

Executive Summary
Geology Collection Assessment
Submitted by Paula Barnett-Ellis
January 28, 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Geology Collection is central to the University curriculum as the two-semester sequence of classes complements and supports study in other disciplines, including the earth sciences, geography, and general science. The collection is more than adequate to support the JSU general studies natural science requirement. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The Geology collection contains **6,213** titles in the GE and QE call number ranges, including **1,280** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Geology from FY 2012/13 to FY 2016/17 were **\$38,301.68** with **623** new titles added. These newer additions comprise 4% of the current Geology 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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
GE 25-199	Environmental Sciences	450
QC 801-999	Geophysics, Geomagnetism, Meteorology, Climatology	1,528
QE 1-350	Geology General	2,679
QE 351-399.2	Mineralogy	178
QE 420-499	Petrology	170
QE 500-625	Dynamic and Structural Geology	518
QE 640-699	Stratigraphy	100
QE 701-966.5	Paleontology	590
Total		6,213

Monograph Expenditures for Geology

Fiscal Year	Amount
2012/13	\$7,352.12
2013/14	\$5,942.47
2014/15	\$9,856.75
2015/16	\$7,561.93
2016/17	\$7,588.41
Total	\$38,301.68

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are approximately 314 journals in Geology 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 Geology for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$2,122.15** from FY 2012/13 to FY 2016/17 (see table below.)

Serial Expenditures for Geology

FISCAL YEAR	Total
2012-2013	\$3,280.82
2013-2014	\$2,849.76
2014-2015	\$1,152.23
2015-2016	\$1,309.35
2016-2017	\$2,018.61
Total	\$10,610.77

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 **\$270,656.89**, 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 Geology, 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 four databases relevant to geology and earth science, as well as general and science databases that provide support for courses at <http://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=145209>. Additionally, the Geology subject guide (<http://libguides.jsu.edu/geology>), which is maintained by the subject specialist, provides a list of and access to the resources specifically for this subject.

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

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SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT

Geology subject areas also extend beyond the boundaries of the disciplines. Holdings in the related subject collections of Agriculture, Physics and Astronomy, and Geography and Anthropology, provide additional support to the Geology 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 GE, QC & QE*	GOBI New Titles Report¹	Percentage
2012/13	59	1,011	6%
2013/14	38	1,180	3%
2014/15	51	1,161	4%
2015/16	50	1,181	4%
2016/17	41	1,214	3%
Total	239	5,747	4%

***Note:** expenditure amounts include Geology, Geography, and Anthropology

The relatively low numbers added when compared to the new title counts results from the inclusion of a large number of titles outside the scope of this assessment. There is no breakdown in the YBP figures into appropriate Library of Congress classifications. The YBP numbers encompass the entire QC and GE classes, not only the ranges in this assessment.

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

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 Geology.

<i>Choice Outstanding Academic Titles 2013-2018: Earth Science</i>			
Year	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
2013	7	12	58%
2014	12	14	86%
2015	11	11	100%
2016	9	9	100%
2017	6	7	86%
2018	3	7	43%
Total	48	60	80%

<i>Resources for College Libraries 2013-2018</i>			
Subject	Collected	Listed	Percentage Held
Geology	80	159	50%
Total	80	159	50%

WITHDRAWALS

As currency of information is very important in the Geology 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 G, QB, QC, and QE classifications.*

Fiscal Year	G, QB, QC, and QE Titles Withdrawn
2012/13	6
2013/14	17
2014/15	157
2015/16	63
2016/17	301
2017/18	53
Total	597

*There is no breakdown for GE

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

Titles	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
Magazines for Libraries 23 rd Edition 2015: Earth Sciences and Geology	88	103	85%
Magazines for Libraries 23 rd Edition 2015: Paleontology	6	9	67%
SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) Journal Titles: Geology	111	202	55%
SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) Journal Titles: Earth and Planetary Sciences	216	260	83%
Total	421	574	73%

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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.

SUMMARY

Strengths:

Total holdings, conspectus evaluation and checklist comparisons indicate the overall Geology collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum. Of particular note on the conspectus worksheet are the holdings in the subject areas of: Meteorology; Geophysics, Geomagnetism; Geophysics, General; Geology, General; Regional Geology, including United States; Mineralogy; Petrology; Dynamic and Structural Geology; Volcanoes; Paleontology; Paleozoology, Paleobotany, Palynology; and Paleozoology - Vertebrates.

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the Geology collection is adequate to support the curriculum. Of note is the Library's subscription to the *GeoRef* database. Established by the American Geosciences Institute in 1966, *GeoRef* provides access to the geoscience literature of the world.

Weaknesses:

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that some of the weakest areas of the Geology subject areas are: Communication in Environmental Sciences; Atmospheric Pollutants; Atmosphere Composition and Shells; Geomagnetism, General; Geochemistry; Geological Maps; and Coral Reefs.

Recommendations:

The growth rate of the Geology Collection should be maintained in order to continue providing support for the undergraduate and graduate programs in Geology. 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.