

Executive Summary
Western European Collection Assessment
 Submitted by Laura Pitts
 October 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Western European Literatures collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the Bachelor's and Master's programs in English, Foreign Languages, and Secondary Education, which incorporate the collection into their curricula. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The Western European Literatures collection contains **13,680** titles in the PQ and PT call number ranges, including 3,360 e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Western European Literatures from FY 2017-2018 to FY 2022-2023 were **\$167,633.42** with 419 new titles added. These newer additions comprise 3% of the current Western European 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| PQ1-PQ999.9 | Romance Language Literatures | 9,772 |
| PT1-PT999.9 | Germanic Language Literatures | 3,908 |
| Total | | 13,680 |

Monograph Expenditures for Literature*

| 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 |
| Total | \$204,543.42 |

* Expenditure amounts are for all literatures. Literature discipline expenditures cannot be subdivided.

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 85 journals for Western European Literatures available electronically through database subscriptions, which can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <http://bit.ly/2zO6DjD>. The Serials expenditures in Western European Literatures for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$30,849.20** from FY 2017-2018 to FY 2022-2023 (see table below).

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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 Western European Literature 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 related databases at <http://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26278>. Additionally, the Language and Literature guide at <http://libguides.jsu.edu/literature> 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/2fyemmj>.

Western European Collection Assessment

Submitted by Laura Pitts

November 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Western European Literatures collection is central to the University curriculum, since it supports study for the degree program in Foreign Languages at the Bachelor's level and degrees in English at the Bachelor's and Master's levels offered by the School of Arts and Humanities, as well as the Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Secondary Education offered by the school of Education. The collection also supports minors in these areas along with the degree in the major field. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

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SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT

Interdisciplinary subjects are those that extend beyond the boundaries of the assessed discipline. Supplemental support for research to the Western European Literatures collection includes a wide range of such subject areas, including the holdings in the related subject collections of American Literature, Arts (General), Drama, English Literature, Ethics, General Works, History, Languages, Music, Philosophy (General), and Religion.

Number of titles held for support subdivisions outside the Western European Literatures Classifications:

| Classification | Category | Totals |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| PS | American Literature | 53,796 |
| NX | Arts (General) | 866 |
| PN | Drama | 3,407 |
| PR | English Literature | 39,261 |
| BJ | Ethics | 1,400 |
| A-AZ | General Works | 4,103 |
| D-DX | History | 41,925 |
| PA, PB, PC | Languages (Classical, Modern European, Celtic, and Romance Languages) | 1,951 |
| ML | Music | 8,753 |
| B | Philosophy (General) | 4,193 |
| BK – BX | Religion | 14,721 |

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 PQ PT | YBP New Titles Report¹ | Percentage |
|--------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| FY 2017-2018 | PQ: 51 PT: 17 | PQ: 593 PT: 290 | PQ: 9% PT: 6% |
| FY 2018-2019 | PQ: 44 PT: 31 | PQ: 582 PT: 325 | PQ: 8% PT: 10% |
| FY 2019-2020 | PQ: 46 PT: 26 | PQ: 424 PT: 231 | PQ: 11% PT: 11% |
| FY 2020-2021 | PQ: 54 PT: 16 | PQ: 551 PT: 286 | PQ: 10% PT: 6% |
| FY 2021-2022 | PQ: 72 PT: 30 | PQ: 532 PT: 279 | PQ: 14% PT: 11% |
| FY 2022-2023 | PQ: 23 PT: 9 | PQ: 550 PT: 265 | PQ: 4% PT: 3% |
| Total | PQ: 290 PT: 129 | PQ: 3,232 PT: 1,676 | PQ: 9% PT: 8% |

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 Western European Literature.

| <i>Resources for College Libraries 2017 - 2022</i> | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| LC Class | Collected | Listed | Percent Held |
| PQ1 – PQ999.9 Romantic Literature | 160 | 746 | 21% |
| PT1 – PT 999.9 Germanic Literature | 50 | 225 | 22% |
| TOTALS | 210 | 971 | 22% |

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

| Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles 2017-2022 | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| LC CLASS | Collected | Listed | Percentage Held |
| PQ1 – PQ999.9 Romantic Literature | 47 | 107 | 44% |
| PT1 – PT 999.9 Germanic Literature | 4 | 28 | 14% |
| TOTALS | 51 | 135 | 38% |

WITHDRAWALS

As currency of information is very important in the Western European 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 PQ and PT classifications, which totals 183.

| Fiscal Year | PQ Titles Withdrawn |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2017-2018 | 11 |
| 2018-2019 | 9 |
| 2019-2020 | 3 |
| 2020-2021 | 0 |
| 2021-2022 | 1 |
| 2022-2023 | 17 |
| Total Withdrawals | 41 |

| Fiscal Year | PT Titles Withdrawn |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2017-2018 | 1 |
| 2018-2019 | 5 |
| 2019-2020 | 1 |
| 2020-2021 | 108 |
| 2021-2022 | 3 |
| 2022-2023 | 24 |
| Total Withdrawals | 142 |

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The following indexes and bibliographies were checked against the Library's holdings for serial titles pertaining to Western European Literature, revealing the corresponding percentages:

| Titles | Collected | Listed | Percent Held |
|--|-----------|--------|--------------|
| <i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28th Edition 2019 | 94 | 106 | 89% |

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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 Western European 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 French Literature, Spanish Literature, and German Literature. However, because the collection is not central to a degree program, the strength of the collection cannot be measured across its entire spectrum but must be determined based on individual authors and works as they complement courses in the degree programs of Foreign Languages and English.

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the Western European Literatures collection is adequate to support the curriculum.

Weaknesses:

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of the Western European Literatures Collection subject areas are related to provincial, local and colonial categories. Canon expansion mandates that acquisitions emphasis be moved from the traditional core to post-colonial authors and works, particularly those of the twenty-first century. These are the things finding their way into the curriculum more and more (the same is true of Asian and Eastern European writers), and because this is a recent development this part of the collection is the weakest. It should be kept in mind that the areas with the smallest holdings are so largely because they are out of scope for the curriculum.

Recommendations:

The growth rate of the Western European Literatures collection should be maintained to continue providing support for majors and minors in the degree programs of English, Foreign Languages, and Secondary Education. The monograph collection should be selectively increased, based on budget and the curriculum, 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. At present, this strengthening focuses on literatures of former colonies of the Western European nations, as authors from these nations are receiving a higher profile in the curriculum.

Since canon expansion mandates that emphasis be moved from the traditional core to post-colonial authors and works, particularly those of the twenty-first century, areas that complement the degree programs the most will be heavily selected. Because this is an area of weakness in the collection, developing the collection to reflect more of the post-colonial authors and their works can bridge gaps of literature that might be appropriate complementary works for courses or assignments. However, awareness and attentiveness by the subject specialist will ensure the collection will be strengthened in appropriate areas as the curriculum evolves. The focus should be on literatures of former colonies of the Western European nations, as authors from these nations are receiving a higher profile in the curriculum.