

Executive Summary
Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation Collection Assessment

Submitted by Kim Westbrook

February 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation collection is adequate to support the courses taught in all Criminal Justice Bachelor’s and Master’s level degree programs and in the Forensic Investigation Bachelor’s level degree program. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation collection contains **15,984** titles in the HV 6001 – HV 9960 call number ranges, including 3,929 e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Criminal Justice from FY 2018/19 – FY 2022/23 were **\$66,897.37** with 801 new titles added. These newer additions comprise 5% of the current Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation 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These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth.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
HV6001 - HV9960	Criminology, Criminal Justice	15,984
HV6001 - HV9960	Ebooks	3,929
K1 – KZA9999	Law	14,030
K	Ebooks	10,614

Monograph Expenditures for Criminal Justice

Fiscal Year	Amount
2018 - 2019	\$13,571.55
2019 - 2020	\$13,182.05
2020 - 2021	\$13,089.20
2021 - 2022	\$12,242.92
2022 - 2023	\$14,811.65
Total	\$66,897.37

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over [231 peer-reviewed](#), academic journals available electronically through database subscriptions, which can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <https://bit.ly/2OwLEt6>. The serials expenditures in Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$2,321.69** from FY 2018/19 – FY 2022/23 (see table below.)

Serial Expenditures for Criminal Justice

FISCAL YEAR	Total
2018-2019	\$2,725.38
2019-2020	\$2,420.96
2020-2021	\$2,089.42
2021-2022	\$2,229.71
2022-2023	\$2,142.98
Total	\$11,608.45

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://bit.ly/3t6DOeH>. In FY 2022-2023, aggregator databases totaled \$364,276.05, 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 Criminal Justice and Forensics, the Library's electronic collection in this subject is adequate to support the curriculum.

A complete list of all of Library 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 Criminal Justice related databases at <http://libguides.jsu.edu.lib-proxy.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26253>. Additionally, the Criminal Justice guide (<http://libguides.jsu.edu/criminaljustice>), 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>.

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INTRODUCTION

The Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation collection is central to the University curriculum supporting study for degree programs in Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation offered by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The collection supports Criminal Justice degree programs at both the Bachelor's and Master's levels with concentrations available at the undergraduate level in Law Enforcement and Offender Rehabilitation. The collection also supports the Forensic Investigation degree program at the Bachelor's level, including its Criminal Investigation and Forensic Lab Technician concentrations.

The collection also supports Criminal Justice, Forensic Investigations, Law Enforcement, and Offender Rehabilitation minors, along with the degree in their major field. The Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation collection is adequate to support the courses taught in all Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation Bachelor's and Master's level programs. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

HOLDINGS

The Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation collection contains **15,984** titles in the HV 6001 – HV 9960 call number ranges, including 3,929 e-books. Total monograph expenditures for Criminal Justice from FY 2018/19 – FY 2022/23 were **\$66,897.37** with 801 new titles added. These newer additions comprise 5% of the current Criminal Justice 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.

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SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT

Criminal Justice 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 Emergency Management; Forensic Sciences; Law; Nursing; Philosophy, Ethics and Religion; Psychology; Political Science and Public Administration; Social Work; and Sociology.

Number of titles held for support subdivisions outside the Criminal Justice Classifications:

Classification	Category	Totals
B1 – BX9999	Philosophy, Psychology and Religion	31,960
HM1 – HN9999	Sociology and Social History	8,452
HV1 – HV5999	Social and Public Welfare	7,554
J1 – JZ9999	Political Science and Public Administration	23,384
K1 – KZA9999	Law	14,030
RA1001 – RA1171	Forensic Medicine	182
RA1190 – RA1270	Toxicology	380
RC512 – RC569.5	Psychopathology	1,842
RT1 – RT120	Nursing	1,316

PEER INSTITUTION COMPARISON

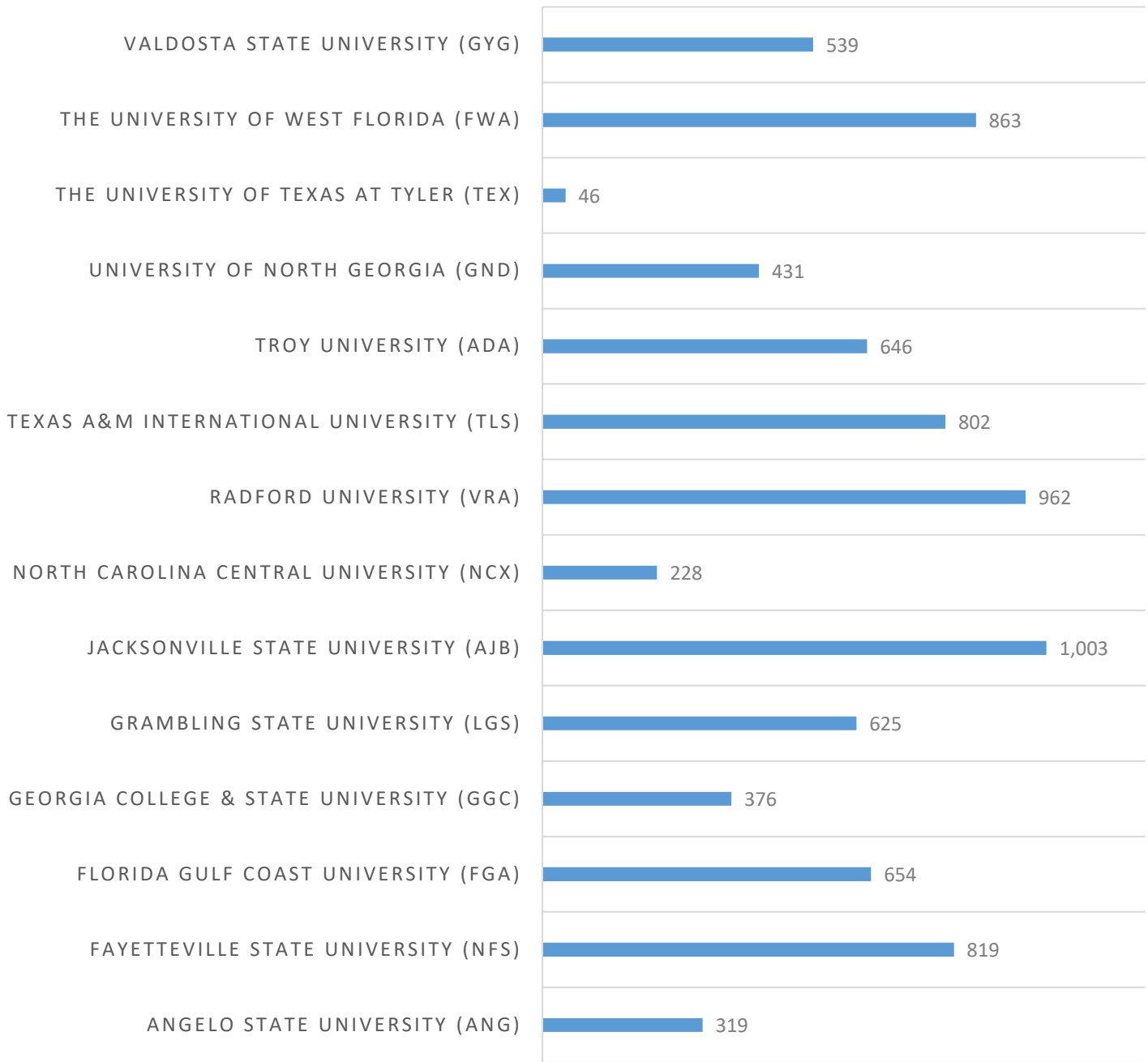
Below is a table comparing book collections of SACS¹-accredited, public, level V universities offering Master of Sciences degrees in Criminal Justice.

The Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation book collections were examined in the WorldCat database using the Keyword term “criminology” at <https://bit.ly/3SMYwK7>.

¹ Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accredited List: <https://sacscoc.org/institutions/>

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

CRIMINOLOGY BOOK COLLECTIONS OF SACS ACCREDITED, LEVEL V, PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES OFFERING MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE



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 HV – Social Pathology	YBP New Titles Report² HV – Social Pathology	Percentage
2018 – 2019	161	1,528	11%
2019 – 2020	117	1,378	8%
2020 – 2021	208	1,306	16%
2021 – 2022	139	1,363	10%
2022 – 2023	176	1,301	14%
Total (FY 2018/19 – FY 2022/23)	801	6,876	12%

CHECKLIST SUMMARIES

Bibliographies include *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 Criminal Justice.

<i>Choice's</i> Outstanding Academic Titles 2018 - 2022			
Year	Collected	Listed	Percent Held
2018	8	8	100%
2019	7	8	88%
2020	2	4	50%
2021	3	5	60%
2022	2	3	67%
TOTALS	22	28	79%

² GOBI New Titles Report
(https://www.gobi3.com/StaticContent/GOBIContent/YBP/Private/Help/Pages/newtitlereport_us.html)

Resources for College Libraries 2018 – 2022 Criminal Justice			
Year	Collected	Listed	Percentage Held
2018	33	63	52%
2019	16	28	57%
2020	22	34	65%
2021	13	39	33%
2022	9	27	33%
TOTALS	93	191	49%

WITHDRAWALS

As currency of information is very important in the Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation 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 HV6001 – HV9960 classifications.

Fiscal Year	HV6001-HV9960 Titles Withdrawn	K Titles Withdrawn
2018 – 2019	88	599
2019 – 2020	225	341
2020 – 2021	8	22
2021 – 2022	4	8
2022 – 2023	0	14
Total	325	984

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over [231 peer-reviewed](https://bit.ly/2OwLEt6), academic journals available electronically through database subscriptions, which can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <https://bit.ly/2OwLEt6>. The serials expenditures in Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$2,321.69** from FY 2018/19 – FY 2022/23 (see table below.)

Criminal Justice Journals

Link Shortcut to Peer Reviewed Journals: <https://bit.ly/2OwLEt6>
Includes subject areas of law enforcement, criminology/crime, and forensics.

Total	406
Peer Reviewed	231

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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 Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum. Of particular note on the conspectus worksheets are the holdings in the

subject areas of: Crimes & Criminals; Crimes Against the Person; and Commercial, Financial & Computer Crimes.

A review of the journal holdings reveals that the Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation collection is adequate to support the curriculum.

Weaknesses:

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of the Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation subject areas are: Criminal Classes and Guards, Watchmen, Private Security Services.

Recommendations:

The growth rate of the Criminal Justice and Forensic Collection should be maintained in order to continue providing support for the Criminal Justice degree programs at both the Bachelor's and Master's levels with concentrations available at the undergraduate level in Law Enforcement and Offender Rehabilitation, which are offered by the School of Human Services and Social Sciences. The collection also supports the Forensic Investigation degree program at the Bachelor's level, including its Criminal Investigation and Forensic Lab Technician concentrations, which are offered by the School of Human Services and Social Sciences. 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.