

Executive Summary
Biological Sciences Collection Assessment
 Submitted by Paula Barnett-Ellis
 May 2018

INTRODUCTION

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

HOLDINGS

The Biological Sciences collection contains **21,105** titles in the QH-QR call number ranges, including **1,295** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Biological Sciences from FY 2011/12 TO FY 2016/17 were **\$151,427.49** with **1,495** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **7%** 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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
QH	Biology	6,592
QK	Botany	3,325
QL	Zoology	7,561
QM	Human Anatomy	380
QP1-495	Physiology	2,345
QR	Microbiology	902
Total		21,105

Monograph Expenditures for Biological Sciences

Fiscal Year	Amount
2011/12	\$24,893.02
2012/13	\$25,938.91
2013/14	\$25,504.75
2014/15	\$25,841.81
2015/16	\$26,603.56
2016/17	\$22,645.44
Total	\$151,427.49

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/2zO6DiD>. The Serials expenditures in Biological Sciences for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$18,586.12** from FY 2011/12 to FY 2016/17 (see table below.)

Serial Expenditures for Biological Sciences

FISCAL YEAR	Total
2016-2017	\$21,094.89
2015-2016	\$18,929.77
2014-2015	\$18,958.15
2013-2014	\$17,987.40
2012-2013	\$17,531.50
2011-2012	\$17,015.02
Total	\$111,516.73

Expenditures for serials have migrated away from the individual subscription model to the aggregator database model. Dollar amounts spent on aggregator databases cannot be sub-divided into subject categories. In 2016/17 aggregator databases totaled **\$205,145.15**, 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 of 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 is able to 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

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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 Professional 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 **21,105** titles in the QH-QR call number ranges, including **1,295** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Biology from FY 2011/12 TO FY 2016/17 were **\$151,427.49** with **1,495** new titles added. These newer additions comprise 7% 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	YBP New Titles Report¹	Percentage
2011/12	285	1,922	15%
2012/13	289	1,769	16%
2013/14	223	2,080	11%
2014/15	215	1,855	12%
2015/16	272	1,990	14%
2016/17	211	2,034	10%
Total	1,495	11,650	13%

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

¹ GOBI New Titles Report
(https://www.gobi3.com/StaticContent/GOBIContent/YBP/Private/Help/Pages/newtitlereport_us.html)

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 2011-2017: Biology, Botany, Zoology			
Year	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
2017	11	24	46%
2016	20	21	95%
2015	27	34	79%
2014	26	33	79%
2013	27	30	90%
2012	25	33	76%
2011	28	33	85%
TOTALS	164	208	79%

Resources for College Libraries 2011-2017			
Subject	Collected	Listed	Percentage Held
Biology	165	275	60%
Total			60%

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.

Fiscal Year	QH-QR Titles Withdrawn
2016/17	476
2015/16	25
2014/15	193
2013/14	20
2012/13	25
2011/12	11
Total	750

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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
Magazines for Libraries 23 rd Edition 2015	140	151	93%
SCImago Journal Rank (SJR): Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (Top 20%)	343	380	90%
SCImago Journal Rank (SJR): Agricultural and Biological Sciences (Top 20%)	349	382	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: Natural History; General Biology; Ecology; Botany; Zoology; Classification, Taxonomy, Nomenclature; Fishes; Amphibians; Ethology, Anatomy, Embryology; and Birds.

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 of the weakest areas of the Biological Sciences subject areas are: Edible Plants & Animals, Animal Genetics, Plant Respiration, and Wetlands.

Recommendations:

The growth rate of the Biological Sciences Collection should be maintained in order 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.