

Assessment of Library Collections  
Program Review

**HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

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Update: the main additions to the health science collections since the report of 2004 have been two full-text databases in Nursing (605 journals at zero cost following cancellation of 105 print journals by the Nursing faculty) and the Cochrane Library database (zero cost following print cancellations by the Social Work faculty).

The appendices to this report are not on the web site of the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness—but may be requested from the library
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While the library will go forward, as annual budgets allow, with acquisitions recommendations of program reviews, a more durable approach is the comprehensive collection development plan set as a university Millennium Strategic Goal. That planning process will broaden the library's collaborations with each program, identify resources needed to build research-level collections, and provide a framework for long-range budgeting. This report lays some of the groundwork. It draws on a broader analysis (in January, 2004) for the proposed Ph.D. program in Public Health: Health Promotion and Community Nutrition; and on an accreditation report (in February, 2004).

**Summary of Outcomes**

**Journals.** Method 1: Comparison of the library's holdings to two citation-ranked literatures: Health Care Sciences and Services, and Health Policy and Services. Taken together, the two literatures cover 87 journals, of which the library has 63 (72%). Of the 24 not held by the library, the faculty selected seven as priorities for acquisition: *Medical Decision Making*; *Medical Informatics and the Internet in Medicine*; *International Journal of Medical Informatics*; *Palliative Medicine*; *Telemedicine Journal and E-Health*; *Quality and Safety in Health Care*; and *Qualitative Health Research*. Their aggregate cost would be **\$5,208**.

Method 2: The citation-rankings approach generally does not account for newer or broader journals that may be relevant to a program. Accordingly, the faculty is asked to submit lists of needed unranked titles. For Health Services Administration, there was one such unranked title: *Inquiry: Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing* (already ordered).

**Books.** There are no salient gaps in the library's framework for book acquisitions.

**Databases.** The library's database collections in the health sciences are fairly comprehensive, at least in terms of core resources.

**Funding.** The library resource costs for this program (\$5,208) were included in the January, 2004 report for the planned Ph.D. program in Public Health, which has a projected aggregate cost of \$40,000.

## Main Report

**SCOPE.** Analysis focuses on journals, books, and databases. Some other categories of library support—Geographic Information Systems, Government Documents, and Reference Services—are briefly described. Two spreadsheets of journal-collection evaluations are appended.

**METHOD.** As a rule, it is not feasible to make a comprehensive assessment of “all” library resources that may be relevant to a particular program or literature, given the cross-disciplinarity of programs and literatures alike, as well as their library budget lines.<sup>1</sup> To structure this situation, literatures must be bounded in certain ways, primarily by focusing on the core journals of a field according to the *Journal Citation Reports* database of citation-impact rankings.<sup>2</sup>

**JOURNALS.** For the various health sciences, the library has 169 journal subscriptions: 115 are print only, and 54 have online access. The essential question is whether the library is missing important or otherwise needed journals. *Need* is based on local demand.<sup>3</sup> *Importance* is gauged for the scholarly system as a whole by citation-impact rankings of the core literatures.

**Method 1: Core Literatures.** Of 52 health science fields that have citation-impact rankings, two literatures are directly related to this program.

**Health Care Sciences and Services.** Comparison of the library’s collections to the core journals in this field is shown in spreadsheet 1. Of the total 48 titles, the library has 30 (63%). Of the 18 other titles, the faculty selected six for library acquisition: *Medical Decision Making* (ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and also 1<sup>st</sup> of 48 in Medical Informatics); *Medical Informatics and the Internet in Medicine* (6<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Medical Informatics; and 8<sup>th</sup> of 73 in Computer Science, Information Systems); *International Journal of Medical Informatics* (11<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Medical Informatics; and 8<sup>th</sup> of 73 in Computer Science, Information Systems); *Palliative Medicine* (12<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> of 88 in Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health; and 31<sup>st</sup> of 112 in Medicine, General and Internal); *Telemedicine Journal and E-Health* (13<sup>th</sup>); *Quality and Safety in Health Care* (formerly *Quality in Health Care*, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> of 88 in Public, Environmental, and (formerly *Quality in Health Care*, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> of 88 in Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health). The annual total cost for these titles would be **\$4,498**.

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<sup>1</sup> The library journal fund for Health Sciences Administration has 12 print subscriptions and 10 online subscriptions—with relevant journals under other health science funds.

<sup>2</sup> *JCR* covers about 5,000 journals in the sciences, another 1,500 in the social sciences. Citation-impact analysis is based on Bradford’s Law, that most of the important papers in a given field appear in a relatively small set of journals. See Hans Verner Holub et alia, “The Iron Law of Important Articles,” *Southern Economic Journal* 58 (1991): 317-28.

**Health Policy and Services.** Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals in this field is shown in spreadsheet 2. Of the total 39 titles, the library has 33 (85%). Of the six other titles, the faculty selected one for library acquisition: *Qualitative Health Research* (ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of 42 in Nursing), \$710.

Overall, the two literatures cover 87 journals, of which the library has 63 (72%). Of the 24 not held by the library, the seven selected for acquisition would have an aggregate annual cost of \$5,208.

**Method 2: The Faculty's Supplemental List.** The citation-rankings approach, with its focus on established journals, has somewhat of a conservative bias. It generally does not account for newer or broader journals that may be highly relevant to a campus program. Accordingly, the faculty was requested to submit its own list of other journal needs. Of the six on that list, one is in the field of Health Service Administration: *Inquiry: Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing* (a quarterly report by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rochester, NY), \$125 (already ordered).

## BOOKS

Through its book-approval plan, the library receives all university press titles in science fields relevant to the academic programs. The plan also includes:

- all trade-publisher clinical works, textbooks, and guidebooks at the academic level for areas of particular interest (e.g., *nutritional diseases and disorders*; *diet therapy*; *physical therapy*; and *occupational therapy*);
- all academic-level books on *history of science* or *contemporary social or public policy aspects of science*;
- all academic-level books on *medicine and the state* with a geographic focus of the U.S., World, Latin America or the Caribbean;
- all adult-level titles reviewed in *The New York Times Book Review* or *Times Literary Supplement*.

In addition, the library has 19 monograph series in health sciences (e.g., *Annual Review of Medicine*, *Annual Review of Public Health*, *Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics*).

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<sup>3</sup> Local demand is shown by interlibrary loan data, as well as faculty lists. In 2002, the library identified the journals most often requested over the previous three years. In terms of access-versus-ownership economics (royalty payments compared to subscription prices), 18 titles of the total set of 135 proved to be more cost-effective to own. Those subscriptions began in January 2003. Six were in health fields but none in the area of Health Service Administration.

**Online Books.** Of the total collection of 27,280 NetLibrary online books owned by the library, 25 titles are included in the Health Service Administration subject category. On a broader level, some 833 titles have *health* as a keyword descriptor, and there are 368 *health* subject headings. The library does not make title selections but relies on bulk acquisitions through a regional network. The *NetLibrary* portal is at <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/elibrary/ebooks.html>.

## DATABASES

Among the roughly 275 databases that FIU owns or accesses, 61 are in the Health Sciences. They include all of the core resources. The main ones in Health Services Administration are *Medline*; *PubMed*; *PubMed Central Life Sciences Journal Archive*; *Medical News*; *Medical Journals via Academic Universe*; and *Health and Wellness Resource Center*.

Some of the other library databases in the health sciences field are *CINAHL Plus Full Text*; *Cochrane Library*; *AbleData*; *AgeLine*; *BIOSIS*; *Bibliography of Bioethics*; *Biological Sciences*; *Biology Digest*; *Biotechnology and Bioengineering Medical News*; *Medical Journals via Academic Universe*; *CCH Health and Human Resources*; *Ecology Abstracts*; *PsycINFO*; and *Safety Science & Risk*. For descriptions, see <http://library.fiu.edu/subjects/medhealth.html>.

### Summary for Collection Development

The aggregate cost of the seven citation-ranked **journals** identified as priorities for acquisition would be **\$5,208**. This figure was included in the report for the Ph.D. program in Public Health, which has a projected aggregate cost of \$40,000.

- *Medical Decision Making* \$306 print and online;
- *Medical Informatics and the Internet in Medicine* \$346 print and online;
- *International Journal of Medical Informatics* \$1,842 print;
- *Palliative Medicine* \$898 print and online;
- *Telemedicine Journal and E-Health* \$498 online;
- *Quality and Safety in Health Care* \$608 print and online;
- *Qualitative Health Research* \$710.

Both the approval plan for **books** and the **database** collections in the health sciences are fairly comprehensive, at least in terms of core resources.

On a broader note, previous collection assessment reports for the program review process have included a graph of inflationary pressures in the scholarly communication system. Along with that external factor are a number of campus-level factors that make collection development increasingly problematic in the university's resource-allocation processes. Such factors include constant growth of research and curricular interests along with the university's goals for a broad expansion of new Ph.D. programs and a medical school. In light of overall budget constraints, collection assessments emphasize the importance for each program to advise the library on the specific resources and services that would best serve research productivity.

## **Other Library Resources and Services**

### **Geographic Information Services / Remote Sensing Center**

**Jennifer Fu, Head** <http://gislab.fiu.edu/>.

The Geographic Information Systems /Remote Sensing Center of Green Library provides computerized mapping and image-processing resources and services. Such tools are increasingly important to Public Health professionals and policy makers for disease surveillance, control and prevention; environmental health assessment; environmental exposures; geographically-coded health data; health services allocation; and policy-decision processes.

(Other GIS user groups are in urban affairs, biology, computer science, environmental studies, architecture, earth science, international studies, and civil and environmental engineering.)

The center maintains broad collections of demographic and social-economic data sets of South Florida counties and municipalities. It provides consulting services on geo-statistical analysis, image processing, data modeling, 3d visualization and geo-spatial metadata creation. Scanning and digitizing of large-format maps, along with large-format, high-speed plotting services, serve research units university-wide.

### **Government Documents** (Sherry Mosley, Head)

University Park campus is a selective Federal depository. Of particular interest to the Health Services Administration program, the library receives a broad range of materials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The library receives nearly all publications from Florida state and local governmental agencies. In 2003, two milestones were reached when FIU was granted European Documentation Center status by the European Union (the only other such center in the state is at the University of Florida) and full United Nations depository status. See <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/internet/subjects/govern.html>.

### **Reference and Instructional Services** (Valerie Boulos, Head)

The library has been active in providing instruction in library services, materials, and databases to the Health Sciences. The Information Literacy Program targets specific courses that are required of all students to provide this instruction during the junior or senior year of study. Course-related library instruction is also available for classes by appointment with the Health Sciences Librarian. Additionally, librarians have been assisting the College of Public Health to establish guidelines and a syllabus for a 3-credit course in Health Information Research to be added to the curriculum.

Basic reference services are provided on site, by e-mail, and in real-time chat service in English and Spanish (<http://www.fiu.edu/~library/services/asklib.html>). An information literacy program serves students' library-instruction needs at the lower division level, and targets core classes for instruction sessions at the upper division and graduate levels. Consultations for research projects are a faculty- and graduate-level service.