

Assessment of Library Collections
Academic Program Review

Physical Therapy

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Because of their length, the seven appendices to this report are not on the web site of the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness—but may be requested from the library.

SUMMARY

Faculty Review. Professor Leonard Elbaum and other faculty members reviewed an earlier draft of this report, including seven citation-ranked journal literature lists. With such collaboration, this collection assessment is on good ground. For example, of the 178 ranked journals not in the library's collections, the faculty selected just 12% for acquisition (once budgets permit).

Core Journals.

- Of seven citation-ranked journal literature lists distributed to the faculty, five proved relevant to Physical Therapy: Sport Sciences, Orthopedics, Rehabilitation, Geriatrics & Gerontology, and Pediatrics. (The two literatures for which no titles were selected are Biomedical Social Sciences and Nutrition & Dietetics.)
- Of the five literatures, the library has 94 of the 272 titles (35%).
- On review of those lists, the faculty selected 20 (12%) of the 178 titles not in the collections for acquisition: 12 as high priorities (about \$6,900 in total annual cost) and eight as medium priorities (about \$4,900 in total annual cost).
- A complete collection (were all 20 titles acquired) would cost about \$11,800 per year; the library's holdings of the five citation-ranked literatures would rise from 35% to 42%.

Cost-effectiveness. Access-versus-ownership evaluation (comparison of royalty charges for titles in interlibrary-loan demand against subscription prices) in spring 2002 had found that the collections in Physical Therapy needed one journal subscription, *Rehabilitation Management*, for cost-effectiveness. All such needed subscriptions (18 for the collections as a whole) began January 2003.

Books. The framework for acquisitions for U.S. and U.K. book publishing provides reasonably comprehensive coverage of the cross-disciplinarity of Physical Therapy, which spans Public Health, General Medicine, Physical Education, Geriatrics and Gerontology.

Electronic Resources. Though research work in Physical Therapy tends to rely on *Medline*, the faculty should consider, and advise the library on, acquisition of *Sports Discus*. It is a citation database (no full text) covering sports medicine, exercise physiology, biomechanics, coaching, physical education and fitness. Its cost would be \$2, 800 per year for 4 simultaneous users.

MAIN REPORT

Scope. This report for Physical Therapy focuses primarily on books, journals, and databases. The final section summarizes the outcomes for collection development. Seven spreadsheets are appended. The first outlines the framework of book acquisitions, the next five are evaluations of the journal collections, and the last is a list of current journal subscriptions for Physical Therapy.

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 budget lines. To structure this situation, subject literatures and library collections must be bounded in certain ways. A principal method is to focus on the core titles of a given field, according to the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* database of citation-impact rankings.¹

JOURNALS

In Physical Therapy, the library has 37 journal subscriptions (spreadsheet 7): 31 are print only, six are also online. On a broader level, in Public Health and General Medicine (including Nursing), the library has 169 journals: 115 are print only, and 54 are also online.

Cross-disciplinarity precludes identification of all the journals relevant to a given field. The main question is whether the library is missing needed or important journals. *Need* is based on local demand. *Importance* is based on citation rankings or other indicators of a field’s core literature.

¹ *JCR* covers about 5,000 journals in the sciences and technology, and 1,500 in the social sciences. It is based on Bradford’s Law, that most of the important paper in a given field appear in a relatively small set of journals. On this pattern, see Hans Verner Holub et alia, “The Iron Law of Important Articles,” *Southern Economic Journal* 58 (1991): 317-28.

To assess need, the library identified the journals most often requested in interlibrary loan over the past three years. In terms of access-versus-ownership analysis (royalty payments compared to their subscription prices), 18 titles of the total set of 135 proved to be more cost-effective to own. One was in Physical Therapy: *Rehabilitation Management*. Those subscriptions began in January, 2003. On that one measure, the library's collections in Physical therapy do not require immediate attention for cost-effectiveness.

The other method of evaluation, based on citation-ranked core journals according to the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* database, identifies certain titles that would be appropriate acquisitions for a doctoral-extensive library—budgets permitting.

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals in **Sport Sciences** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 2. Of the total 68 titles, the library has 19 (28%). Of the 49 titles not in the collections, three were selected by the faculty for acquisition. Two are high priorities: *Gait & Posture* (\$606) and *Clinical Biomechanics* (\$922); the third is medium priority: *Motor Control* (\$314).

Comparison of the collections to the core journals in **Orthopedics** is shown in spreadsheet 3. Of the total 42 titles, the library has eight (19%). Of the 34 titles not in the collections, four were selected by the faculty for acquisition. One is noted above: *Gait & Posture*. The other three are *Journal of Orthopaedic Research* (\$333), *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research* (\$321), and *Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics* (Part A, \$677; Part B, \$504).

Comparison of the collections to the core journals in **Rehabilitation** is shown in spreadsheet 4. Of the total 69 titles, the library has 35 (51%). Of the 34 titles not in the collections, five were selected by the faculty for acquisition. One is a high priority: *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine* (\$282). The others are medium priorities: *Journal of Electromyography and Kinesiology* (\$568); *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy* (\$881); and *Disability and Rehabilitation* (\$1,514).

Comparison of the collections to the core journals in **Geriatrics and Gerontology** is shown in spreadsheet 5. Of the total 24 titles, the library has 10 (42 %). Of the 14 titles not in the collections, one was selected by the faculty for acquisition, as a high priority: *Gerontology* (\$885).

Comparison of the collections to the core journals in **Pediatrics** is shown in spreadsheet 6. Of the total 69 titles, the library has 22 (32 %). Of the 47 titles not in the collections, nine were selected by the faculty for acquisition. Of six high priorities, one is noted above: *Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics*. The other high priorities are *Pediatric Research* (\$584); *Pediatric Infection Disease Journal* (\$432); *Neuropediatrics* (\$590); *Journal of Child Neurology* (\$489); *Pediatric Exercise Science* (\$273). Three medium priorities are *Pediatrics* (\$336); *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology* (\$310); and *Acta Paediatrica* (\$607).

BOOKS

Print. The framework of FIU's book-acquisitions plan provides reasonably comprehensive coverage for the cross-disciplinarity of Physical Therapy.

The approval plan includes automatic shipment of:

- all *academic-level* books on MOVEMENT, KINESIOLOGY (primarily Library of Congress class QP)
- all *clinical works and guidebooks, and textbooks at the advanced-undergraduate and higher levels* for SPORTS MEDICINE (primarily LC class RC).

The Physical Therapy faculty identified the following LC classes as those of main interest: QP 303, musculoskeletal mechanics, kinesiology; QP 310, musculoskeletal special movements; RM 701, physical therapy; RM 725, mechanotherapy; and RM 930, rehabilitation therapy.

On a broader level, the library began in July 2003 to receive all university press titles in science fields relevant to the academic programs at University Park. (In addition, the plan has always covered all adult-level titles reviewed in either *The New York Times Book Review* or *Times Literary Supplement*.)

Collection analyses usually include a spreadsheet that delineates book acquisitions for the fiscal year by title counts and also in proportion to book-publication output per subject class. Since the expanded coverage of university press titles is not in last year's approval plan activity report, the projected book acquisitions in the sciences are shown on spreadsheet 1. FIU's coverage is on par to that of other Florida libraries of comparable size.² Monographic series standing orders of interest to Physical Therapy are listed at the bottom of on spreadsheet 1.

In the social sciences, the approval plan has no subject limitations (nearly all academic-level titles are received). In these fields, Physical Therapy falls in subject class GV: Gerontology, Recreation, and Physical Education. As shown on the spreadsheet, of the 1,563 titles handled by the vendor, 241 (15%) came on approval; with additional orders, the coverage was 322 titles (26%) of book-publication output—at an aggregate cost of \$1,819.

Online Books. Of the total collection of 27,280 *NetLibrary* books owned by the library, six titles are on *physical therapy*. The library does not make title selections but relies on bulk acquisitions in a regional network. *NetLibrary* is at <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/elibrary/ebooks.html>.

² Other Florida universities for which data are available have approval-plan coverages in Medicine (including Nursing) in the 6-11% range, compared to FIU's 16%; and overall coverages (with direct orders) in the 11-16% range, compared to FIU's 25%. Those figures come from the vendor, which provided copies of three approval-plan profiles with the names of the universities deleted for business confidentiality. One may assume (from conversations) that two are Florida State University and the University of Central Florida.

DATABASES

FIU's collection of databases, about 275 in number, includes the core resources for Physical Therapy: primarily *Medline*, *PubMed Central Life Sciences Journals Archive*, and *Physical Education Index*. Other databases include: *CINAHL*; *Abledata*; *CCH Health and Human Resources*; *Cochrane Library*; *Health and Psychosocial Instruments*; *Health and Safety Science Abstracts*; *IBIDS [International Bibliographic Information on Dietary Supplements]*; *Neurosciences Abstracts*; *NARIC's Instant Disability Information Center*; *Science Citation Index*; *Social Science Citation Index*; *PsycINFO*; *Medical News and Medical Journals via Academic Universe*; and *USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference*. Descriptions are at <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/subjects/physicalther.html>.

The faculty should consider, and advise the library on, acquisition of *Sports Discus*, a database of citations (no full text) on sports medicine, exercise physiology, biomechanics, coaching, physical education and fitness. Its cost would be \$2,800 per year for 4 simultaneous users.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

The framework of FIU's book-acquisitions plan provides reasonably comprehensive coverage for the cross-disciplinarity of Physical Therapy. However, the faculty may wish to advise the library on needed book series for standing orders.

The library's collection of databases is fairly complete. However, the faculty should consider, and advise the library on, acquisition of the *Sports Discus* database.

Evaluation of the journal collections for missing important titles yielded mixed results. Of the five core (citation-ranked) journal literatures reviewed, the library has 94 of the 272 titles (35%). On review of those five lists, the faculty selected 20 (12%) of the 178 titles not in the collections for acquisition: 12 as high priorities (about \$6,900 in total *annual* cost) and eight as medium priorities (about \$4,900 in total *annual* cost). A complete set of collections (were all 20 selected titles acquired) would cost about \$11,800 per year and raise the library's holdings of the five citation-ranked literatures from 35% to 42%.

The citation-impact rankings approach, with its focus on established journals, has somewhat of a conservative bias. It generally does not account for newer or more specialized titles that, though lacking a certain impact in the scholarly communication system, may be relevant to a particular program on campus. For such needed breadth and innovation in collection development, the library relies on faculty input.