Film & Video - information for Faculty

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.

- Will UT Libraries purchase a film I need for my research or class?

Yes! 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 teaching and research needs when making purchase decisions.

- Could I ask to put a certain film on Reserves or book a screening on a specific day?

Yes! For media booking, use this form; to place materials on Reserves, use this form. These forms are also linkable from the Teaching and Learning Support page.

- Could I ask UT Libraries to reformat a DVD and make it streamable for my students?

This is possible but only in cases where we have the streaming copyrights in place. In most cases, it is difficult to acquire such rights, either because of distribution restrictions, or a very high cost.

- What streaming services does 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, supplied to us through various providers such as Kanopy, DocuSeek2, New Day Films, Film Platform, and TuggEdu. In order to satisfy the demand for feature films, the Libraries work with Swank. All titles are available through the catalog. For those titles which are not readily available through the catalog, you could search those providers’ catalogs and use the above described channels in order to request titles we do not currently hold for purchasing consideration. Kanopy, Swank, and Film Platform have their own UT library portal.* For Kanopy and Swank titles, we have put in place a mediated workflow, by which you could request a title to be purchased (on Swank you would need to register as an Instructor first). Your request would be forwarded to the appropriate subject liaison in the library. We have full access to the Film Platform catalog, with 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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Last update August 23, 2019