

Executive Summary
Biological Sciences Collection Assessment
 Submitted by Paula Barnett-Ellis
 November 7, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Biological Sciences collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the Bachelor and Masters programs.

HOLDINGS

The Biological Sciences collection contains **22,129** titles in the QH-QR call number range, an increase of **1,024** titles since the last collection assessment in 2018. The collection also includes **6,973** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Biological Sciences from FY 2017/18 to FY 2021/22 were **\$70,803.08** with **777** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **3.5%** of the current Biological Sciences collection.

These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth. These numbers do not represent additional titles available through e-book databases.

Classification	Subject Area	Library Holdings
QH1-705.5	Biology	6,692
QK1-989	Botany	3,358
QL1-991	Zoology	7,614
QM1-695	Anatomy	389
QP1-981	Physiology	3,137
QR1-502	Microbiology	939
Total		22,129

Monograph Expenditures for Biological Sciences

Fiscal Year	Amount
2017/18	\$20,289.34
2018/19	\$19,704.20
2019/20	\$12,796.09
2020/21	\$8,706.43
2021/22	\$9,307.02
Total	\$70,803.08

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 670 journals in biology and related subjects available electronically through database subscriptions, which can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <http://bit.ly/2zO6DjD>. The Serials expenditures in Biological Sciences for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$14,160.62** from FY 2017/18 to FY 2021/2022 (see table below.)

Serial Expenditures for Biological Sciences

Fiscal Year	Total
2017/18	\$19,406.33
2018/19	\$19,672.60
2019/20	\$19,346.98
2020/21	\$17,572.64
2021/22	\$17,031.90
Total	\$93,030.45

Expenditures for serials have migrated away from the individual subscription model to the aggregator database model. Dollar amounts spent on aggregator databases cannot be subdivided into subject categories. In FY 2021 – 22, spending on aggregator databases totaled \$281,810.00, which came from the general fund.

DEFINED ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Defined access points users to resources through menu options on the Library's homepage by linking the user to quality, highly relevant, electronic resources. Because the Library provides access to electronic journals, documents, e-books, and video databases along with integrated quality websites that encompass the area of Biological Sciences, the Library's electronic collection in this subject is adequate to support the curriculum.

A complete list of all the Library's databases can be found in the A to Z Database Listing at <http://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php>. The A to Z List also subdivides databases by subject, providing a list of all Biology related databases at <http://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26245>. Additionally, the Biology guide (<http://libguides.jsu.edu/biology>), which is maintained by the subject specialist, provides a list of and access to the resources specifically for this subject. Through partnerships, such as the one with the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL), the Library can obtain more content. Resources provided to the Library by the AVL are designated with the AVL icon.

Complete details are available in the full assessment, which is available upon request or at <http://bit.ly/2fyeMMU>.

Biological Sciences Collection Assessment

Submitted by Paula Barnett-Ellis

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INTRODUCTION

The Biological Sciences collection is central to the University curriculum, since it supports study for degree programs in the Department of Biology at the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts levels in the following concentrations: General, Cellular & Molecular Biology, Ecology/Environmental Biology, General Biology, Marine Biology, Naturalist Biology, Organismal Biology, and Pre-Health Professions Biology. Support is sufficient as well for the Master of Science level. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The Biological Sciences collection contains **22,129** titles in the QH-QR call number ranges, an increase of **1,024** titles since the last collection assessment in 2018. The collection also includes **6,973** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Biological Sciences from FY 2017/18 to FY 2021/22 were **\$70,803.08** with **777** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **3.5%** of the current Biological Sciences collection.

These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth. These numbers do not represent additional titles available through e-book databases.

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SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT

Biological Sciences subject areas also extend beyond the boundaries of the disciplines. Holdings in the related subject collections of Agriculture, Chemistry, Education, Geography and Anthropology, Geology, Medicine, and Psychology provide additional support to the Biology Collection.

TITLES ADDED/TITLES PUBLISHED

Below is a comparison of the number of book titles added to the Houston Cole Library collection versus those made available for sale each fiscal year through GOBI.

Monographs Added Versus Published Comparison

Fiscal Year	Added to Collections QH-QR	GOBI New Titles Report¹	Percentage
2021/22*	76	**	
2020/21	129	1,839	7%
2019/20	159	1,446	11%
2018/19	213	1,786	12%
2017/18	200	1,960	10%
Total	777	7,031	11%

*Figures are not complete for current fiscal year.

**FY 21/22 not available

CHECKLIST SUMMARIES

Bibliographies including *Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles (OATs)* and *Resources for College Libraries* were used to measure the quality of the Library's collection. In checking the bibliographies against the Library's catalog, the following percentages were revealed in the subject area of Biological Sciences.

Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles 2018-2022: Biology, Botany, Zoology			
Year	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
2021	7	15	47%
2020	11	16	69%
2019	13	30	43%
2018	20	22	91%
Total	51	83	61%

¹ GOBI New Titles Report

(https://www.gobi3.com/StaticContent/GOBIContent/YBP/Private/Help/Pages/newtitlereport_us.html)

<i>Resources for College Libraries 2018-2022</i>			
Subject	Collected	Listed	Percentage Held
Biology	48	98	49%

WITHDRAWALS

As currency of information is very important in the Biological Sciences collection, older books are withdrawn on a regular basis or as newer editions supersede them, and new books are ordered to fill gaps as curriculum requirements change. The table below shows withdrawals from the QH-QR classifications.

Year	QH-QR Titles Withdrawn
2017/18	23
2018/19	51
2019/20	29
2020/21	25
2021/22	78
Total	206

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 670 journals available electronically through database subscriptions, which can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <http://bit.ly/2zO6DjD>. The Serials expenditures in Biological Sciences for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$18,606.09** from FY 2017/18 to FY 2021/22 (see table below.)

Serial Expenditures for Biological Sciences

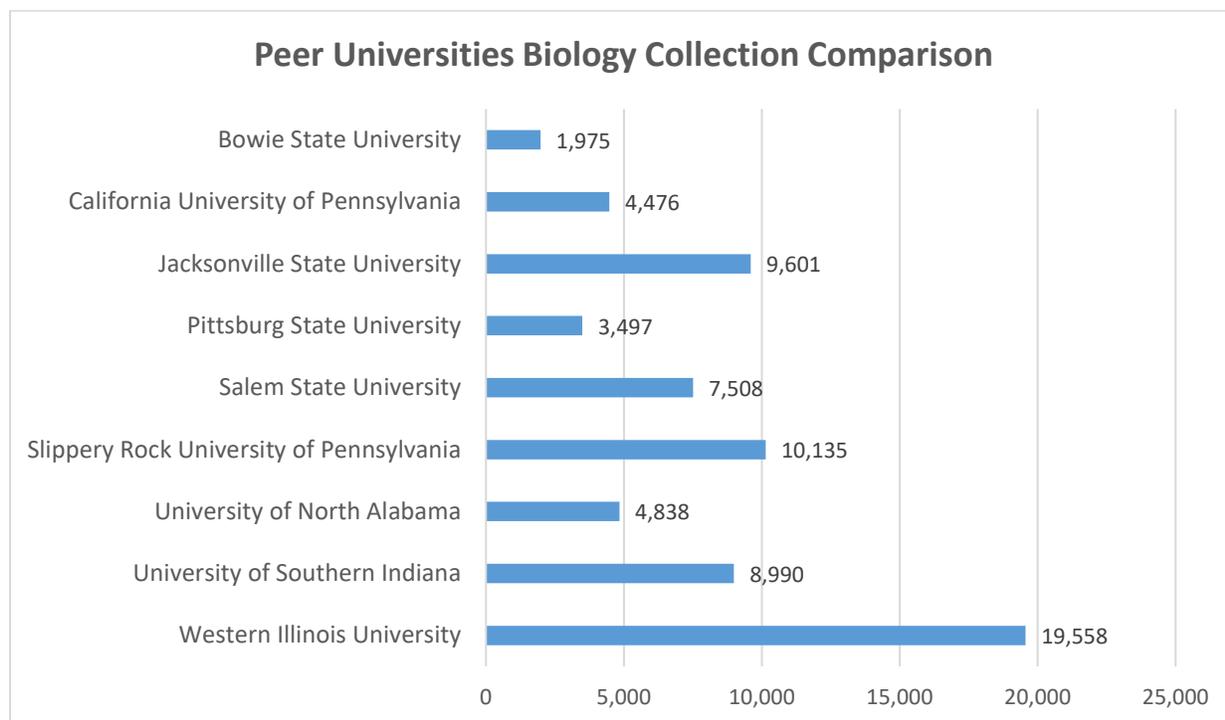
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PEER INSTITUTION COMPARISON

Below is a table comparing library collections of universities similar to Jacksonville State

University. Peers were chosen using the Carnegie Classifications “Look Up” feature at <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/lookup/lookup.php>. Those with the same “Basic,” “Enrollment Profile,” “Level,” “Size and Setting,” and “Undergraduate Profile” Carnegie Classifications were chosen, excluding satellite campuses. Biological Sciences collections were examined in the WorldCat database using the keyword search term “biology” at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/oclcfirstsearchworldcat>. JSU’s collection compares favorably to similar institutions.



The following indexes and bibliographies were checked against the Library’s holdings for serial titles pertaining to Biological Sciences revealing the corresponding percentages:

Titles	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
SCImago Journal Rank (SJR): Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (Top 100)	90	100	90%
SCImago Journal Rank (SJR): Agricultural and Biological Sciences (Top 100)	92	100	92%
Totals	182	200	91%

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SUMMARY

Strengths:

Total holdings, conspectus evaluation, and checklist comparisons indicate the overall Biological Sciences collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum. Of particular note on the conspectus worksheets are the holdings in the subject areas of: Biology (General); Birds; Botany (General); Botany (Specific Fields); Ecology; Fishes; Human Anatomy; Invertebrates; Mammals; Microbiology; Movements; Musculoskeletal System; Parasitology, Arthropods; Reptiles & Amphibians; and Zoology (General).

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the Biological Sciences collection is adequate to support the curriculum.

Weaknesses:

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that some weak areas of the Biological Sciences subject areas are: Animal Genetics (General), Edible Plants & Animals, and Wetlands.

Recommendations:

The growth rate of the Biological Sciences Collection should be maintained to continue providing support for the undergraduate and graduate programs in Biological Sciences. The monograph collection should be generally increased, based on budget, with a strong focus on core and outstanding titles. The periodical collection available via databases is substantial and should be maintained. The weak subject areas (noted above) should also be addressed in future additions to the collection.