

Executive Summary
Philosophy and Religion Collection Assessment
 Submitted by Charlcie Pettway-Vann
 May 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Philosophy collection is adequate to support the courses taught in all social science and humanities majors. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The Philosophy collection contains **24,033** titles in the call number ranges located in the table below, including **2,095** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Philosophy from 2010-2017 were **\$85,413.25** with **11,860** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **35.27%** of the current Philosophy 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection, as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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.

LC Classification	Category	Library Holdings
B	Philosophy	4,155
BC	Logic	311
BD	Speculative	929
BH	Aesthetics	249
BJ	Ethics	1,366
BL	Religions	2,718
BM	Judaism	545
BP	Islam, Bahaism	701
BQ	Buddhism	202
BR	Christianity	2,402
BS	Bible	1,423
BT	Doctrinal Theology	1,284
BV	Practical Theology	1,741
BX	Denominations	3,676
Ebooks	General Philosophy & Religion	2,095
Total		23,797

Monograph Expenditures for Philosophy

Fiscal Year	Amount
2010-2011	\$10,251.32
2011-2012	\$14,968.86
2012-2013	\$11,780.48
2013-2014	\$19,377.12
2014-2015	\$14,071.31
2015-2016	\$14,964.16
2016-2017	\$16,447.19
Total	\$101,860.44

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 500 journals available electronically through database subscriptions, which can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder. The Serials expenditures in Philosophy for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average

Serial Expenditures for Philosophy

FISCAL YEAR	Total
2010-2011	\$30,067.91
2011-2012	\$29,563.98
2012-2013	\$28,842.25
2013-2014	\$28,879.41
2014-2015	\$30,608.61
2015-2016	\$32,734.98
2016-2017	\$33,870.01
Total	\$214,567.15

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. For 2016/17, the amount spent on aggregated databases was \$.

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 Philosophy, 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 Philosophy related databases at <http://libguides.jsu.edu/Philosophy>.

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

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SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT

Philosophy 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 Literature located on the 7th floor.

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 B-BX	YBP New Titles Report¹	Percentage
2012-2013	145	5368	
2013-2014	136	5583	
2014-2015	133	5474	
2015-2016	100	5893	
2016-2017	171	6052	
Total			

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 Philosophy and Religion.

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

Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles 2011-2017			
Year	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
2011	6	36	16.67%
2012	27	44	61.37%
2013	16	35	45.71%
2014	17	40	42.5%
2015	12	50	24%
2016	21	30	70%
2017	15	29	51.72%
TOTALS			

Resources for College Libraries 2012-2017			
LC CLASS	Collected	Listed	Percentage Held
B-BX	233	597	39%

WITHDRAWALS

As currency of information is very important in the Philosophy collection, older books are withdrawn on a regular basis or as newer editions supercede them, and new books are ordered to fill gaps as curriculum requirements change. The table below shows withdrawals from the P and PN classifications.

Fiscal Year	B-BX Titles Withdrawn
2012-2013	3
2013-2014	19
2014-2015	25
2015-2016	3
2016-2017	10
Total	60

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The serials expenditures for Philosophy and Religion expenditures are merged together. There are over 500 journals available electronically through database subscriptions, which can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <https://bit.ly/2HFoLfu>. The Psychology expenditures are not able to be individually divided. The amounts listed in the table are the combined totals of all three subject areas of Psychology, Philosophy and Religion. \$30,116.19 from 2010 to 2017. (see table below.)

Serial Expenditures for Philosophy

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL
2010-2011	\$30,067.91
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2012-2013	\$28,842.25
2013-2014	\$28,879.41
2014-2015	\$30,608.61
2015-2016	\$32,734.98
2016-2017	\$33,870.01
Total	\$180,697.14

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. For 2016/17, the amount spent on aggregated databases was \$205,145.15.

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

Titles	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
Magazines for Libraries 23 rd Edition 2015	37	89	42%

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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 Philosophy related databases at <http://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26249>. Additionally, the Philosophy Libguides, (<http://libguides.jsu.edu/Philosophy> which is maintained by the subject specialist, provides a list of and access to the resources specifically for this subject.

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.

Supplemental Support

The Philosophy and Religion Collection is further supported by other collections throughout the Library. The following disciplines offer supplemental support to the Philosophy and Religion collection:

<http://libguides.jsu.edu/religion>.

- Education
- Business
- Political Science
- History
- Humanities/Social Sciences

Summary

The Philosophy and Religion monographic collection serve as support subjects for major and minor degrees at Jacksonville State University. The Collection's holdings have increased.

Strengths

The Philosophy and Religion collection is adequate to support the following disciplines, English, Psychology, History, and Criminal Justice. The Theology category has increase since the last assessment in 2010 from 20,625 to 23,223. The Philosophy collection is strongest in the Western and Modern Philosophy range. The Religion collection is strongest in the Religions, Mythology, Rationalism, Christianity and Denominations ranges. The Islam, Bahaim and Theosophy categories increased by over 16% since the previous assessment. Also, the Buddhism subject collection has increased by 20% since the last assessment.

Weaknesses

Several areas in the B-BD and BH-BX ranges remain near the same level as previously assessed. The following areas had little growth due to no inquiries:

- Aesthetics
- Logic
- Practical Theology

Recommendations

The Library should continue to increase the Philosophy and Religion collection. Many of the Social Science disciplines have assignments which require the use of this collection. Philosophy and Religion is popular among undergraduate History and English classes.