevance of donations before acceptance, irrelevant donations are rejected or reallocated properly, and donations help fill gaps identified in the collection development plan. A Likert Scale of 2.0 – 3.0 and 3.1 – 4.0 were used to confirmed the variables that were influential and more influential.

Table 8: Relevant of donations to the collection development of the TULs in Ghana

Statement	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
Most donations received align with the academic programmes offered	121	3.8512	1.22924	3 rd
Donated materials are regularly used by library patrons	121	3.6860	1.24521	4 th
Donations enhance the overall quality of the library collection	121	3.8512	1.25606	2 nd
Staff evaluate the academic relevance of donations before acceptance	121	3.9587	1.10602	1 st
Irrelevant donations are rejected or reallocated properly	121	3.6281	1.34246	6 th
Donations help fill gaps identified in the collection development plan	121	3.6777	1.19174	5 th
Total				

Source: Field data 2025, M = Mean, SD = Std. Deviation.

Table 8 was on the donations are relevant to the collection development of the TULs in Ghana. Among the six variables that were measured, at first place was staff evaluate the academic relevance of donations before acceptance with an M of (3.9587) and SD of (1.10602) and in second place was donations enhance the overall quality of the library collection with an M of (3.8512) and SD of (1.25606). At third place was most donations received align with the academic programmes offered with an M of (3.8512) and SD of (1.22924) whiles at fourth position was donated materials are regularly used by library patrons with an M of (3.6860) and SD of (1.24521). Aft fifth position was donations help fill gaps identified in the collection development plan with an M of (3.6777) and SD of (1.19174) with irrelevant donations are rejected or reallocated properly being last with an M of (3.6281) and SD of (1.34246). The results depicted that among the variables measured, staff evaluate the academic relevance of donations before acceptance and donations enhance the overall quality of the library collection were more influential.

5.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Information

5.1 Gender Distribution

According to the survey, 48 respondents, or 39.67% of the total, were men, and 73 respondents, or 60.33% of the population, were women. The fact that women made up the majority of participants suggests that women participated in the study at a higher rate than men.

5.2 Age Distribution

According to the results, 44 respondents (36.36%) were between the ages of 21 and 40, closely followed by 40 respondents (33.06%) who were between the ages of 20 and 30. Furthermore, 17 respondents (14.05%) were between the ages of 51 and 60, while 20 respondents (16.33%) were between the ages of 41 and 50. These results show that most participants were quite young, with the highest percentage of the study population falling into the 21–40 age range.

5.3 Educational Background

Degree holders were the most represented group, accounting for 44 respondents (36.36%), according to an analysis of respondents' educational backgrounds. 38 respondents (31.40%) with a diploma, 28 respondents (23.14%) with a master's degree, and 11 respondents (9.09%) with a PhD came next. According to these findings, those with degrees made up the majority, followed by those with diplomas and master's degrees, while those with PhDs were the least represented.

5.4 RQ 1: Existing collection development policy in TULs of Ghana

The results show that collection development policies in Ghanaian TULs are generally successful and meet the needs of both users and institutions. The policy's ability to meet institutional objectives and user needs was ranked as the most important feature with ($M = 3.98$, $SD = 1.23$), followed by its efficient application in resource acquisition ($M = 3.79$, $SD = 1.27$). Additionally, policies govern weeding and material retention ($M = 3.78$) and are periodically reviewed ($M = 3.76$), demonstrating a moderate level of consistency in evaluation and use were also part. Nonetheless, lower mean ratings for staff familiarity ($M = 3.66$) and policy documentation ($M = 3.68$) point to the need for improved staff awareness and documentation.

Although the policy is generally effective and in line with the main goals, they require regular revisions and better communication to be more effective. This is in support of what was posited by Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey and Frempong (2020) who emphasized that an efficient CDP guarantees the availability of high-quality materials that complement institutional objectives, thus enhancing access to pertinent academic resources. In the same vein the result corroborates the submission of Yakubu, (2023) argued that a well written CDP can solve the collection development issues that African university libraries face. This equally offer the standard collections required for the teaching and research activities of the university community as articulated by (Dadzie & Van der Walt, 2020).

5.5 RQ 2: Influence of the collection development policy on donations in TULs of Ghana

The findings show that collection development policy has a big impact on how TULs in Ghana handle donations. The policy's requirements for accepting donations were the most highly rated factor ($M = 4.00$, $SD = 1.15$), followed by the emphasis on quality rather than quantity in donated products ($M = 3.94$, $SD = 1.18$). These findings imply that the policy is essential to guaranteeing the value and relevance of donations. The policy's practical benefit is further demonstrated by its function in minimising unnecessary gifts ($M = 3.93$) and educating donors of guidelines ($M = 3.69$).

The need for more uniform implementation and staff involvement in the contribution review process is indicated by lower ratings for evaluation of donations in accordance with policy ($M = 3.60$) and enhancement of the donation review process ($M = 3.68$). Though more work is required to improve its implementation and raise awareness among staff and donors, the collection development policy generally has a good impact on the quality and relevance of donations. This result reflects the situation at Presbyterian University and University of Cape Coast on the implementation of organised donation programmes in enhancing library holdings and increasing access to resources. The outcome of the study is not far from the position of authors such as Dadzie & Van der Walt (2020) and Asamoah-Hassan and Frempong (2021) who share a common view that donations of all kinds augment the collection of a library.

5.6 RQ 3: Forms of donations acceptable in TULs of Ghana

According to Table 4.6, books are the most popular and approved contribution type in Ghanaian TULs ($M = 3.97$, $SD = 1.19$), closely followed by technology like computers and scanners ($M = 3.93$, $SD = 1.22$). These demonstrate a strong inclination towards conventional and technology resources. Periodicals and journals ($M = 3.70$), digital resources such as databases and e-books ($M = 3.67$), and materials that satisfy academic and relevance standards ($M = 3.80$) are additional suitable formats. Despite being accepted, donations made in local languages were rated the lowest ($M = 3.61$), indicating that there is less demand or emphasis in this area. Overall, even though TULs welcome many kinds of donations, traditional equipment and resources are given priority, however digital materials are becoming more and more recognised. This is in support of a study by Boakye, (2020) who stated that even while the value of digital collections in advancing research and teaching is becoming more widely acknowledged, many libraries still lack the technical know-how and infrastructure needed to properly manage and use these resources (Boakye, 2020). This outcome equally celebrates the stand of Alemna (2021) who contends that digital resources, such as databases, e-books, and online journals, are becoming more and more necessary to satisfy staff and student research and learning requirements.

5.7 RQ 4: Donations are relevant to the collection development of TULs in Ghana

According to the findings, donations have a significant impact on TULs' ability to collect and develop their stock in Ghana. The staff's evaluation of donations' academic significance prior to acceptance was the most significant factor ($M = 3.96$, $SD = 1.11$), followed by gifts that improve the collection's overall quality ($M = 3.85$, $SD = 1.26$) and alignment with academic programs ($M = 3.85$, $SD = 1.23$). Other responses, albeit with somewhat lower means, demonstrate that patrons consistently use given materials ($M = 3.69$) and that donations address collection gaps ($M = 3.68$). The lowest rating ($M = 3.63$) went to rejecting or reallocating gifts that were deemed irrelevant, indicating that handling inappropriate donations may use some work. Overall, the findings show that donations significantly support institutional and academic objectives, though protocols for dealing with inappropriate materials would need to be strengthened. Furthermore, libraries frequently struggle to choose, obtain, and preserve pertinent electronic assets that meet institutional objectives in the absence of explicit recommendations within CDPs to promote digital resource management as supported by (Opoku, 2023). This outcome is much different from the conclusion (Yakubu, 2023) that some donations may not be relevant and academic libraries sometimes have to send to other libraries.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINDINGS

The study's conclusions have numerous important ramifications for improving the administration of collection development and donation procedures at Ghana's Technical University Libraries (TULs):

6.1 Policy Effectiveness and Awareness

The present policy for collection creation generally aligns with the institution's goals and user needs. However, the relatively low mean scores on staff familiarity with these regulations indicate that continued policy sensitization, more training, and better communication are required. Increasing employee understanding could make it easier to guarantee that resources are obtained and that procedures are implemented consistently as posited by Dadzie & Van der Walt, (2020) that although technological developments present chances to improve collection development through digital resources, infrastructure constraints and insufficient training for library employees further hinder the efficient integration and administration of digital resources (Dadzie & Van der Walt, 2020).

6.2 Guided and Quality Donations

The ability of the collection development policy to establish precise acceptance criteria, giving quality precedence over number, demonstrates its impact on donations. This has increased the efficacy of the evaluation process and reduced unnecessary donations. The relevance and calibre of contributions could be further improved by bolstering donor engagement through more precise instructions and communication as noted by Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey, and Frempong (2019), that it efficiently handling these contributions to make sure they complement the school's educational goals and avoid the buildup of out-of-date or unnecessary materials (Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey & Frempong (2019).

6.3 Diversified and Relevant Donation Types

The acceptance of technology, digital resources, and academic materials shows TULs' receptivity to a variety of formats, even though books are still the most popular donation kind. To satisfy changing academic expectations, however, there is a need for greater inclusion and digitization initiatives, as seen by lower ratings on donations in local languages and digital resources. This is in agreement with Boakye, (2020) who said even while the value of digital collections in advancing research and teaching is becoming more widely acknowledged, many libraries still lack the technical know-how and infrastructure needed to properly manage and use these resources (Boakye, 2020).

6.4 Contribution to Academic Value

Donations are often found to enhance the overall quality of collections and are in line with institutional academic programs. Resource purpose is ensured by the practice of assessing donations for academic significance. However, to preserve the integrity of the collection and lessen clutter, procedures for rejecting or appropriately reallocating unnecessary materials must be enhanced as supported by (Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey & Frempong, 2019).

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Enhance Staff Awareness and Training on Policies

To guarantee that all library staff or professional librarians are completely knowledgeable about the applications and contents of the collection development policy, university libraries should regularly host workshops and sensitization campaigns. This will broaden the understanding of making decision when it comes to managing donations and choosing resources.

7.2 Strengthen Policy Implementation and Review Mechanisms

There is the need for academic libraries to establish monitoring frameworks and carrying out frequent assessments taking into account evolving customer demands, scholarly trends, and technical developments which will help institutions guarantee the successful execution of their collection development programme.

7.3 Develop Clear and Accessible Donation Guidelines

Clear, donor-friendly guidelines defining permissible donation formats, academic relevance requirements, and quality standards should be developed and disseminated by TULs. To guarantee openness and congruence with institutional objectives, these rules have to be posted on academic library websites and during donor interactions.

7.4 Promote Diversity in Acceptable Donations

Academic libraries should aggressively promote other important formats, such as digital resources, technology, and materials in local languages, even though books make up the majority of donations. This strategy will meet the various learning needs of users, promote inclusivity, and enhance the collection.

7.5 Improve Donation Evaluation and Management Systems

Generally academic libraries in an attempt to accept any donation, should establish systematic review procedures to determine its academic and practical significance. To avoid storage issues and collection dilution, academic libraries should also put into practice efficient procedures for redistributing or rejecting unnecessary donations.

7.6 Strengthen Donor Engagement and Collaboration

Academic libraries should acknowledge significant gifts and communicate their collection needs to donors in order to strengthen their connection with them. Events for recognition, tailored feedback, and updates on the use of donations can all help achieve this.

8.0 CONCLUSION

This study evaluated Ghanaian Technical University Libraries' (TULs) collection development practices and their effect on donations. Although staff understanding and frequent policy

changes might be enhanced, the results indicate that policies are generally in line with institutional aims and user needs. The most popular donation type is books, however other resources like equipment and digital materials are becoming more and more welcomed. The collection policy has a huge impact on the quality of donations. The study emphasises how crucial it is to improve donor engagement and academic relevance by streamlining donation review procedures. Overall, even though there has been progress, TULs' academic goals and collections will be better supported by strengthening training, making donations standards clear, and upgrading evaluation mechanisms.

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Appendix A

Dear Respondents,

Kindly spare us part of your time and answer this questionnaire. The purpose of this study is to assess Collection Development Policies in Academic Libraries: The Dilemma of Donations of Library Resources in Ghana. Please be assured that your responses to the questions will be kept confidential and will be used solely for the purpose of this research. You have the option to discontinue as a participant as and when you deem necessary.

(Respondents should tick [✓] the appropriate box)

Section A: Demographic information

1. Gender: Male Female
2. Age Range: 18-25 26-35 36-45 46 – 54 56 and above
3. Library Affiliation: Public University Private University

4. Position: Head Librarian Deputy Librarian Senior Assistant Librarians
 Assistant Librarian Junior Assistant Librarian
5. Years of Experience in Library Services: Less than 1 year 1-5 years 6-10 years More than 10 years

Section B: Existing collection development policy in TULs of Ghana

1 – Strongly Disagree | 2 – Disagree | 3 – Neutral | 4 – Agree | 5 – Strongly Agree

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
The institution has a documented collection development policy					
The collection development policy is reviewed regularly					
Staff are familiar with the contents of the collection development policy					
The policy is effectively implemented in resource acquisition					
The policy addresses user needs and institutional goals					
The policy guides decisions on materials retention and weeding					

Section C: Influence of the collection development policy on donations in TULs of Ghana

1 – Strongly Disagree | 2 – Disagree | 3 – Neutral | 4 – Agree | 5 – Strongly Agree

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
The policy outlines criteria for accepting donations					
Donations are evaluated in line with the collection development policy					
Donors are informed about the collection development guidelines					
The policy has helped reduce irrelevant donations					
The policy encourages quality over quantity in donated materials					
The collection policy has improved the donation review process					

Section D: Forms of donations acceptable in the TULs of Ghana

1 – Strongly Disagree | 2 – Disagree | 3 – Neutral | 4 – Agree | 5 – Strongly Agree

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Books are the most common form of donation received					
The library accepts digital resources (e.g., e-books, databases) as donations					

Equipment (e.g., computers, scanners) is an acceptable form of donation					
Donations of periodicals and journals are encouraged					
Donations in local languages are accepted and valued					
Donated materials must meet specific academic and relevance criteria					

Section E: Whether the donations are relevant to the collection development of the TULs in Ghana

1 – Strongly Disagree | 2 – Disagree | 3 – Neutral | 4 – Agree | 5 – Strongly Agree

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Most donations received align with the academic programmes offered					
Donated materials are regularly used by library patrons					
Donations enhance the overall quality of the library collection					
Staff evaluate the academic relevance of donations before acceptance					
Irrelevant donations are rejected or reallocated properly					
Donations help fill gaps identified in the collection development plan					