

**Executive Summary**  
**Social Work Collection Assessment**  
Submitted by Cameron Barnes  
April 2025

**INTRODUCTION**

The Social Work collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the Bachelor and Master of Social Work degree programs. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

**HOLDINGS**

The Social Work collection contains **51,958** titles in the H, HM, HN, HQ, HS, HT, and HV1 – HV5840 call number ranges, including 16,689 e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Social Work from 2018/2019 - 2023/2024 were **\$111,876.70** with 1,613 new titles added. These newer additions comprise 3% of the current Social Work 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Library Holdings</b>
H	Social Science	4,717
HM	Sociology	4,748
HN	Social History and Conditions	3,547
HQ	Family, Marriage, and Women	10,810
HS	Societies	231
HT	Communities, Classes, and Race	3,638
HV1 – HV5840	Social Pathology, Social and Public Welfare	7,578
E-Books	H – HV5840	16,689
<b>Total</b>		<b>51,958</b>

### **Monograph Expenditures for Social Work**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2018/2019	\$23,844.83
2019/2020	\$14,944.86
2020/2021	\$27,926.83
2021/2022	\$10,866.82
2022/2023	\$16,424.17
2023/2024	\$17,869.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$111,876.70</b>

### **PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 145 journals available electronically through database subscriptions, 109 of which are peer-reviewed. These can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <http://bit.ly/3t6DOeH>. The Serials expenditures in Social Work for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$27,125.49** from FY 2018/2019 to FY 2023-2024 (see table below).

### **Serial Expenditures for Social Work**

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>Total</b>
2018/2019	\$9,750.36
2019/2020	\$30,322.71
2020/2021	\$37,779.21
2021/2022	\$22,858.52
2022/2023	\$35,505.72
2023/2024	\$26,536.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$162,752.91</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 sub-divided into subject categories. In 2023-2024, aggregator databases totaled \$374,107.64, 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 Social

Work, 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 Social Work-related databases at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26281>. Additionally, the Social Work subject guide (<https://libguides.jsu.edu/sw>), which is 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>.

## Social Work Collection Assessment

Submitted by Cameron Barnes

April 2025

### INTRODUCTION

The Social Work collection is central to the University curriculum, since it supports study for degree programs in Social Work at (both) the Bachelor's and Master's levels offered by the School of Human Services and Social Sciences. The Social Work collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the Bachelor's and Master's of Social Work programs. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

### HOLDINGS

The Social Work collection contains **51,958** titles in the H, HM, HN, HQ, HS, HT, and HV1-HV5840 call number ranges, including 16,689 e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Social Work from 2018/2019 to 2023/2024 were **\$111,876.70**, with 1,613 new titles added. These newer additions comprise 3% of the current Social Work collection.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT**

Social Work 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 Biology, Criminal Justice, Education, Ethics, History, Law, Nursing, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, and Religion.

**Number of titles held for support subdivisions outside the Social Work Classifications:**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Totals</b>
B	Philosophy	4,185
BF	Psychology	9,991
BJ	Ethics	1,406
BL-BX	Religion	14,747
D-F	History	106,238
HV6001-HV9960	Criminal Justice	16,065
J	Political Science and Public Administration	23,380
K	Law	13,913
L	Education	37,576
QH301-QH705.5	Biology	4,136
RT	Nursing	1,288
<b>Total</b>		<b>232,925</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 Social Work.

<b>Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles 2018-2024</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Held</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
Social Work	266	521	51%

<b>Resources for College Libraries 2018-2024</b>			
<b>LC CLASS</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percentage Held</b>
H	5	9	56%
HM	74	204	36%
HN	18	59	31%
HQ	154	461	33%
HS	2	2	100%
HT	25	112	22%
HV1 – HV5840	23	69	33%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>33%</b>

### **WITHDRAWALS**

As currency of information is very important in the Social Work 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 H-HA, HM-HV6000, and HX classifications.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>HA and HM-HV6000, HX</b>
2018-2019	167
2019-2020	1,159
2020-2021	24
2021-2022	128
2022-2023	5
2023-2024	336
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,819</b>

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The following index was checked against the Library's holdings for serial titles pertaining to Social Work, revealing the corresponding percentage:

Titles	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Edition 2015	104	107	97%

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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.

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## **SUMMARY**

### **Strengths:**

Total holdings, conspectus evaluation, and checklist comparisons indicate the overall Social Work collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum. Of particular note on the conspectus worksheets are the holdings in the subject areas of: Family, Marriage, Women, Sexual Life and Social Work, Social & Public Welfare.

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the Social Work collection is adequate to support the curriculum.

### **Weaknesses:**

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of the Social Work subject areas are: Social History, Social Problems, Social Reform, in addition to Societies – Secret, Benevolent, etc., as well as Communities, Classes, Races.

### **Recommendations:**

The growth rate of the Social Work Collection should be maintained in order to continue providing support for the Bachelor and Master of Social Work degree programs. 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 with additional acquisitions as determined by academic need and budget allowances.