

**Executive Summary**  
**Western European Literatures Collection Assessment**  
 Submitted by Harry D. Nuttall  
 June 2018

**INTRODUCTION**

The Western European Literatures collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the Bachelor's and Master's programs in English, Foreign Languages, and Secondary Education, which incorporate the collection into their curricula. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

**HOLDINGS**

The Western European Literatures collection contains **13,414** titles in the PQ and PT call number ranges, including 138 e-books. Total monograph expenditures for literature from fiscal years 2011-12 through 2016-17 inclusive were **\$228,377.86**. (Expenditure amounts are for all literatures. Literature discipline expenditures cannot be subdivided.) Western European Literatures had 422 new titles added (PQ=307; PT=115). These newer additions comprise 3% of the current Western European Literatures 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Library Holdings</b>
PQ1-PQ9999.9	Romance Language Literatures	9,508
PT1-PT9999.9	Teutonic Language Literatures	3,906
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,414</b>

**Monograph Expenditures for Literature\***

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2011-2012	\$45,630.61
2012-2013	\$40,896.28
2013-2014	\$32,405.26
2014-2015	\$36,151.93
2015-2016	\$33,305.93
2016-2017	\$39,987.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$228,377.86</b>

\* Expenditure amounts are for all literatures. Literature discipline expenditures cannot be subdivided.

**PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

The Library has access to full-text journals available via the Library databases. There are over 85 journals for Western European Literatures available electronically through database subscriptions; these journals can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <http://bit.ly/2zO6DjD>. The Serials expenditures for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$30,635.15** from FY 2011-2012 to FY 2016-2017 (see table below).

### Serial Expenditures for Literature\*

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>Total</b>
2011-2012	\$28,598.89
2012-2013	\$29,839.56
2013-2014	\$30,843.06
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$183,810.87</b>

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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 2016-2017 expenditures for aggregator databases totaled \$259,262.08, 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 Literature, 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 Literature-related databases. The guide Language and Literature: Electronic Databases by Subject (<http://libguides.jsu.edu/literature>), which is maintained by the subject specialist, provides a list of and access to the principal resources specifically for this subject.

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

## Western European Literatures Collection Assessment

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### INTRODUCTION

The Western European Literatures collection is central to the University curriculum, since it supports study for the degree program in Foreign Languages at the Bachelor's level and degrees in English at the Bachelor's and Master's levels offered by the School of Arts and Humanities, as well as the Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Secondary Education offered by the school of Education. The collection also supports minors in these areas along with the degree in the major field. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

### HOLDINGS

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT**

Interdisciplinary subjects are those that extend beyond the boundaries of the assessed discipline. Supplemental support for research to the Western European Literatures collection includes a wide range of such subject areas, including the holdings in the related subject collections of American Literature; English Literature; Languages and Related Literatures; History; Art; Drama; Music; Auxiliary Sciences of History; Philosophy, Ethics, and Religion; and General Works.

**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**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Added to Collections PQ1-PQ9999.9 PT1-PT9999.9</b>	<b>YBP New Titles Report<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2011-2012	PQ=39 PT=19  Total=58	Figures Not Available	N/A
2012-2013	PQ=55 PT=17  Total=72	PQ=573 PT=249  Total=822	9% Total
2013-2014	PQ=48 PT=13  Total=61	PQ=581 PT=286  Total=867	7% Total
2014-2015	PQ=50 PT=20  Total=70	PQ=563 PT=250  Total=813	9% Total
2015-2016	PQ=50 PT=19  Total=69	PQ=589 PT=303  Total=892	8% Total
2016-2017	PQ=65 PT=27  Total=92	PQ=597 PT=306  Total=903	10% Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>PQ=307 PT=115  Total=422</b>	<b>PQ=2903 PT=1394  Total=4297</b>	<b>10% TOTAL</b>

### **CHECKLIST SUMMARIES**

Bibliographies including *American Reference Books Annual* (ARBA), *Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles* (OATs), and *Resources for College Libraries* (RCL) were used to measure the quality of the Library's collection. In checking these bibliographies against the Library's catalog, the following percentages were revealed in the subject area of Western European Literatures.

<b><i>American Reference Books Annual (ARBA): 2011-2017</i></b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
2011	1	1	100%
2012	1	1	100%
2013	0	1	0%
2014	2	2	100%
2015	0	2	0%
2016	0	1	0%
2017	N/A	No books listed	N/A
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>50%</b>

<b><i>Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles (OATs): (2005)2011-2017</i></b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
Romance Literatures (PQ)	30	413	7%
Germanic Literatures (PT)	2	9	22%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>8%</b>

<b><i>Resources for College Libraries (RCL): 2011-2017</i></b>			
<b>LC CLASS</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percentage Held</b>
CALL NUMBER CLASS PQ1-PQ9999.9	52	400	13%
CALL NUMBER CLASS PT1-PT9999.9	19	103	18%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>14%</b>

## **WITHDRAWALS**

As currency of information is very important in the Western European Literatures 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 tables below show withdrawals from the PQ and PT classifications.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>PQ Titles Withdrawn</b>
2011-2012	2
2012-2013	2
2013-2014	3
2014-2015	24
2015-2016	2
2016-2017	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>PT Titles Withdrawn</b>
2011-2012	0
2012-2013	0
2013-2014	0
2014-2015	22
2015-2016	0
2016-2017	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

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

Titles	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
Magazines for Libraries 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Literature (Category cannot subdivide)	120	196	61%

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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 Western European Literatures collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum. Because the collection is central to no degree program, strength of the collection cannot be measured across its entire spectrum but must be determined on the basis of individual authors and works as they complement courses in the degree programs of Foreign Languages and English. The areas that most complement the degree programs will be selected heavily; the others, not so much. But awareness and attentiveness by the subject specialist insures the collection will be strengthened in appropriate areas as the curriculum evolves. At present this strengthening focuses on literatures of former colonies of the Western European nations, as authors from these nations are receiving a higher profile in the curriculum.

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the Western European Literatures collection is adequate to support the curriculum.

**Weaknesses:**

Canon expansion mandates that acquisitions emphasis be moved from the traditional core to post-colonial authors and works, particularly those of the twenty-first century. These are the things finding their way into the curriculum more and more (the same is true of Asian and Eastern European writers), and because this is a fairly recent development this part of the collection is the weakest. It should be kept in mind that the areas with the smallest holdings are so largely because they are out of scope for the curriculum.

**Recommendations:**

The growth rate of the Western European Literatures collection should be maintained in order to continue providing support for majors and minors in the degree programs of English, Foreign Languages, and Secondary Education. The monograph collection should be selectively increased, based on budget and the curriculum, 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. In the past this has been done through adding to the reference collection, which often provides information on authors who have not yet received much critical attention and for whom it is difficult to find information in monographs and databases.