IDEALS follows a set of policies that guides what content is in IDEALS, how the content is described and preserved, copyright, and how content may be accessed and used. In selected cases, there are separate policies for a specific set of content (for example, theses and dissertations). These policies are revisited on an annual basis, or as needed.

- Collection Policy
- Copyright and Intellectual Property Policy
- Deposit Agreement - Non-Exclusive Distribution and Preservation License
- Digital Preservation Policy
- Digital Preservation Support Policy
- Access and Use Policy
- Access Restriction Policy
- Withdrawal Policy
- Metadata Policy
- Controlled Vocabularies and Standards in Use
- Service Level Definition
- Community Policy
- Individual Depositor Policy
- Policies Governing Dissertations and Theses