

**Sociology Collection Assessment**  
Submitted by Kim Westbrooks  
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**INTRODUCTION**

Following guidelines established by the OCLC/WLN Collection Assessment Service, which provide a framework for evaluating a library's current holdings and the level of activity of the collection development, the Sociology collection is rated an overall 3cP (Advance Study or Instructional Support Level; predominantly in the Primary Language). This level supports all courses of undergraduate study and master's degree programs as well as the more advanced independent study needs. Refer to the Sociology conspectus sheets and checklist analysis for a more detailed examination of the Library's holdings.

Please note that due to shared information resources, some of the Sociology Collection Assessment holdings information overlaps with resources used in Social Work.

**HOLDINGS**

As of December 2016, the Sociology collection contains 33,526 titles in the Library of Congress classification schemes H1–H99, HM-HV5840, including 1,597 titles from the e-books collection. Further, patrons have unmediated access to millions of volumes through universal borrowing agreements with other libraries. Expenditures for monographs in the areas of Sociology and Social Work from fiscal years 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 totaled \$78,510.231 with 2,223 new titles added. These additions comprise 6.6% of the current Sociology collection.

**Library Holdings**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Library Holdings</b>
H1-H61	Social Science	4,026
HM	Sociology	4,307
HN	Social History and Conditions	3,355
HQ	Family. Marriage. Women	9,780
HS	Societies	217
HT	Communities. Classes. Races	3,421
HV	Social Pathology. Social and Public Welfare	6,763
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>31,869</b>

The table below, *Library Holdings Classified as E-books in Sociology*, shows our commitment to our Distance Education students along with our support of new

technology. These books are processed and can be found like our print books in our Library Catalog.

**Library Holdings Classified as E-books in Sociology**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>2016 Library Holdings</b>
H1-H99	Social Science	44
HM	Sociology	198
HN	Social History and Conditions	137
HQ	Family. Marriage. Women	600
HS	Societies	2
HT	Communities. Classes. Races	139
HV1-HV5840	Social Pathology. Social and Public Welfare	477
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,597</b>

**Monograph Expenditures for Sociology and Social Work**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2011-2012	\$39,720.66*
2012-2013	\$40,047.73*
2013-2014	\$32,203.63
2014-2015	\$36,379.88
2015-2016	\$30,158.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$178,510.23</b>

\*Spending increased to support the Emergency Management doctoral program with current and previous published materials.

**Monograph Titles Added By Call Number Range**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>H1-H61</b>	<b>HM-HT</b>	<b>HV1-HV5999</b>
2011-2012	1	320	203
2012-2013	1	330	207
2013-2014	2	272	119
2014-2015	0	222	167
2015-2016	2	213	164
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>860</b>

## **SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT**

The Sociology subject areas also extend into subject areas such as: Biology, Criminal Justice, Education, Ethics, History, Law, Nursing, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, and Religion.

### **Number of titles held for support subdivisions outside Sociology Classifications:**

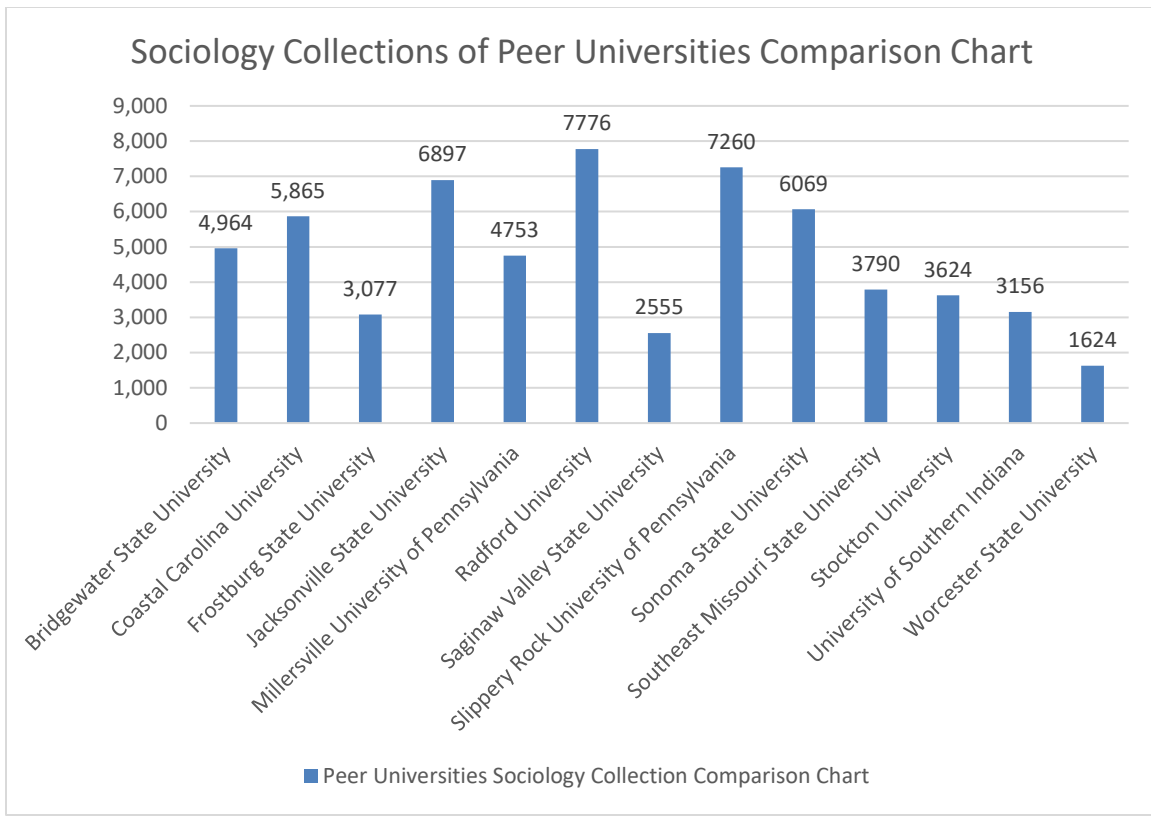
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Total</b>
B, BC, BD	Philosophy	5,474
BF	Psychology	10,027
BJ	Ethics	1,353
BL-BX	Religion	14,647
D-F	History	104,880
HV6001-HV9960	Criminal Justice	15,620
J	Political Science and Public Administration	21,751
K	Law	13,972
L	Education	37,984
QH301-QH705.5	Biology	4,312
RT	Nursing	2,161
<b>Total</b>		<b>232,181</b>

## **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,” “Undergraduate Profile,” and “Size and Setting” Carnegie Classifications were chosen, excluding satellite campuses.

Sociology collections were examined in the WorldCat database using the keyword search term “sociology” at <http://newfirstsearch.oclc.org/WebZ/FSPrefs?entityjsdetect=:javascript=true:screenize=large:sessionid=fsapp3-39640-ivaldy27-sy5ft:entitypagenum=1:0>.

Jacksonville State University compares well with peer institutions.



## Checklist Summaries

The American Sociological Association (ASA) Distinguished Scholarly Book Award winner list from 1986 – 2015 is represented first. The ASA Distinguished Scholarly Book Award is awarded annually via votes by nominations and votes from American Sociological Association members. Please see the following link for the complete list: <http://www.asanet.org/news-events/member-awards/distinguished-scholarly-book-award>

Listed second on the checklist is the Choice Outstanding Academic Titles List for Social Sciences in 2016, which reflects the best in scholarly titles selected by *Choice* editors based on the reviewer’s evaluation of the work, the editor’s knowledge of the field, and the reviewer’s record. For more information about the selection process visit <http://www.ala.org/acrl/choice/outstanding>.

The Yankee Book Peddler (YBP) United States Core Titles in Social Sciences for 2015 list is third on the checklist. Bibliographers at YBP screen titles carefully to identify those that will stand the tests of time to become standard (core) works expected in any exemplary undergraduate collection.

The ASA Distinguished Scholarly Book Awards from 1986 – 2015, the Choice Outstanding Academic titles list for Social Sciences in 2016, and the YBP United States

Core Titles in Social Sciences for 2015 were checked against the Library's holdings, revealing the corresponding percentages.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Held</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
ASA Distinguished Scholarly Book Award Winners 1986 – 2015	32	45	71.1%
Choice Outstanding Academic Titles 2016	65	82	79.2%
YBP U.S. Core List 2015	15	32	46.8%

### **Withdrawals**

Since the 2012 assessment of the collection, many duplicated and dated titles were withdrawn due to space issues and the need for currency within the subject area. The table below shows withdrawals from the Social Sciences – General classification (H-HA) and Sociology classifications (HM-HV6000, HX).

<b>Library of Congress Classification Ranges</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>Totals</b>
H-HA (Social Sciences – General)	5	4	5	36	<b>50</b>
HM-HV6000, HX (Sociology)	9	28	211	71	<b>319</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>369</b>

### **PERIODICALS ASSESSMENT**

Using the *Full Text Finder* database, a search for “sociology” yields a result of 556 results. Of these results, 370 are journals and 192 are listed as having a primary subject of sociology.<sup>1</sup>

The Library also subscribes to two premier Sociology and Social Work databases: Sociological Abstracts and Social Services Abstracts. These services index/abstract over 10,121 subject specific journals. Access to full-text journals are provided through links to the Library’s electronic resources and the catalog.

<sup>1</sup> Results can be duplicated by visiting <http://www.jsu.edu/library/>, clicking the “Journals” tab, and searching for sociology.

### **Magazines for Libraries, 23<sup>rd</sup> edition**

The bibliography, *Magazines for Libraries*, was used to measure the quality of the Library's serial collection. By checking the bibliography against the *Full Text Finder* database, the following percentage was revealed within the area of Sociology and Social Work.

Held	Listed	Percentage
116	138	84%

### **Serial Expenditures for Sociology<sup>2</sup>**

2011-2012	\$23,277.23
2012-2013	\$23,204.39
2013-2014	\$26,141.31
2014-2015	\$23,062.59
2015-2016	\$9,870.72 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$105,556.24</b>

### **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 streaming video databases along with integrated quality websites that encompass the area of Sociology, the Library's electronic collection in this subject area is rated a 3 (Study or Instructional Support level).

A complete list of all of the Library's databases can be found in our LibGuide [A to Z List Guide](#).<sup>4</sup> A LibGuide lists many of our resources specifically for [Sociology and Social Work](#)<sup>5</sup> and has been created along with many other [subject specific guides](#).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 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 2015 aggregator databases totaled \$223,000, which came from the general fund.

<sup>3</sup> Does not include renewal amounts, not yet posted.

<sup>4</sup> <http://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php>

<sup>5</sup> <http://libguides.jsu.edu/sociology>

<sup>6</sup> <http://libguides.jsu.edu/index.php>

Below is a brief description of just a few of our Sociology databases. A complete listing of these databases can be found on the [Sociology and Social Work LibGuide](#)<sup>5</sup>.

*Academic Search Premier*

<http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/academicsearch>

“*Academic Search Premier* content includes more than 3,280 active, full-text journals and magazines and nearly 2,880 active, full-text, peer-reviewed journals. PDF back files to 1975 or further are available for well over one hundred journals, and searchable cited references are provided for more than 1,000 titles. This database is updated on a daily basis via EBSCOhost.”

*CQ Electronic Library (Includes CQ Researcher and CQ Weekly)*

<http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/cqpress>

“Created and hosted by CQ Press, the *CQ Electronic Library* (CQEL) is the definitive reference resource for research in American government, politics, history, public policy, and current affairs. A wealth of CQ Press resources and years of journalistic and editorial expertise are combined in CQEL. It also offers researchers—whether students, scholars, professionals, or interested citizens—a range of tools for discovering, understanding, and making use of its authoritative content.”

*Expanded Academic ASAP*

<http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/expandedacademic>

“Expanded Academic ASAP provides 24/7 remote access to a balanced collection of academic sources. Perfect for a broad spectrum of students, faculty and other researchers, Expanded Academic ASAP contains more than 5,300 titles; more than 3,000 full-text titles in a wide variety of disciplines, including more than 3,800 peer-reviewed journals. Balanced coverage on a variety of subjects is available through: social science journals, humanities journals, general interest magazines, science and technology journals, and national and global news sources.”

*HUD.gov*

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/home.html>

Their mission statement: “To be the preeminent housing and urban research organization, one which conducts policy analysis and creates and synthesizes data and evidence through open, challenging, creative, collaborative, diverse, and respectful exchanges of ideas to move policy and improve American communities and lives.”

*MasterFILE Premier*

<http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/masterfile>

“*MasterFILE Premier* contains full text for general reference magazines and publications that cover a wide-range of subject areas including business, health, education, general science and multicultural issues. Content Includes more than 1,600 full-text magazines and journals, nearly 450 full-text reference books, more than 73,000 primary source documents, and more than 1.4 million photos, maps and flags.”

*Opposing Viewpoints in Context*

<http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/?p=OVIC%3AGIC&u=jack26672>

“*Opposing Viewpoints in Context* is a one-stop source for information on today's hottest social issues. Drawing on acclaimed series published by Greenhaven Press and other Gale imprints, OVRC features viewpoint articles, topic overviews, full-text magazine, academic journal, and newspaper articles, primary source documents, statistics, images and podcasts, and links to Websites. New to the database are Lexile reading levels for periodicals and an integrated national and state curriculum standards search with content correlated to the standards.”

*Sociological Abstracts*

<http://search.proquest.com/socabs/index?accountid=11662>

“*Sociological Abstracts* offers access to the international literature in sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. The database provides in-depth and non-evaluative abstracts of journal articles and citations to book reviews drawn from over 1,800 serial publications, and also provides abstracts of books, book chapters, dissertations, and conference papers. The database backfile dates to 1952.”

E-book Databases: A complete listing can be found on the [Sociology and Social Work Libguide](#)<sup>5</sup>.

*ACLS Humanities E-Book*

<http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/acls>

“*ACLS Humanities E-Book (HEB)* is an online collection of about 5,000 books of high quality in the humanities. These titles are offered by the ACLS in collaboration with thirty-one learned societies, over 100 contributing publishers, and the Michigan Publishing division at the University of Michigan Library. The result is an online, fully searchable collection of high-quality books in the Humanities, recommended and reviewed by scholars.”



*Credo Reference*

<http://search.credoreference.com/>

*Credo Reference* enables libraries to build deep, specific ebook collections. With regular updates, this Collection includes over 731 titles with particular emphasis on subject encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, and reference handbooks. Also included are over 1,000 short reference videos, nearly 300,000 high-resolution art images, and thousands of additional images across all subject areas.

*Gale Virtual Reference Library*

<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/start.do?p=GVRL&u=jack26672&authCount=1>

*GVRL* delivers 275 e-book reference titles covering topics from a variety of disciplines. This is a shared platform providing access to titles provided by that Alabama Virtual Library, as well as titles purchased specifically for Jacksonville State University.

*Oxford Reference*

<http://www.oxfordreference.com/oxford/page/socialsciences/social-sciences>

“*Oxford Reference* is the home of Oxford’s quality reference publishing, bringing together over 2 million entries, many of which are illustrated, into a single cross-searchable resource.” Coverage in the Social Sciences includes: “over 160,000 concise definitions and in-depth, specialist encyclopedic entries on all of the diverse disciplines that fall under the umbrella of the social sciences. Our coverage consists of authoritative, highly accessible information that covers the very latest terminology, concepts, theories, techniques, people, and organizations relating to the social sciences—from archaeology, economics, and geography, to sociology, history, politics, and psychology. Written by trusted experts for researchers at every level, entries are complemented by illustrative line drawings and images wherever useful.”

Streaming Video Databases: A complete listing can be found on the [Sociology and Social Work Libguide](#)<sup>5</sup>.

*Academic Video Online: Premium*

<http://search.alexanderstreet.com/>

“*Academic Video Online* (the) Alexander Street Press database aims to provide the most comprehensive streaming video resource on the web. (This database) allows users to cross-search all of the video published by Alexander Street Press.” Access to 70,000+ videos on many different subjects is available from this site.

*Films on Demand*

[http://fod.infobase.com/p\\_Home.aspx](http://fod.infobase.com/p_Home.aspx)

*Films on Demand* offers more than 24,000 titles and 255,756 segments on a variety of subjects. Under the subject of Sociology, 3,443 are listed.<sup>7</sup>

## **SUMMARY**

### **Strengths:**

Total holdings, OCLC/WLN conspectus evaluation, and checklist comparisons indicate that within the scope of the *Houston Cole Library Collection Management and Development Policy*, the overall Sociology collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum and is rated at a 3cP level (Advance Study or Instructional Support Level; predominantly in the Primary Language). Of particular note in the collection are the holdings in the subject areas of: Family, Marriage, Women, Sexual Life; Social Classes; Disaster Relief, Refugees; and Drug Abuse. These areas show a 23.14% average growth rate since the 2012 assessment. Checks against the following bibliographies also show a strong growth in the quality of the Sociology monograph collection:

*ASA Distinguished Scholarly Book Award Winners 1986-2015*, 71.1%

*Choice Outstanding Academic Titles 2016* – 79.2%

*YBP U.S. Core List 2015* – 46.8%

A holdings rate of 84% of the journals listed in the bibliography *Magazines for Libraries 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition* reflects a strong journals collection in this subject area. Since the last assessment, 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 2015, aggregator databases totaled \$223,000, which came from the general fund.

### **Weaknesses:**

Total holdings, WLN conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of the Sociology and Social Work subject areas are: General Social Sciences; Theory, Methodology of the Social Sciences; Communities, Classes and Races; Rural Sociology; and Alcoholism.

### **Recommendations:**

The monographic collection continues to be strong and the serials holdings have grown in strength sufficiently to support the Sociology and Social Work programs at the Intermediate Study level. Additional monographs in the area of General Social Sciences; Theory, Methodology of the Social Sciences; Communities, Classes and Races; Rural Sociology; and Alcoholism should be acquired.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://fod.infobase.com/SubjectIndex.aspx?bc=0>