

**Executive Summary**  
**American History Collection Assessment**  
Submitted by Karlie Johnson  
June 26, 2025

**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 **64,530** titles in the E-F call number ranges, including **12,101** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for American History from 2019-2025 were **\$126,052.93** with **1,458** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **2%** 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection, as titles are continually added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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)	48,404
F	History of the Americas (United States-State and Local, Latin America)	16,126
<b>Total</b>		<b>64,530</b>

**Monograph Expenditures for American History**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2018-2019	\$29,601.38
2019-2020	\$27,614.24
2020-2021	\$21,124.94
2021-2022	\$13,068.75
2022-2023	\$15,505.94
2023-2024	\$19,137.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$126,052.93</b>

**PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 267 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 267 journals available within American History topics, 170 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 **\$24,908.50** from 2019-2024 (see table below.)

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

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>Total</b>
2018-2019	\$24,814.36
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2021-2022	\$22,830.28
2022-2023	\$31,246.74
2023-2024	\$24,483.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$149,451.02</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. A more accurate reporting of Library subject support for serials is represented in the 'Browse by Discipline' listings in Publication Finder:  
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,guest&custid=s4594803&groupid=main&profile=jsueds&db=edspub&plp=1&direct=true>. For 2023/24, the amount spent on aggregated databases was **\$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 American History, the Library's electronic collection in this subject is adequate to support the curriculum.

A complete list of all 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 <https://libguides.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**  
Submitted by Karlie Johnson and Emma Dunn  
June 26, 2025

**INTRODUCTION**

The American History Collection is central to the University curriculum, as it supports study for degree program in the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts as well as the Minors in History, Asian Studies, Gender Studies, and Latin American Studies, 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 Integrated Studies with a concentration in History, and Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education – General Social Studies. The collection also supports the graduate certificates of Teaching College U.S. History and Teaching College World History offered by the Department of History and Foreign Languages. 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 **64,530** titles in the E-F call number ranges, including **12,101** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for American History from 2019-2025 were **\$126,052.93** with **1,458** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **2%** 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, Art, Criminal Justice, Education,

English, Geography, Law, Military & Naval Science, Political Science, Philosophy, Religion, Sociology, and Theatre.

### **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 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>1</sup> E-F</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2018-2019	354	2,023	17%
2019-2020	244	1,685	14%
2020-2021	285	1,800	16%
2021-2022	187	1,776	11%
2023-2024	183	1,741	11%
2024-2025	205	1,760	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>10,785</b>	<b>14%</b>

### **CHECKLIST SUMMARIES**

Bibliographies including *American Reference Books Annual*, *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><i>Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles 2019-2025</i></b>		
<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
466	612	76%

<b><i>Resources for College Libraries 2019-2025</i></b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percentage Held</b>
American History	1,741	2,830	62%

<b><i>American Reference Books Annual 2019 Edition</i></b>		
<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
15	37	41%

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<sup>1</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>QA Titles Withdrawn</b>
2019-2020	73
2020-2021	35
2021-2022	2,509
2022-2023	27
2023-2024	89
2024-2025	1,543 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,276</b>

## **PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

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<sup>2</sup> 2024/25 is not a complete year. Stats end with March 2025.

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> 28 <sup>th</sup> Edition 2020: American History	10	10	100%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28 <sup>th</sup> Edition 2020: General History	7	7	100%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28 <sup>th</sup> Edition 2020: African American	57	71	80%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28 <sup>th</sup> Edition 2020: Gender Studies	57	69	83%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28 <sup>th</sup> Edition 2020: Archives and Manuscripts	11	14	79%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28 <sup>th</sup> Edition 2020: Education	101	105	96%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28 <sup>th</sup> Edition 2020: LGBTQ	6	8	75%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28 <sup>th</sup> Edition 2020: Genealogy	3	18	17%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28 <sup>th</sup> Edition 2020: Latino Studies	12	16	75%
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28 <sup>th</sup> Edition 2020: Native American	7	11	64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>82%</b>

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Through partnerships, such as the one with the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL), the Library can 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), U.S. - Confederate States of America, History- United States (Since the Civil War), U.S.- Twentieth Century, 1945-, U.S. - State & Local history - Atlantic Coast, 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 Guatemala- Colonial, 1535-1821, Guatemala- Independence & Revolution to 1945, Guatemala- 1945 to present, Caribbean, West Indies (except Cuba) National, Colombia- Local History & Description, Venezuela- Colonial, Venezuela- National, Venezuela- Local History & Description, Paraguay- Colonial, Uruguay- Colonial, Uruguay- Local History & Description, Argentina- Colonial, Chile- Colonial, Bolivia- Colonial, Bolivia- Local History & Description, Peru- Nineteenth Century, Ecuador- Colonial, Ecuador- National, and Ecuador- Local History & Description.

### **Recommendations:**

The growth rate of the American History Collection should be maintained to provide support for the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts as well as the Minors in History, Asian Studies, Gender Studies, and Latin American Studies. It should also be maintained to provide support for degree programs in the Bachelor of Arts in Integrated 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.