

# Assessment of Library Collections

## Environmental Studies

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This report was prepared by Tony Schwartz, Associate Director for Collection Management, with Gail Clement, Head of the Digital Collections Center; Jennifer Fu, Head of the GIS Center; and Patricia Pereira-Pujol, Sciences Librarian.

### Journals

#### Library subscriptions by general count

FIU has 860 online journals in Environmental Studies (according to the Citation Linker on the library's web page). Print journals funded under this program are 42 in number. In sum, FIU has 902 journals, of which 95% are online. The collections include the American Geophysical Union and GeoScience World online packages and the JSTOR Ecology and Botany archive.

#### Citation-ranked literatures

The library's holdings in five citation-ranked literatures are outlined in Table 1. As shown, they range from 85% in Environmental Studies to 67% in Biodiversity. The overall proportion of holdings is 73% (272 of the total 372 journals). Since the last assessment of 2005, the library has added 19 citation-ranked journals—at that time, the overall proportion was 68%.

### Books

The library's book approval plan for the sciences generally covers all university press titles and all trade-publisher titles on contemporary social or public policy aspects of science, engineering, and technology. In the social sciences, the approval plan is fairly comprehensive, without any substantive subject limitations.

Monograph standing orders in Environmental Studies include *Advances in Ecological Research*; *Advances in Environmental Science and Technology*; *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics*; *Environment*; and *Excellence in Ecology*.

Both campus libraries have expansive budgets for faculty orders of additional books, as well as audio-visual and reference materials.

Of the library's approximately 55,000 electronic books, 394 have *environment* as a keyword descriptor.

	Total number of journals	Number of FIU subscriptions	Percentage of FIU subscriptions	Number of titles not held by the library
Ecology	102	72	71%	30
Environmental Sciences	128	90	70%	38
Environmental Studies	47	40	85%	7
Marine & Fishwater Biology	71	54	76%	17
Biodiversity	24	16	67%	8
TOTALS	372	272	73%	100

## Databases

The library's collections of databases, about 300 in number, have at the core of Environmental Studies *Environmental Sciences and Pollution Management*; *BNA Environment Library*; and *EIS: Digest of Environmental Impact Studies*. Others include *Access Science*; *AGRICOLA*; *ANTE: Abstracts in New Technologies and Engineering*; *Applied Science and Technology Full Text*; *ASFA: Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts*; *Biological and Agricultural Index Plus*; *Biological Sciences*; *Biology Digest*; *BIOSIS*; *Biotechnology and Bioengineering Abstracts*; *Gale Virtual Reference Library*; *General Science Full Text*; *GeoBase*; *GeoRef*; *Medline*; *NetLibrary Reference Center*; *NTIS: National Technical Information Service*; *Oxford Reference Online Premium*; *Safety Science and Risk*; *Oceanic Abstracts*; *Plant Science*; *Safety Science and Risk Abstracts*; *Science Citation Index*; and *TOXLINE*.

## Sound and Image Resources (Mayra Nemeth, Head)

Of the total 98,105 audio-visual materials in Green Library, about 300 pertain to environmental studies. In 2004 the Environmental Studies program included the library in a Knapp Foundation grant that provided for the acquisition of 78 audio-visual resources amounting to \$13,400.

## Digital Collections Center (Gail Clement, Head, <http://digitalcollections.fiu.edu>)

The Digital Collections Center has three collections of particular relevance to Environmental Studies: the *Everglades Digital Library*, the *Miami Metropolitan Archive*, and *Linking Florida's Natural History*. These cross-disciplinary, multi-format collections offer extensive and some unique information about the South Florida environment (geology, hydrology, climate and biogeochemistry); and the human impacts to the same (water and waste management; resource exploration and use).

The *Everglades Digital Library* aims to be a collection of national significance. Begun in 1995 in partnership with the Everglades National Park, it is certainly established in the scholarly and educational system, having a usage count in FY07 of 781,133 from scores of countries. New technologies continue to improve search and retrieval and to connect it to the National Science

Foundation's National Science Digital Library. The *Everglades Online Thesaurus: A Standard Vocabulary for the South Florida Ecosystem*, funded by the Department of Interior through its Critical Ecosystems Studies Initiative, provides a standardized vocabulary of concepts and terms of the South Florida environment with several hundred terms in the following categories: Lithosphere, Hydrosphere, Landscape, Chemical/Physical Aspects, Natural resources; and Human Impacts.

The *Miami Metropolitan Archive* is a digital collection of reports, documents, photographs, and other unique materials contributed by local and urban agencies. One of its focal points is the urban environment—water management and supply; coastal zone management; natural hazards; land use planning; and waste management. Numerous partnerships with local agencies and municipalities enable the Digital Collections Center to continue enhancing this collection with hard-to-find local documents and images.

*Linking Florida's Natural History* and its searchable database, *Florida Environments Online*, provide online access to extensive full-text reports relating to Florida geology, hydrology, oil exploration, water management, and paleontology.

### **Geographic Information Systems** (Jennifer Fu, Head <http://gislab.fiu.edu/>)

The GIS Center supports the curriculum of Environmental Studies and allied programs (Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences, and Biology) by providing a computer teaching laboratory with spatial datasets and managing user space. The newly formed user centered Maps and Imagery User Services area (MIUS) houses a portion of FIU's print cartographic materials, and provides increased access to copyrighted geo-spatial datasets and other digital cartographic materials through its workstations.

GIS digital datasets of particular relevance to Environmental Studies include: 1600+ Florida public access spatial data sets searchable via FTP, including political boundaries, facilities, LandCover, LandUse, hydrology, vegetation etc.; 3000+ Latin American and Caribbean spatial data sets; 600+ East Africa Spatial datasets; detailed shore line data of the United States; LandsAT Imagery; complete ESRI maps and data; comprehensive Florida State and County data sets; historical hurricane tracts data; and USGS DLG, DRG, and DEM.

The GIS Center also engages in national and international GIS research projects. Of particular interest is the AAGWP project which has created a web GIS portal for users to acquire, harvest and publish standardized geospatial and attribute data and metadata about physical and socioeconomic environments with a focus on the Andean Amazon region of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Collections such as the *Digital Flora of Ucayali, Peru* are featured under this project. This web GIS portal has been applied for global and international projects led by Dr. Michael McClain, Environmental Studies, namely "Global Water for Sustainability Program (GLOW)" (<http://glows.fiu.edu>) and "Caribbean Coastal Scenario (CCS)" (<http://ccswp.fiu.edu>). The unique geo-spatial and environmental datasets hosted under the portal largely covers environmentally sensitive regions of the world.