Balance, Representation, and Accessibility Statement for Collection Development Policies

At Tulane University Libraries, we are dedicated to fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment that celebrates the diversity of our local and global communities. We recognize that diversity encompasses a wide range of characteristics, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, socioeconomic background, ability, and cultural heritage. To ensure that our library collections reflect this commitment and support the education and research needs of our diverse communities, we have developed the following balance, representation, and accessibility statement as part of our collection development policies.

Selection Considerations: When selecting materials for our library collections, we consider the following factors:

a. Community Engagement: We encourage input from our community members, including students, faculty, and staff, to help shape our collections. We value their recommendations, feedback, and suggestions for materials that align with our balance, representation, and accessibility goals.

b. Balance and Representation: We seek to create a balanced collection that represents a variety of disciplines, genres, formats, and cultural perspectives. We aim to include materials that represent both dominant and marginalized voices, providing a holistic view of different experiences and worldviews. This includes works by authors and creators from diverse backgrounds, addressing issues of social justice, and offering critical analysis of power structures and inequalities.

c. Accessibility: We seek to make our resources accessible to all members of the Tulane community, including those with disabilities. The Libraries provide a variety of adaptive technologies to help those with visual or hearing impairments, support the university's Goldman Center for Student Accessibility's efforts to provide students with approved special accommodations. Audiovisual materials with captioning are prioritized and the Libraries advocate with vendors to normalize availability of descriptive captioning. Collaboration with the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, which offers relevant services, is encouraged.

d. Evolving Landscape: We recognize that balance, representation, and accessibility are evolving concepts, and we regularly review and update our collection development policies to adapt to changing needs and advancements in scholarship and society.

Challenges and Reconsideration of Materials: We acknowledge that diverse perspectives may generate different opinions and reactions. We encourage open dialogue, respectful discussions,

and considerate reviews to address concerns and ensure that our collections remain balanced, representative, and accessible.

By integrating balance, representation, and accessibility into our collection development policies, Tulane University Libraries is dedicated to promoting understanding, enriching research, and fostering an inclusive environment where all members of our community can thrive. We are committed to continually assessing and improving our practices to reflect the evolving needs and aspirations of our diverse community.