

**Executive Summary**  
**American History Collection Assessment**

Submitted by Karlie Johnson

December 2, 2019

**INTRODUCTION**

The American 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 American History collection contains **65,095** titles in the E-F call number ranges, including **12,032** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for American History from 2013-2019 were **\$212,547.65** with **2,002** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **33%** of the current American 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection, as titles are continually added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Library Holdings</b>
E	History of the Americas (United States)	48,897
F	History of the Americas(United States-State and Local, Latin America)	16,198
<b>Total</b>		<b>65,095</b>

**Monograph Expenditures for American History**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
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 <sup>1</sup>
2018-2019	\$29,601.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$212,547.65</b>

**PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 214 journals in American History or related areas available electronically through database subscriptions. These can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder <http://bit.ly/2Oxb9HY>. Of the 214 journals available within American History topics, 116 of those are peer-reviewed journals (<http://bit.ly/2KIH2we>). The Serials expenditures in American History for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$32,109.86** from 2013-2019 (see table below.)

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<sup>1</sup>The substantial increase for the 2017-2018 was due to special database purchases for the History Collection.

### Serial Expenditures for American 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$192,659.17</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 2018/19, the amount spent on aggregated databases was **\$277,797.00**, 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 American 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>.

## American History Collection Assessment

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The American History Collection is central to the University curriculum, since it supports study for degree program in the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts as well as the Minor in History, offered by the Department of History and Foreign Languages. The American History Collection also supports study for degree programs in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with a concentration in History, and Bachelor of Science in Education. The American 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 American History collection contains **65,095** titles in the E-F call number ranges, including **12,032** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for American History from 2013-2019 were **\$212,547.65** with **2,002** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **33%** of the current American History collection.

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## **SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT**

American 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 Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Education, 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 American 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**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Added to Collections E-F</b>	<b>GOBI New Titles Report<sup>3</sup> E-F</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2013-2014	324	2,075	16%
2014-2015	385	2,019	19%
2015-2016	305	1,973	15%
2016-2017	353	1,972	18%
2017-2018	289	1,862	16%
2018-2019	346	2,023	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>11,924</b>	<b>17%</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 American History.

<b>Bibliography (2013-2019)</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
<i>Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles</i>	404	577	70%
<i>Resources for College Libraries</i> (Subject: American History)	324	1,140	28%
<i>American Reference Books Annual</i>	48	247	19%

<sup>3</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))

## **WITHDRAWALS**

As currency of information is very important in the American 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 E-F classifications.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>E-F Titles Withdrawn</b>
2013-2014	3
2014-2015	1,226
2015-2016	137
2016-2017	426
2017-2018	40
2018-2019	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,925</b>

## **PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

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### **Serial Expenditures for American History**

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>Total</b>
2013-2014	\$35,500.47
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The following indexes and bibliographies, when checked against the Library's holdings for serial titles pertaining to American History, 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: American History	10	10	100%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: General History	4	4	100%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: African American	43	63	68%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Gender Studies	55	64	86%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Archives and Manuscripts	9	14	64%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Education	150	161	93%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: LGBTQ	4	8	50%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Genealogy	2	11	18%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Latino Studies	12	18	67%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015: Native American	9	12	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>82%</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 American 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: History- Americas (General Indian N. America), History- United States (Colonial, Special Topics), History- United States, General Works, History- United States (Slavery & Civil War), History- United States (Since the Civil War), U. S.- State & Local History- Gulf States, and History- South America.

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

### **Weaknesses:**

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of the American History subject areas are the areas that focus on early Latin America (which is included in this assessment): Uruguay- Colonial, Uruguay- Local History & Description, Argentina- Colonial, and Bolivia- Colonial.

### **Recommendations:**

The growth rate of the American 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.