

Persistence Policy FAQ

Revised 04/12/06

1. Why the Persistence Policy?

One long-standing policy of the RLF program, the non-duplication policy, has in some instances prevented campus libraries from managing their collections in the most cost-effective manner. The purpose of the Persistence Policy is to correct this problem.

This policy creates a new class of persistent deposits that will, "...give all UC campus libraries the assurance that they can withdraw duplicates of deposited items from their campus collections and rely with confidence on access to the copies deposited in the RLFs..." The full policy can read at:

http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/planning/RLF_Persistence_Policy_rev_final.pdf

2. Which materials currently on deposit will be made persistent?

All materials except special collections will be assumed to be persistent as of the date this policy is implemented. The campuses will have nine months from that date to identify those collections or titles they wish to be non-persistent, and to provide the RLFs with the necessary information to identify the materials. The RLFs will annotate the storage records to indicate non-persistent status.

[Note: For the purpose of this policy, special collections are those materials identified as such by the owning library at the time they are processed into an RLF and housed in separate high security areas.]

3. May a library declare all of its existing RLF deposits to be non-persistent?

Libraries are encouraged to make persistent as many of their RLF holdings as possible. However, it's understood that there are good reasons to designate certain types of materials or certain titles non-persistent - because of format, fragility, rarity, etc. Nevertheless, libraries should be aware that their non-persistent items will be withdrawn from the RLF and returned to them if other libraries decide to deposit persistent copies of those titles.

4. Who will manage the record keeping needed to indicate that a title is non-persistent?

The staffs at the RLFs will do all record keeping in their systems to indicate non-persistent status.

5. What does this mean for selectors/bibliographers?

In general, collection development staff will be responsible for identifying non-persistent collections/titles from materials already at the RLFs during the nine-month window at policy inception (as explained in #2 above). Following this implementation, all future deposits will be persistent, except for special collections.

6. Will the depositing library retain ownership of materials made persistent?

The original depositing library will continue to own material it has deposited. Ownership is not shared with other UC libraries, nor are persistent collections part of the UC Shared Print program.

7. What does the policy mean to campus libraries?

Persistence will mean that all UC libraries have equal rights of access to any persistent item, but only those libraries that once owned a copy of the persistent item may count it as part of their volume holdings. The original depositing library is the only library that can permanently recall an item back to campus. In doing so, the library must permanently identify the item as being persistent and must continue to make it available to the other UC libraries under the same conditions as when it was housed at the RLF.

8. Who will put procedures in place to manage the Persistence Policy?

SOPAG has created the RLF Persistence Task Force to develop an implementation plan for the policy.

9. Are there limitations on the use of persistent materials?

Persistent items will be circulated to any UC library. Most items will not have restrictions on their subsequent use. Some items (as designated by the owning library) will be restricted to use within a UC library building. Consistent with existing UC ILL policy, persistent materials may be used for course reserves at any UC library according the established guidelines and any use restrictions (e.g., building use only). Persistent items that circulate without restrictions can also be loaned via ILL to non-UC libraries, either directly from the RLF or from a campus ILL center. Existing standard ILL loan periods will apply.