

**Executive Summary**  
**Agriculture Collection Assessment**  
 Submitted by Hanrong Wang  
 December 2024

**INTRODUCTION**

The Agriculture collection adequately supports the courses offered in the bachelor’s master’s, and doctoral programs. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed collection examination.

**HOLDINGS**

The Agriculture collection comprises **10,203** titles within the S (Agriculture) call number range, including 7,307 physical titles and 2,896 e-books. From FY 2017-2018 to FY 2023-2024, the total expenditure for monographs in the agriculture category reached **\$102,612.43**, with 270 new titles added. The newer additions comprise 3.70% of the current Agriculture collection.

The following numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually added and withdrawn for maintenance and growth.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>
S	AGRICULTURE	<b>7,307</b>
S1- 946.5	Agriculture (General)	1,589
SB1-1110	Plant culture	2,915
SD1-669.5	Forestry	788
SF1-1100	Animal Culture	1,126
SH1-691	Aquaculture. Fisheries. Angling	396
SK1-664	Hunting sports	493
E-books	All related subject areas	2,896
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,203</b>

**Monograph Expenditures \***

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2023 - 2024	\$21,565.58
2022 - 2023	\$10,243.77
2021 - 2022	\$9,307.02
2020 - 2021	\$8,706.43
2019 - 2020	\$12,796.09
2018 - 2019	\$19,704.20
2017 - 2018	\$20,289.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$102,612.43</b>

\* Please note that the Library doesn’t keep separate funds stats for agriculture since JSU doesn’t offer a degree program in the discipline. The expenditure numbers provided are for biology which include agriculture purchases.

## **PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 1,000 journals available electronically through database subscriptions, which can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <http://bit.ly/2zO6DiD>. The serial expenditures in Agriculture and Biology for both print and electronic subscriptions totaled **\$132,739.52** from FY 2017-2018 to FY 2023-2024 (see table below).

### **Serial Expenditures\***

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>Total</b>
2023 - 2024	\$17,187.58
2022 - 2023	\$20,087.11
2021 - 2022	\$19,466.28
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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 subdivided into subject categories. A more accurate reporting of Library subject support for serials is represented in the 'Browse by Discipline' listings in Publication Finder: <http://bit.ly/2zO6DiD>. The dollar amount spent on aggregated databases for 2022/23 is **\$340,450.61**.

## **DEFINED ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

Defined access points to users 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 Agriculture, 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 agriculture-related databases at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26242>. Additionally, the Agriculture guide, which is <https://libguides.jsu.edu/agriculture> 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>.

## Agriculture Collection Assessment

Submitted by Hanrong Wang

December 2024

### INTRODUCTION

The Agriculture collection supports courses across multiple departments, including Biology, Chemistry and Geosciences, Career Technical Education & Professional Studies, and Emergency Management and Public Administration. This collection underpins Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degree programs. Complete conspectus sheets are available for a more detailed examination of the collection.

### HOLDINGS

The Agriculture collection comprises **10,203** titles within the S (Agriculture) call number range, including 7,307 physical titles and 2,896 e-books. From FY 2017-2018 to FY 2023-2024, the total expenditure for monographs in the agriculture category reached **\$102,612.43**, with 270 new titles added. The newer additions comprise 3.70% of the current Agriculture collection.

The following 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

Agriculture is an interdisciplinary subject that transcends the boundaries of its discipline. To support research, the collection includes a wide range of related subject areas, encompassing holdings in Biology; Chemistry; Nutrition, Food & Food Supply (General); Economic History & Conditions; Technology (General); and General Works.

### Number of titles held for support subdivisions outside the Agriculture Classifications

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Totals</b>
QH301-425	Biology (General)	1,786
QD1-999	Chemistry	3,464
TX341-355	Nutrition, Food & Food Supply (General)	922
HC	Economic History & Conditions	7,711
T1-995	Technology (General)	2,665
A	General Works	4,087

### 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 S</b>	<b>New Title Reports: All Publishers*</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Year 2023 - 2024	15	835	1.8%
Year 2022 - 2023	37	861	4.3%
Year 2021 - 2022	24	749	3.2%
Year 2020 - 2021	29	662	4.4%
Year 2019 - 2020	34	772	4.4%
Year 2018 - 2019	75	813	9.2%
Year 2017 - 2018	56	764	7.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>5,456</b>	<b>5.0%</b>

\*GOBI New Titles Report

[https://www.gobi3.com/StaticContent/GOBIContent/YBP/Private/Help/Pages/newtitlereport\\_us.html](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. When the bibliographies were checked against the Library's catalog, the following percentages were revealed in the subject area of Agriculture.

<b>OATs 2017- 2024 *</b>			
<b>Year &amp; Call Number Range (S)</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
2017 - 2024	13	16	81.3%

\*Choice Outstanding Academic Titles: <https://www.choice360.org/choice-picks/category/outstanding-academic-titles/>

<b><i>Resources for College Libraries: Subject Agriculture (LC Class: S)</i></b>			
<b>Year of Publication</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percentage Held</b>
2024	1	5	20.0%
2023	4	9	44.4%
2022	8	24	33.3%
2021	5	22	22.7%
2020	0	17	0.0%
2019	3	16	18.8%
2018	12	43	27.9%
2017	25	54	46.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>30.5%</b>

## **WITHDRAWALS**

As currency of information is important in agriculture collection, older books are withdrawn regularly 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 S classification.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Withdrawn</b>
2022-2023	405
2021-2022	0
2020-2021	4
2019-2020	197
2018-2019	13
2017-2018	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>624</b>

## **PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 1,000 journals available electronically in Agriculture and Agribusiness, and 148 in Forestry, which can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <http://bit.ly/2zO6DjD>. The serial expenditures in Agriculture and Biology for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders were **\$132,739.52** from 2018 to 2024 (see table below).

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The following indexes and bibliographies were checked against the Library's holdings for serial titles on Agriculture, revealing the corresponding percentages quantitatively and qualitatively:

Titles	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> , 2019 ed. Subject Listed: Agriculture	10	16	62.5%
Birds	12	22	54.5%
Forestry	26	35	74.3%
Pets	4	26	15.4%
<i>SJR: Scientific Journal Rankings: Agricultural and Biological Sciences; All subject categories; All regions/countries; Journals; 2023</i>	2,048	2,426	84.4%

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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.

There is also a growing amount of content published via Open Access (OA) publishing and/or under the Creative Commons (CC) Attribution License. Anyone is allowed to download, use, reuse, distribute, or even modify the content as long as the original author and source are cited. More information can be found at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/Openaccess>.

## **SUMMARY**

### **Strengths:**

Total holdings, conspectus evaluation, and checklist comparisons indicate the overall Agriculture collection is adequate to support the curriculum. The following sub-categories are strong:

- History (S419-482),
- Soils. Soil science (S590-599.9),
- Conservation of Natural Resources (S900-946.5),
- Vegetables (SB320-353.5),
- Fruit and fruit culture (SB354-402),
- Flowers and flower culture. Ornamental plants (SB403-450.87),
- Gardens and gardening (SB450.9-467.8),
- Landscape gardening. Landscape architecture (SB469-476),
- Parks and public reservations (SB481-486),
- Pests and diseases (SB599-990.5),
- Horses (SF277-360.4),
- Pets (SF411-459),
- Bee culture (SF521-539.8),
- Fisheries (SH201-399), and
- Angling (SH401-691).

Donated titles have been assessed for their potential to enhance the collection, either to support the curriculum or to meet the needs of community members.

The number of ebook titles in the S call number range changed dramatically with the addition of hundreds of titles since the previous assessment.

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the agriculture collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum.

### **Weaknesses:**

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons reveal that no publications have been identified in certain call number ranges since the previous assessment. These ranges include Horticultural Voyages (SB1-1110), Voyages (SD119), and Acclimatization (SF87). Additionally, improvements are needed in the collection pertaining to Shooting (SK37-39.5).

**Recommendations:**

The growth rate of the Agriculture collection should be maintained to continue providing support for the Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degree programs in Biology, Chemistry and Geosciences, Career Technical Education & Professional Studies, and Emergency Management and Public Administration. 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.