

Executive Summary
Anthropology Collection Assessment
 Submitted by Karlie Johnson
 December 2, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Anthropology Collection is central to the University curriculum as a support subject and supports study in other disciplines, including Geography, Social Sciences, and General Science. The collection is more than adequate to support the Anthropology course offerings. Complete conspectus sheets are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The Anthropology collection contains **4,461** titles in the GN, GR, and GT call number ranges. This also includes **2,633** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Anthropology from 2017-2022 were **\$38,541.08** with **252** new titles added. These newer additions comprise **6%** of the current Anthropology 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection, as titles are continually added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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.

Classification	Subject Area	Library Holdings
GN	Anthropology	2,548
GR	Folklore	852
GT	Manners and Customs	1,061
Total		4,461

Monograph Expenditures for Anthropology¹

Fiscal Year	Amount
2017-2018	\$9,732.53
2018-2019	\$10,799.91
2019-2020	\$6,974.65
2020-2021	\$7,184.18
2021-2022	\$3,849.81
Total	\$38,541.08

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 350 journals in Anthropology or related areas available electronically through database subscriptions. These can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder <http://bit.ly/3EMpeLS>². Of the 350+ journals available within Anthropology topics, 230 of those are peer-reviewed journals which can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/3gPWrd>. The Serials expenditures in Anthropology for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$2,630.62** from 2017-2022 (see table below).

¹ Includes expenditures for Geography and Geology

² Select the journal limiter under Resource Type to view only Anthropology topic journals

Serial Expenditures for Anthropology

FISCAL YEAR	Total
2017-2018	\$4,176.25
2018-2019	\$3,857.55
2019-2020	\$1,751.87
2020-2021	\$1,349.27
2021-2022	\$2,018.15
Total	\$13,153.09

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 2021-2022, the amount spent on aggregated databases was \$281,810.00, 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 Anthropology, 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 Anthropology related databases at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=30427>. Additionally, the Biological Anthropology course guide <https://libguides.jsu.edu/AN350>, currently serves as the main Anthropology subject guide and is maintained by the subject specialist. The guide 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>.

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SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT

Anthropology is an interdisciplinary subject that extends beyond the boundaries of the discipline. Holdings in the related subject collections of Geography, Geology, History, Science, Sociology, and Technology, provide additional support to the Anthropology Collection.

³ Includes expenditures for Geography and Geology

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 Anthropology 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

Fiscal Year	Added to Collections GN-GT	GOBI New Titles Report⁴ GN-GT	Percentage
2017-2018	65	545	12%
2018-2019	75	552	14%
2019-2020	49	523	9%
2020-2021	30	568	5%
2021-2022	33	551	6%
Total	252	2,739	9%

CHECKLIST SUMMARIES

Bibliographies including *Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles (OATs)*, *Resources for College Libraries*, and American Ethnological Society book awards and prizes 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 Anthropology.

<i>Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles 2017-2022: GN, Anthropology</i>		
Collected	Listed	Percent Held
9	13	69%

<i>Resources for College Libraries 2017-2022</i>			
Subject	Collected	Listed	Percentage Held
Anthropology ⁵	33	76	43%

<i>American Ethnological Society: Sharon Stephens First Book Award, 1996-2021</i>		
Collected	Listed	Percent Held
9	31	29%

⁴ GOBI New Titles Report

(https://www.gobi3.com/StaticContent/GOBIContent/YBP/Private/Help/Pages/newtitlereport_us.html)

⁵ Includes Folklore and Manners and Customs

American Ethnological Society: Senior Book Prize, 1996-2021		
Collected	Listed	Percent Held
11	26	42%

WITHDRAWALS

As currency of information is very important in the Anthropology 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 GN-GT classifications.

Fiscal Year	GN-GT Titles Withdrawn
2016-2017	93
2017-2018	11
2018-2019	48
2019-2020	52
2020-2021	1
2021-2022	1
Total	206

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⁶ Select the journal limiter under Resource Type to view only Anthropology topic journals

The following indexes and bibliographies, when checked against the Library's holdings for serial titles pertaining to Anthropology, revealed the corresponding percentages:

Titles	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
SCImago Journal Rank (SJR): Anthropology (Top 100)	82	100	82%
SCImago Journal Rank (SJR): Archaeology (Top 100)	70	100	70%
Total	152	200	76%

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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 Anthropology collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum. Of particular note on the conspectus worksheet are the holdings in the subject areas of: Anthropology; By Region or Country; By Subject; Cultural Traits, Customs, and Institutions; Costume, Dress, Fashion; Customs Relative to Private Life; Customs Relative to Public and Social Life; Ethnic Groups and Races; Ethnology, Social and Cultural Anthropology; Folklore; Manners and Customs (General); Physical Anthropology; and Prehistoric Archaeology.

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the Anthropology collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum.

Weaknesses:

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of the Anthropology subject areas are: Applied Anthropology; Anthropometry; Churches and Church Going; Costume, Jewelry; Customs Relative to Transportation and Travel; Economic Organization, Economic Anthropology; Folk Beliefs, Superstitions, etc. (General); Medicine, Folk Medicine; Medical Anthropology; and Transportation, Travel, Commerce, etc.

Recommendations:

The growth rate of the Anthropology Collection should be maintained to provide support for the Anthropology course offerings and connected support disciplines. 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.