

Executive Summary
Languages and Related Literatures Collection Assessment

Submitted by Kim Westbrooks
 January 30, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Languages and Related Literatures collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the Bachelor of Arts in English; Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages – Spanish; and the Master of Arts in English. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The Languages and Related Literatures collection contains **72,051** titles in the P 1-PN 9999 call number ranges, including 22,365 e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Languages and Related Literatures from fiscal year 2017-2018 to fiscal year 2023-2024 were **\$227,889.15** with 1,872 new titles added. These newer additions comprise 2.6% of the current Languages and Related Literatures 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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.

Classification	Subject Area	Library Holdings
P 1-P 9999	Philology and Linguistics	2,474
PA 1-PA 9999	Classics	1,737
PB 1-PB 9999	Celtic Languages and Literature	217
PC 1-PC 9999	Romance Languages	761
PD 1-PD 9999	Old Germanic and Scandinavian Languages	95
PE 1-PE 9999	English	3,780
PF 1-PF 9999	Dutch and Modern German	310
PG 1-PG 9999	Slavic	1,711
PH 1-PH 9999	Finnish	89
PJ 1-PJ 9999	Oriental and Semitic Languages	501
PK 1-PK 9999	Indo and Iranian Languages	163
PL 1-PL 9999	East Asian, African, and Oceanic Languages	907
PM 1-PM 9999	Indigenous American and Artificial Languages	151
PN 1-PN 9999	Literature (including Drama and Communication)	59,155
Total		72,051

Monograph Expenditures for Languages and Related Literatures

Fiscal Year	Amount
2017-2018	\$41,248.36
2018-2019	\$41,017.71
2019-2020	\$33,155.27
2020-2021	\$35,429.25
2021-2022	\$28,677.12
2022-2023	\$25,015.71
2023-2024	\$23,345.73
Total	\$227,889.15

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are 56 peer-reviewed, academic Languages and Related Literatures journals available electronically through database subscriptions, which can be found in at <https://bit.ly/4aOG5x0> or through EBSCO's Publication Finder at <http://bit.ly/2zO6DiD>. The Serials expenditures in Languages and Related Literatures for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$29,324.37** from fiscal year 2017-2018 to fiscal year 2023-2024 (see table below).

Serial Expenditures for Languages and Related Literatures

Fiscal Year	Total
2017-2018	\$33,581.60
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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 Languages and Related Literatures, 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 Languages and Related Literatures related databases at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26298> and at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26261>. Additionally, the Foreign Languages guide (<https://libguides.jsu.edu/fl>) and the Languages and Related Literatures guide (<https://libguides.jsu.edu/literature>), which are maintained by the subject specialists, provide a list of and access to the resources specifically for these subjects.

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

Languages and Related Literatures Collection Assessment

Submitted by Kimberly Westbrooks

January 30, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Languages and Related Literatures collection is central to the University curriculum, since it supports study for degree programs in English and History and Foreign Language at the Bachelor's and Master's levels in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences. The collection also supports Minors in Foreign Languages, Latin American Studies, Teaching French, and Teaching Spanish in the Department of History and Foreign Languages along with the degree in their major field. The Languages and Related Literatures collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the Bachelor of Arts in English; Bachelor of Arts Foreign Languages – Spanish; and the Master of Arts in English programs. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The Languages and Related Literatures collection contains **72,051** titles in the P 1-PN 9999 call number ranges, including 22,365 e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Languages and Related Literatures from fiscal year 2017-2018 to fiscal year 2023-2024 were **\$227,889.15** with 1,872 new titles added. These newer additions comprise 2.6% of the current Languages and Related Literatures collection.

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SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT

Languages and Related Literatures 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 collection of Art.

Number of titles held for support subdivisions outside the Languages and Related Literatures Classifications:

Classification	Category	Totals
N 1-9211	Visual Arts	5,202
NX 1-820	Arts in General	877

PEER INSTITUTION COMPARISON

Below is a table comparing book collections of Alabama public universities in a four or more year, medium-sized population.

https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/institutions/?inst=&sizeset2021_fy%5B%5D=md&control%5B%5D=1&iclevel%5B%5D=1&stabbr%5B%5D=AL

Library	Number of French/Spanish Books
Alabama A & M University (MWT)	232
Alabama State University (AMU)	606
Auburn University at Montgomery (AAM)	692
Jacksonville State University (AJB)	1,703
University of Alabama in Huntsville (MWR)	1,097
University of North Alabama (ANO)	871
University of West Alabama (ALT)	261

Language book collections were examined in the WorldCat database using the Subject terms “spanish” OR “french” and the Keyword term “language” at

[https://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/oclcfirstsearchworldcat.](https://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/oclcfirstsearchworldcat)

The Houston Cole Library (AJB) monograph collection compares favorably with the others in the number of books held.

*OCLC Code: from <http://www.oclc.org/contacts/libraries/>

**Library Name: from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education
<http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/lookup/standard.php>

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 P-PN	YBP New Titles Report¹	Percentage
2017-2018	321	4,647	7%
2018-2019	364	5,530	7%
2019-2020	272	5,315	5%
2020-2021	224	4,610	5%
2021-2022	257	4,804	5%
2022-2023	326	4,610	7%
2023-2024	108	5,268	2%
Total	1,872	34,784	5%

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 Languages and Related Literatures.

<i>Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles 2018-2023</i>			
Year	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
2018	12	18	67%
2019	22	29	76%
2020	13	18	72%
2021	11	14	79%
2022	11	16	69%
2023	3	5	60%
TOTALS	72	100	72%

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

<i>Resources for College Libraries 2018 – 2023</i> <i>LC Class P-PN9999</i>			
Publication Year	Collected	Listed	Percentage Held
2018	91	325	28%
2019	142	374	38%
2020	81	224	36%
2021	79	185	43%
2022	77	254	30%
2023	76	205	37%
TOTALS	546	1,567	35%

WITHDRAWALS

As currency of information is very important in the Languages and Related Literatures 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 P-PN classifications.

Fiscal Year	P Titles Withdrawn	PA-PM Titles Withdrawn	PN1-1559, PN3311-4698, PN6010
2017-2018	357	111	4
2018-2019	35	117	54
2019-2020	149	26	10
2020-2021	1	5	0
2021-2022	72	158	515
2022-2023	0	10	97
2023-2024	0	292	8
Total	614	719	688

*Cataloging statistics are broken down into Linguistics and Languages categories.

P = Linguistics

PA - PM = Romance Language

PN1-1559, PN3311-4698, PN6010 = Languages & Related Literatures

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

Titles	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
Magazines for Libraries 28 th Edition 2019	26	44	59%

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Literatures guide <https://libguides.jsu.edu/fl> and <https://libguides.jsu.edu/literature>, which is maintained by the subject specialists, 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.

There is also a growing amount of content published via Open Access (OA) publishing and/or under the Creative Commons (CC) Attribution License. Anyone is allowed to download, use, reuse, distribute, or even modify the content as long as the original author and source are cited. More information can be found at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/oer>.

SUMMARY

Strengths:

Total holdings, conspectus evaluation, and checklist comparisons indicate the overall Languages and Related Literatures collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum. Of particular note on the conspectus worksheets are the holdings in the subject areas of: Linguistics with 2,472 titles, Modern English with 3,780 titles, Slavic. Baltic. Arabian. with 1,710 titles, Russian literature with 1,371 titles, and Prose fiction with 963 titles.

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the Languages and Related Literatures collection is adequate to support the curriculum.

Weaknesses:

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of the Languages and Related Literatures subject areas are: Medieval and Modern Greek Language, Early Modern English, Christian Oriental, Islamic, Arabic, and Languages of South America.

Recommendations:

The growth rate of the Languages and Related Literatures Collection should be maintained in order to continue providing support for the B.A. in English and Foreign Languages and the M.A. in English, in addition to minors in Foreign Languages, Latin American Studies, Teaching French, and Teaching Spanish. The monograph collection should be generally increased, based on budget, with a strong focus on core and outstanding titles. 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.