

Executive Summary
World History Collection Assessment
 Submitted by Karlie Johnson
 April 23, 2021

INTRODUCTION

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

HOLDINGS

The World History collection contains **41,248** titles in the D call number ranges, including **11,754** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for World History from 2013-2020 were **\$240,161.89** with **2,215** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **5%** of the current World History 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection, as titles are continually added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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.

Classification	Subject Area	Library Holdings
D	World History, General History	8,028
DA/DAW	Great Britain/History	7,345
DB	Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia	503
DC	France	2,682
DD	Germany	1,606
DE	The Mediterranean Region	116
DF	Greece	703
DG	Italy	1,501
DH	Belgium, Luxemburg	87
DJ/DJK	Netherlands (Holland)/History, Europe	165
DK	Russia and former Soviet Republics	2,616
DL	Northern Europe, Scandinavia	247
DP	Spain, Portugal	675
DQ	Switzerland	49
DR	Balkan Peninsula	661
DS	Asia	10,013
DT	Africa	3,420
DU	Oceania, Australia, New Zealand	803
DX	Roma	28
Total		41,248

Monograph Expenditures for World History

Fiscal Year	Amount
2013-2014	\$30,591.06
2014-2015	\$31,250.77
2015-2016	\$26,590.23
2016-2017	\$32,664.30
2017-2018	\$61,849.91 ¹
2018-2019	\$29,601.38
2019-2020	\$27,614.24
Total	\$240,161.89²

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 103 journals in World History or related areas available electronically through database subscriptions. These can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder, <http://bit.ly/2zO6DjD>. Of the 103 journals available within World History topics, 69 of those are peer-reviewed journals (<https://bit.ly/3xclSIJ>). The Serials expenditures in World History for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$30,916.51** from 2013-2020 (see table below.)

Serial Expenditures for World History

FISCAL YEAR	Total
2013-2014	\$35,500.47
2014-2015	\$31,146.97
2015-2016	\$30,914.56
2016-2017	\$40,098.93
2017-2018	\$32,197.95
2018-2019	\$22,800.29
2019-2020	\$23,756.37
Total	\$216,415.54

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 2019/20, the amount spent on aggregated databases was **\$318,780.27**, 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

¹The substantial increase for the 2017-2018 was due to special database purchases for the History Collection. The special database purchases were primary source databases like the American Antiquarian Society collection and were purchased with end of the fiscal year funds.

² Expenditures for the subject area of History include all class ranges: D, E, and F.

access to electronic journals, documents, e-books, and video databases along with integrated quality websites that encompass the area of World History, 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 History related databases at <http://libguides.jsu.edu.lib-proxy.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26266>. Additionally, the History subject guide, <http://libguides.jsu.edu/history>, 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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INTRODUCTION

The World History collection is central to the University curriculum, since it supports study for degree programs in History at both the Bachelor's and Master's levels and degrees in History, Liberal Studies with a concentration in History, and Science in Education offered by the School of Arts and Humanities and the School of Education and Professional Studies. The collection also supports minors in History and Gender Studies. The World History collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the Bachelors' programs and the Master's program. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The World History collection contains **41,248** titles in the D call number ranges, including **11,754** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for World History from 2013-2020 were **\$240,161.89** with **2,215** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **5%** of the current World History collection.

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SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT

World History 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 American History, Anthropology, Art, Gender Studies, Geography, Law, Military & Naval Science, Political Science, Philosophy, and Religion.

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 World History 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

Fiscal Year	Added to Collections D	GOBI New Titles Report⁵ D	Percentage
2013-2014	335	2,761	12%
2014-2015	373	3,044	12%
2015-2016	294	3,268	9%
2016-2017	276	3,452	8%
2017-2018	334	3,513	10%
2018-2019	332	3,757	9%
2019-2020	271	3,868	7%
Total	2,215	23,663	9%

³The substantial increase for the 2017-2018 was due to special database purchases for the History Collection. The special database purchases were primary source databases like the American Antiquarian Society collection and were purchased with end of the fiscal year funds.

⁴ Expenditures for the subject area of History include all class ranges: D, E, and F.

⁵ GOBI New Titles Report

(https://www.gobi3.com/StaticContent/GOBIContent/YBP/Private/Help/Pages/newtitlereport_us.html)

CHECKLIST SUMMARIES

Bibliographies and award lists including *Choice's* Outstanding Academic Titles (OATs), *Resources for College Libraries*, and *World History Association's Bentley Book Prize* were used to measure the quality of the Library's collection. In checking the bibliographies and award lists against the Library's catalog, the following percentages were revealed in the subject area of World History.

Bibliography (2013-2020)	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
<i>Choice's</i> Outstanding Academic Titles	125	169	74%
<i>Resources for College Libraries</i> (Subject: World History: D, DA, DS)	272	903	30%
<i>World History Association's Bentley Book Prize</i>	17	26	65%

WITHDRAWALS

As currency of information is very important in the World History 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 D classifications.

Fiscal Year	D Titles Withdrawn
2013-2014	4
2014-2015	248
2015-2016	52
2016-2017	61
2017-2018	60
2018-2019	333
2019-2020	236
Total	994

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The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 103 journals in World History or related areas available electronically through database subscriptions. These can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder, <http://bit.ly/2zO6DiD>. Of the 103 journals available within World History topics, 69 of those are peer-reviewed journals (<https://bit.ly/3xcLSIJ>). The Serials expenditures in World History for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$30,916.51** from 2013-2020 (see table below.)

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

Titles	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: World History	14	15	93%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: General History	4	4	100%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Africa	47	69	68%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Multicultural Studies	8	14	57%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Gender Studies	55	64	86%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Archives and Manuscripts	9	14	64%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Latin America and Spain	30	48	63%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: LGBTQ	4	8	50%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Genealogy	2	11	18%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Asia and the Pacific	11	13	85%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Native World	9	12	75%

Titles	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Canada	35	44	80%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Europe	24	29	83%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 rd Edition 2015: Middle East	16	17	94%
Total	268	362	74%

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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 World History collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum. Of particular note on the conspectus worksheet are the holdings in the subject areas of: World History, General; Great Britain/History; France; Russia and former Soviet Republics; Asia; and Africa. The subject areas of Greece and Italy have a good focus on the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome. Each of these areas is regularly taught in the History Department, and the print collections are routinely used by patrons.

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

Weaknesses:

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of the World History subject areas are the areas that focus on smaller countries, regions, and/or minority groups (which is included in this assessment): The Mediterranean Region; Belgium, Luxemburg; Netherlands (Holland)/History, Europe; Switzerland; Southern Africa; South Africa; and Roma/History of Romanies.

Recommendations:

The growth rate of the World History Collection should be maintained in order to provide support for the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts as well as the Minor in History. It should also be maintained in order to provide support for degree programs in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with a concentration in History and Bachelor of Science in Education. 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.