LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTIONS POLICY STATEMENTS

Standards

Contents

I. Scope

Standards are established requirements issued by international, national, and professional bodies designating the uniform attributes of objects and processes (for example, the properties and performance of materials). Standard setting typically includes the definition of terms, classification of components, delineation of procedures, or the measurement of quality in describing materials or services. As a rule, the Library of Congress will not add to its classified collections series of individual standards. However, collected sets of domestic standards or foreign standards from leading industrial nations may be acquired for the classified collections selectively at the option of recommending officers. (An example of the former is the annual set of standards of the American Society for Testing Materials; an example of the latter is the Handbook series of the International Organization for Standardization). The collection also includes selective historical foreign national standards from China and the former Soviet Union.

II. Research Strengths

A. General

The standards collection is one of the largest in the country, with approximately 400 individual organizations or collective associations represented. The Library's collections in standards and standard sets, foreign and domestic, are of interest to the scientific, industrial, business, and government communities and are particularly strong in publications issued by the major standards disseminating organizations. The information provided by these publications support the work of Congress, and furthers the knowledge and safety of the community.

B. Areas of Distinction

The Library has strong holdings in domestic standards issued by scientific societies, national associations, and government agencies. This collection includes but is not limited to:

   1. American national standards issued by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and its affiliated standards producing organizations like the Institute of Electrical and

Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and Underwriters Laboratory (UL).

   2. United States federal federal and military standards (the latter include an historical set on microfilm extending parts of the standards collection back to approximately the 1950s).

III. Collecting Policy

Standards are received in both print and non-print, numbering approximately 10,000 items in the collection (in some cases, out-of-date standards are removed from the collection as they are replaced by revised versions). Many of the publications are available or accessible in electronic format, or are supplemented by electronic content. International standards, especially those issued by individual countries, are acquired selectively. Published draft standards are not actively solicited but will be reviewed for inclusion into the collections if forwarded by issuing organizations; they will be discarded when approved standards are received. Unpublished draft standards are not collected.

The Library may collect in related areas which are similar, or supplementary to, standards, but are not standards themselves. These may include:

   1. The technical problems of metrology and standardization

   2. Annual reports and other administrative issuances of international, national,   and professional organizations concerned with promulgated standards

.   3. Bibliographies and other reference tools on standards

   4. Individual standards falling within the Library's scope e.g., glossaries or   library-related standards such as those from ANSI Z39.

IV. Acquisition Sources

Standards are acquired for the collections from:

   1. Copyright deposit (print, microform, and electronic)

   2. Purchase from an Information Handling Services, Inc. (IHS) deposit account

   3. Online open access sources (not common for standards)

   4. Subscription databases (e.g., MAD CAD)

   5. Gifts from standards issuing organizations

   6. Cataloging in Publication program

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