

**Executive Summary**  
**Geography Collection Assessment**  
 Submitted by Karlie Johnson  
 April 22, 2019

**INTRODUCTION**

The Geography collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the Bachelor’s program. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

**HOLDINGS**

The Geography collection contains **9,226** titles in the G-GF call number ranges with the additional inclusion of GT and QC851-QC999 both of which were not previously represented in the 2013 Geography Assessment. This also includes **433** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Geography from 2014-2019 were **\$39,358.36** with **439** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **5%** of the current Geography collection.

These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection, as titles are continually added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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>
G	Geography (General), Atlases, Maps	3,960
GA	Mathematical Geography, Cartography	312
GB	Physical Geography	908
GC	Oceanography	444
GE	Environmental Sciences	521
GF	Human Geography	630
GT	Manners and Customs	1,002
QC851-QC999	Meteorology, Climatology	1,449
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,226</b>

**Monograph Expenditures for Geography**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2014-2015	\$9,856.75
2015-2016	\$7,561.93
2016-2017	\$7,588.41
2017-2018	\$9,732.53
2018-2019	\$4,618.74 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,358.36</b>

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<sup>1</sup> 2018/19 FY not complete

## **PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 333 journals in Geography or related areas available electronically through database subscriptions. These can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder <http://bit.ly/2VpuUXy>. Of the 333 journals available within Geography topics, 203 of those are peer-reviewed journals (<http://bit.ly/2UPkPnf>). The Serials expenditures in Geography for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$1,731.29** from 2014-2019 (see table below.)

### **Serial Expenditures for Geography**

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>Total</b>
2014-2015	\$1,152.23
2015-2016	\$1,309.35
2016-2017	\$2,018.61
2017-2018	\$4,176.25
2018-2019	N/A <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,656.44</b>

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. For 2017/18, the amount spent on aggregated databases was \$233,085.10, 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 Geography, 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 Geography related databases at <http://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26263>. Additionally, the Geography subject guide <http://libguides.jsu.edu/geography>, 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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<sup>2</sup> 2018/19 FY not complete.

## Geography Collection Assessment

Submitted by Karlie Johnson

April 22, 2019

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Geography Collection is central to the University curriculum, since it supports study for degree program in the Bachelor of Science, as well as the Minor in Geography, offered by the Department of Chemistry and Geosciences. The Geography collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the Bachelor's program. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

### **HOLDINGS**

The Geography collection contains **9,226** titles in the G-GF call number ranges with the additional inclusion of GT and QC851-QC999 both of which were not previously represented in the 2013 Geography Assessment. Also included are **433** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Geography from 2014-2019 were **\$39,358.36** with **439** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **5%** of the current Geography collection.

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<sup>3</sup> 2018/19 FY not complete

## **SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT**

Geography is an interdisciplinary subject that extends beyond the boundaries of the discipline. Supplemental support for research includes a wide range of subject areas, including the holdings in the related subject collections of Science, Geology, History, Anthropology, and Technology.

## **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. These figures contain a large number of Geography and other related area books, some outside the scope of the Library of Congress classification for this assessment, and some are not collected in numbers as large as GOBI has listed.

### **Monographs Added Versus Published Comparison**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Added to Collections G-GF, GT</b>	<b>GOBI New Titles Report<sup>4</sup> G-GF, GT</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2014-2015	65	790	8%
2015-2016	97	823	12%
2016-2017	66	844	8%
2017-2018	103	1,008	10%
2018-2019 <sup>5</sup>	39	895	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>4,360</b>	<b>8%</b>

## **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 Geography.

<b><i>Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles 2013-2018</i></b>		
<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
68	83	82%

<b><i>Resources for College Libraries 2013-2018</i></b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percentage Held</b>
Geography	82	217	38%

<sup>4</sup> 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))

<sup>5</sup>2018/19 FY not complete.

<i>American Reference Books Annual</i>		
Collected	Listed	Percent Held
12	82 <sup>6</sup>	15%

### **WITHDRAWALS**

As currency of information is very important in the Geography 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-GF classifications.

Fiscal Year	QA Titles Withdrawn
2013-2014	5
2014-2015	23
2015-2016	47
2016-2017	105
2017-2018	32
2018-2019 (through 2nd Quarter)	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>

### **PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

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<sup>6</sup> Many were listed as Juvenile or Travel Guides.

<sup>7</sup> 2018/19 FY not complete.

The following indexes and bibliographies, when checked against the Library's holdings for serial titles pertaining to Geography, revealed the corresponding percentages:

<b>Titles</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Geography	31	38	82%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Cartography, GIS, and Imagery	19	30	63%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Atmosphere Sciences	38	42	90%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Earth Sciences and Geology	82	103	80%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Transportation	40	73	55%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: General Interest	27	29	93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>75%</b>

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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 Geography collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum. Of particular note on the conspectus worksheet are the holdings in the subject areas of: Geography (General), Atlases and Maps, Cartography, Geomorphology, Mountains, Hydrology, Oceanography,

Environmental Sciences, Environmental Policy, Environmentalism, Green Movement, and Human Ecology.

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the Geography collection is adequate to support the curriculum.

**Weaknesses:**

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of the Geography subject areas are: all Regional Geomorphology; Reef & Islands; Regional Hydrology; Ground & Surface Waters, General Watersheds; and all Dynamics of the Ocean.

**Recommendations:**

The growth rate of the Geography Collection should be maintained in order to provide support for the Bachelor of Science and Minor in Geography. The monograph collection should be generally increased, based on the Library budget. 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.