

General Works Collection Assessment

Submitted by Karlie Johnson

April 30, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The General Works Collection is a supportive library collection that impacts the University curriculum across all majors, minors, graduate, and specialized programs at Jacksonville State University. The collection is sufficient to support these and other related course offerings. Complete conspectus sheets are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The General Works collection contains **4,087** titles in the A-AZ call number ranges. This also includes **401** e-books.

These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection, as titles are continually added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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
A	General Works	14
AC	Collections; Series; Collected works	776
AE	Encyclopedias	45
AG	Dictionaries and Other General Reference Works	143
AI	Indexes	71
AM	Museums; Collectors and Collecting	109
AN	Newspapers	0
AP	Periodicals	2,441
AS	Academies and Learned Societies	316
AY	Yearbooks; Almanacs; Directories	14
AZ	History of Scholarship And Learning. The Humanities	158
Total		4,087

Monograph/Serials Expenditures for General Works

As the General Works class ranges can be applied across all disciplines, associated monetary amounts for monographs and serials expenditures are accounted for in other subject collection assessments. Collection practices for General Works are utilized across Library discipline collections to maintain a sufficient subject support core.

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are some journals related to General Works subject areas available electronically through

database subscriptions. These can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder, <https://bit.ly/3xR6Tx9>.

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 General Works, the Library's electronic collection in this subject is sufficient 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 access to General Works related subject databases which can be accessed through the search function on the A to Z Database webpage.

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 General Works Collection is a supportive library collection that impacts the University curriculum across all majors, minors, graduate, and specialized programs at Jacksonville State University. Some of the major disciplines include Business, Education, English, General Science, Geography, History, Nursing, and Social Sciences. The collection is sufficient to support these and other related course offerings. Complete conspectus sheets are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

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Monograph/Serials Expenditures for General Works

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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 many General Works 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 A-AZ	GOBI New Titles Report¹ A-AZ	Percentage
2013-2014	5	72	7%
2014-2015	4	97	4%
2015-2016	3	69	4%
2016-2017	8	113	7%
2017-2018	6	108	6%
2018-2019	8	93	9%
2019-2020	10	107	9%
2020-2021	3	99	3%
2021-2022	1	27	4%
2022-2023	3	114	3%
Total	51	899	6%

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 General Works.

<i>Choice’s Outstanding Academic Titles 2013-2023: A, General Works</i>		
Collected	Listed	Percent Held
3	4	75%

<i>Resources for College Libraries 2013-2023</i>		
Collected	Listed	Percentage Held
34	69	49%

<i>Resources for College Libraries, Reviewed in Choice, 2013-2023</i>		
Collected	Listed	Percent Held
12	17	71%

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

WITHDRAWALS

As currency of information is very important in the General Works 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 A-AZ classifications.

Fiscal Year	A-AZ Titles Withdrawn
2013-2014	1
2014-2015	6
2015-2016	14
2016-2017	1
2017-2018	0
2018-2019	14
2019-2020	2,734
2020-2021	4,120
2021-2022	198
2022-2023	11
2023-2014	61
Total	7,160

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are some journals related to General Works subject areas available electronically through database subscriptions. These can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder, <https://bit.ly/3xR6Tx9>.

The following indexes and bibliographies were checked against the Library's holdings for serial titles pertaining to related topics in General Works, revealing the corresponding percentages quantitatively and qualitatively:

<i>Magazines for Libraries Related Topics, 2020</i>			
Related Topics	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
Archives and Manuscripts	12	14	86%
Bibliography	12	19	63%
General Interest	25	31	81%
News and Opinion	14	20	70%
Total	63	84	75%

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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 General Works collection is sufficient to support the curriculum. Of note on the conspectus worksheet are the holdings in the subject areas of: Collections and Periodicals.

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the General Works collection is sufficient to support the curriculum.

Weaknesses:

The General Works collection is sufficient to support the curriculum. When another unit took over the second floor of the Library, this collection was relocated to the seventh floor. This move necessitated the withdrawal of 6,843 monograph titles from the collection. Some of these titles were available electronically, so they were converted to ensure access to the content. Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of the General Works subject areas are: Academics and Learned Societies; Encyclopedias; Indexes; and Yearbooks, Almanacs, Directories.

Recommendations:

The growth rate of the General Works Collection should be maintained to provide support for all connected disciplines. The monograph collection should be increased, based on the Library budget. The periodical collection available via databases is sufficient and should be maintained. The weak subject areas (noted above) should also be addressed in future additions to the collection.