Film & Video – information for Students

The UT Libraries collection has films on VHS and DVD as well as in streaming. We currently hold over 18,700 DVDs which are available for checkout via the library catalog. Some of our DVDs are for library use only and must be used in the Fine Arts Library building. At this time, most DVDs are stored in a remote storage location and can be called and checked out at any library on campus. When we have streamed version of a title, it would be linked from the catalog.

- What if I don’t see on the catalog a title I’m looking for?
Ask for help at the front desk, use the “Ask a Librarian” service, or email the Film & Video Librarian.

- Will UT Libraries purchase a film I need for my research or class?
It depends. Please use the Purchase Request form and your request will be distributed to the appropriate library staff person. You could also email your subject liaison or contact the Film & Video Librarian directly. When possible, we prefer to purchase a streamed version, but in many cases this is not available (mainly because of copyright issues, or high cost), in which case we try to purchase a DVD copy. Given our limited funds, we emphasize study and research needs when making purchase decisions.

- What streaming services the UT Libraries currently use?
UT Libraries is subscribed to a few streaming services and databases, all available on the Databases A-Z list. These mainly include documentaries. In order to satisfy the demand for feature films, the Libraries work with several providers, among them Kanopy. We do not have immediate access to all Kanopy titles, but we rather put in place a mediated workflow; if you don’t see a specific title on the library catalog, you might want to go to the Libraries’ Kanopy interface and look it up there. If Kanopy has it, you could request it using the process outlined above, or directly from the Kanopy interface. The UT Libraries work with various additional streaming services such as Docuseek2 (documentaries), and Swank (feature films).* You could search their catalogs and use the above described channels in order to request titles we do not currently hold for purchasing consideration. We have full subscription to the Film Platform catalog, which includes over 360 documentaries in various subject areas.

*While searching Swank, make sure you search within the “Digital Campus” catalog.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out for any help, concern, or suggestion!

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