

Assessment of Library Collections  
Academic Program Review

**Sociology/Anthropology**

Tony Schwartz  
Associate Director for Collection Management

April, 2003

Because of their length, the 21 appendices are not on the web site of the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness—but may be requested from the library.

**SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS**

**Books.** FIU's fairly comprehensive approval plan in the social sciences and humanities, having no substantive subject limitations, provides for broadly balanced collections. The University Park library automatically receives in Sociology about 33% of U.S. and U.K. book-publishing output—37% with additional direct orders. In Anthropology, the library receives about 50% on approval—54% with additional orders.

On a broader level, FIU's roughly 40% coverage of the social sciences as a whole appears to be above average for that of other doctoral-extensive libraries of comparable size. A main source of such relative strength is FIU's extensive acquisitions in Latin American and in other area studies, which have had a nationwide decline in library acquisitions since the 1980s.

**Core Journals.** In comparison of its holdings to 16 core (citation-ranked) journal literatures, the library has 437 of the 617 journals (71%). Of the 180 not in the collections, 29—one in six—meet the dual criteria to be collection-development priorities: *broad caliber* (in the scholarly communication system) and *local relevance* (to campus programs). Five of those 29 titles are in Sociology or Anthropology; their aggregate annual cost would be about \$1,200. The other 24 titles are spread over the social sciences; their aggregate annual cost would be about \$9,600.

**Cost-effectiveness of Current Journals.** Access-versus-ownership evaluation (comparison of royalty charges for journals in heavy interlibrary-loan demand against their subscription prices) found that the Sociology/Anthropology collections needed no adjustments (new subscriptions) to improve their cost-effectiveness.

**Electronic Resources.** The library's collection of databases, about 275 in number, include all of the main ones in Sociology and Anthropology. Two proposed collection-development initiatives involve the acquisition of new online-journal packages in Sociology and in Criminology. Such packages serve the dual goals of improving research productivity and cost-effectiveness. In addition, an online-book initiative primarily for historians may be of interest to Anthropology.

## MAIN REPORT

**SCOPE.** This report covers, in addition to Sociology and Anthropology as general disciplines, 14 allied fields: Urban Studies, Women’s Studies, Ethnic Studies, Family Studies, Social Issues, Crime and Penology, Industrial/Organizational Relations, Planning and Development, Ecology, Environmental Studies, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Biomedical Social Sciences; History of the Social Sciences; and Mathematical Models in the Social Sciences. Analysis focuses on book and journal collections, with other categories of library support—electronic resources, sound and image resources, geographic information services, government documents, special collections, the Wolfsonian’s collections, resource-sharing arrangements, and reference services—briefly described. The final section summarizes the outcomes with collection-development priorities.<sup>1</sup>

Twenty spreadsheets are appended. The first outlines the framework of book acquisitions, the next 16 are journal-collection evaluations, the following two outline the database proposals for Sociology. The last spreadsheet, a comparison of benchmark library budgets—with a 21<sup>st</sup> appendix, a graph of inflationary pressures in the scholarly communication system—puts the financial situation in perspective.

**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 interdisciplinarity of programs and literatures alike, as well as their library budget lines.<sup>2</sup> To structure this situation, subject literatures and library collections must be bounded in certain ways, as described in the sections below. For example, a principal method for journal literatures is to focus on the core titles of a field, according to the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* database of rankings.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Additional fields may be of interest, such as the library review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at <http://www.fiu.edu/provost/aaproreview/prarchives.htm>. The library will provide any core-literature analysis on request.

<sup>2</sup> One study found Sociology occupying the central position among the social sciences, both in its propensity to cite and to be cited by other fields. Anthropology’s interdisciplinarity patterns are primarily Ethnology as an importer from Sociology, and Physical Anthropology as a bridge between the social and biological sciences. Daniel Rigney and Donna Barnes, “Patterns of Interdisciplinary Citation in the Social Sciences,” *Social Sciences Quarterly* 61 (1980): 114-127.

<sup>3</sup> *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 papers 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. For a past look at *JCR*’s rankings in Anthropology, see Eugene Garfield, “Anthropology Journals: What They Cite and What Cites Them,” *Current Anthropology* 25 (August-October 1984): 514-19.

## BOOKS

**Print.** Subject coverages may be reasonably limited to what the University Park campus library receives through a fairly comprehensive approval plan.<sup>4</sup> Spreadsheet 1 shows book acquisitions for FY02 in the various social sciences by title counts and also in proportion to total U.S. and U.K. book-publishing output.

In Sociology, the vendor handled a total publishing output of 2,782 titles. The library was sent 898 titles (33%) of that output—with additional orders, the coverage was 1,013 titles (37%). In Anthropology, the vendor handled 368 titles; the campus was sent 185 titles (50%) of that output—with additional orders, the coverage was 199 titles (54%).

For the social sciences as a whole, the campus received on approval 37% of total output (5,829 of 15,650 titles)—with direct orders, the coverage was 43% (6,679 titles).

Categories of book output *not* received involve non-academic levels (e.g., popular literature) and unsuitable formats (e.g., unrevised dissertations). Since there are no substantive subject-based restrictions in the approval plan for the social sciences and humanities, variations in coverages—such as 33% for Sociology versus 50% for Anthropology—are a function of the proportion of academic-level titles to book-publishing output for particular fields.

---

note 3 continued:

The *JCR* database does not cover the humanities, with the partial exception of History. Since most (roughly 75%) of the citations in the humanities are to books or to primary sources, the humanities lack large-scale, salient patterns of journal interactions. The dual result is that citation-impact analysis does not work well in the humanities; and that most articles in the humanities are rarely or never cited (within five years of publication). See David P. Hamilton, "Publishing by—and for?—the Numbers," *Science* 250 (December 7, 1990): 1331-32; and "Research Papers: Who's Uncited Now?," *Science* 251 (January 4, 1991): 25. Uncitedness is also evident in the social sciences; see Lowell L. Hargens, "Impressions and Misimpressions About Sociology Journals," *Contemporary Sociology* 20 (May 1991): 343-49.

<sup>4</sup> With a book approval plan, every title received by the vendor is matched against the university's profile of subject and format parameters. Certain titles are shipped, others generate notification slips for title-by-title selection, and some fall in the "no book or slip" category. The profile for the University Park campus is geared for automatic shipment of *books* in the social sciences and humanities, but for *notification slips* in the sciences, technology, and law, since those literatures—being more specialized and costly—tend to require title-by-title selection.

FIU's fairly comprehensive approval-plan for the social sciences (and humanities) appears to be above average for that of other doctoral-extensive libraries of comparable size. The supporting data are of low precision but broad reliability. In the 1980s (the only period for which analyses exist), university libraries tended to acquire about 35% of academic-level books in the social sciences counting additional direct orders.<sup>5</sup> That level marked a salient decline (of 25 points) from the 1970s in the financial capacity of university libraries to maintain book collections in the wake of journal inflation. Since such inflation has remained all these years, it is reasonable to see FIU's roughly 40% coverage of the social sciences as being above average for university libraries on the whole.

A main source of such relative strength is FIU's extensive coverage of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and other area studies. The nationwide decline of library book acquisitions has caused such fields to become "endangered species" in the scholarly communication system. This situation is discussed in the concluding section of this report.

**Online Books.** Of the total 27,280 *NetLibrary* electronic books owned by the library, 94 titles have *sociology* as a subject descriptor, 247 have *sociology* as a keyword descriptor; and 55 have *anthropology* as a subject descriptor, and 179 have *anthropology* as a keyword descriptor. 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>.

## **JOURNALS**

It is not possible to identify all the journals relevant to Sociology or to Anthropology (or to any social science) because of interdisciplinarity.<sup>6</sup> The essential question is whether the library is missing needed or important journals. *Need* is based on local demand, according to interlibrary loan data. *Importance* is based on citation rankings or other indicators of a field's core literature.

Collection development criteria for selecting new journals fall into two different streams. The first stream is one of current budget constraints, in which acquisitions following evaluations are usually limited to titles that meet both criteria: demand on campus, and importance in the scholarly system at large. The second stream is in the long run, once library budgets are in line with those of benchmark institutions ([spreadsheet 20](#)); at that point, journal acquisitions would focus on titles that have either high or cross-disciplinary citation rankings.

---

<sup>5</sup> Charles A. Schwartz, "Literature Loss in Anthropology," *Current Anthropology* 33 (June 1992): 315-17; and in Sociology, "Modeling Scholarly Literatures," *Publishing Research Quarterly* 10 (Summer 1994): 29-35. The decline of book-publishing output in Anthropology was a topic at its 2002 annual meeting; see David Glenn, "Scholarly Publishing Struggles With Shrinking Audience and Growing Pressure, 4 Editors Say," *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (November 22, 2002 daily report).

<sup>6</sup> In the library's funding system, Sociology has 257 journals; Anthropology has 48.

To assess local demand, earlier this year the library identified the journals most often requested in interlibrary loan over the past 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 January 2003. None of those 135 titles are in Sociology or Anthropology or allied fields.<sup>7</sup> On that single measure, the current journal collections for Sociology and Anthropology do not require attention for cost-effectiveness.

However, as shown below, the other main 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 of **Sociology** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 2. Of the total 93 titles, the library has 53 (57%). Of the missing 40 titles, four are of interest: *Discourse and Society* (ranked 5<sup>th</sup>; and 13<sup>th</sup> of 100 in Psychology, Multidisciplinary; and 1<sup>st</sup> of 43 in Communication); *Sociology of Health and Illness* (8<sup>th</sup>; and 11<sup>th</sup> of 54 in Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health; and 5<sup>th</sup> of 24 in Social Sciences, Biomedical); *Work and Occupations* (18<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> of 17 in Industrial/Organizational Relations); and *Journal of Law and Society* (42<sup>nd</sup>, and 74<sup>th</sup> of 99 in Law).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **Anthropology** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 3. Of the total 52 titles, the library has 37 (71%). Of the missing 15 titles, one is of interest: *Human Nature: An Interdisciplinary Biosocial Perspective* (ranked 16<sup>th</sup>; and 14<sup>th</sup> of 24 in Social Sciences, Biomedical).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **Urban Studies** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 4. Of the total 27 titles, the library has 20 (74%). Of the seven missing titles, two are of interest: *Housing Policy Debate* (ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> of 27 in Planning and Development; and *Housing Studies* (11<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> of 48 in Environmental Studies).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals in **Women's Studies** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 5. Of the total 25 titles, the library has 14 (56%). Of the missing 11 titles, four are of interest: *Journal of Women's Health* (ranked 1<sup>st</sup>; and 10<sup>th</sup> of 54 in Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health); *Feminist Economics* (8<sup>th</sup>, as well as 100<sup>th</sup> of 165 in Economics); *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* (9<sup>th</sup>); and *Feminism and Psychology* (10<sup>th</sup>; and 65<sup>th</sup> of 100 in Psychology, Multidisciplinary).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **Ethnic Studies** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 6. Of the total seven titles, the library has five (71%). Neither of the two missing titles would appear to be a priority for collection development.

---

<sup>7</sup> Most of the titles in heavy interlibrary-loan demand are in Developmental Psychology, Biology, Medicine, and Environmental Science—all fields for which multiple but fairly low-cost royalty charges do not reach the levels of the high subscription prices.

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **Family Studies** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 7. Of the total 32 titles, the library has 27 (84%). Of the missing five titles, one of interest is *Future of Children* (ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>; and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary; and 7<sup>th</sup> of 39 in Health Policy and Services).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **Social Issues** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 8. Of the total 33 titles, the library has 29 (88%). Of the missing four titles, two are of interest: *Journal of Social Policy* (ranked 8<sup>th</sup>; and 11<sup>th</sup> of 24 in Social Sciences, Biomedical; and 33<sup>rd</sup> of 100 in Psychology, Multidisciplinary); and *Journal of Medical Ethics* (6<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> of 21 in Biomedical Social Sciences, and 4<sup>th</sup> of 30 in Ethics,).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals in **Crime and Penology** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 9. Of the total 22 titles, the library has 18 (82%). None of the four missing titles would appear to be priorities for collection development.

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **Industrial/Organizational Relations** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 10. Of the total 17 titles, the library has 13 (77%). Of the four missing titles, one is noted above: *Work and Occupations*. The other is *European Journal of Industrial Relations* (ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **Planning and Development** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 11. Of the total 37 titles, the library has 31 (84%). Of the six missing titles, four are of interest. One is noted above: *Housing Policy Debate*. The other three are *Journal of Planning, Education, and Research* (ranked 15<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> in Urban Studies); *Local Government Studies* (16<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> of 78 in Political Science); and *IDS Bulletin* (32<sup>nd</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> of 37 in Area Studies).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **Ecology** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 12. Of the total 102 titles, the library has 6 (66%). Of the 32 missing titles, two are of interest: *Ecosystems* (ranked 22<sup>nd</sup>) and *Evolutionary Ecology Research* (33<sup>rd</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> of 30 in Evolutionary Biology, and 66<sup>th</sup> of 113 in Genetics and Hereditary Science).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **Environmental Studies** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 13. Of the total 48 titles, the library has 36 (75%). Of the 12 missing titles, four are of interest: *Environment and Planning: A* (ranked 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> of 33 in Geography); *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* (20<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> of 24 in Public Administration); *Environmental History* (24<sup>th</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> of 16 in History); and *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design* (34<sup>th</sup>).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals in **Interdisciplinary Social Sciences** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 14. Of the total 55 titles, the library has 40 (72%). Of the missing 15 titles, three are of interest: *Future of Children* (noted above); *Theory, Culture and Society* (ranked 16<sup>th</sup>); and *Social and Legal Issues* (24<sup>th</sup>, and 76<sup>th</sup> of 99 in Law).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals in **Social Sciences, Biomedical** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 15. Of the total 21 titles, the library has 10 (48%). Of the missing 11 titles, two are of interest. One is noted above: *Journal of Medical Ethics*. The other is *Sociology of Health & Illness* (ranked 5<sup>th</sup>; and 19<sup>th</sup> of 100 in Psychology, Multidisciplinary).

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 16. Of the total 29 titles, the library has 24 (83%). One of interest is noted above: *System Dynamics Review*.

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals of **History of the Social Sciences** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 17. Of the total 17 titles, the library has 13 (76%). Of the missing four titles, one is of interest: *History of the Human Sciences* (ranked 9<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> of 27 in History and Philosophy of Science).

## **ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

Core databases that FIU has for Sociology and Anthropology include: *Anthropology PLUS*; *Sociological Abstracts*; *Social Sciences Abstracts*; *Social Sciences Citation Index*; *Black Studies*; *Chicano Database*; *Contemporary Women's Issues*; *Criminal Justice Abstracts*; *Gender Watch*; *Ethnic Newswatch*; *Index to Current Urban Documents*; and *PAIS International*. Sociology and Anthropology are strengths of the *JSTOR* database of journal backfiles. Descriptions of all relevant databases are at <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/subjects/sociolanthr.html>.<sup>8</sup>

### **Acquisition Proposals: Online Journal Packages for Sociology**

**Proposal #1** is the *Sociology SAGE Full-text* journal database. It has the current issues and an archive of past volumes of 29 journals (about 7,400 articles overall) published by Sage and some societies. Subject coverage includes Childhood; Contemporary, Comparative, and Classical Sociology; Consumer Culture; Ethnic Studies; Gender Studies; Leisure Studies; Social Theory; Sociology of Sport; Sociology of Work; and Labor Studies.

Spreadsheet 18 outlines an *online-versus-print* acquisitions model in which the starting price of \$13,600 can be cut as much as 40% by the faculty agreeing to the cancellation of some, if not all, of the 10 print subscriptions the library has to journals in the database. Those subscriptions total \$5,722, so a complete shift to online access would reduce the cost of the database to \$7,878.

---

<sup>8</sup> Databases for Latin American and Caribbean Studies include: *Handbook of Latin American Studies*; *Hispanic American Periodicals Index*; *Info-LatinoAmerica*; *Latin American Data Base*; *Chicano Database*; and *EIU [Economist Intelligence Unit, which includes Latin American Business, Country Commerce, Country Finance, Country Profiles, and Country Reports]*. Descriptions are at <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/subjects/lacc.html>.

This database would provide the library with 19 new journals, ten of which are ranked as core titles in the *Journal Citation Reports* database. Two of those ten are identified in this review as high-priority acquisitions for Sociology. The 19 new titles would cost on average \$445. Though the average print-subscription price in Sociology is less (\$128), the higher average figure for online access includes the archive of past issues, some going back a decade.

**Proposal #2** is the *Criminology SAGE Full-text* journal database, which has the current issues and an archive of past volumes of 15 journals (about 3,000 articles overall) published by Sage and some societies. Subject coverage includes Criminal Justice, Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Justice, Corrections, Penology, Policing, Forensic Psychology, Family, and Domestic Violence.

Spreadsheet 19 outlines an *online-versus-print* acquisitions model in which the starting price of \$6,800 can be cut as much as 57% by the faculty agreeing to the cancellation of some, if not all, of the six print subscriptions the library has to journals in the database. Those subscriptions total \$2,947, so a complete shift to online access would reduce the database to \$3,853.

Acquisition of this database would provide the library with nine new journals (none of which are ranked in the *Journal Citation Reports* database). The nine new journals would cost on average \$394. Though the average print-subscription price for Criminology is that Sociology (\$128), the higher average figure for online access includes the archive of past issues.

### **An Electronic Resource of Limited Interest to Anthropology**

An online-book publishing venture primarily in History has some relevance to Anthropology. The *Gutenberg-E Project*, a collaboration of Columbia University Press, the American Historical Association, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (<http://www.gutenberg-e.org/>) was created to alleviate the problem of some fields becoming financially unviable (“endangered species”) for traditional publishers. Its subject list features the colonial history of Latin America, Africa, and South Asia. Library subscriptions are \$195 a year.<sup>9</sup>

### **SOUND and IMAGE RESOURCES**

Of the total collection of 14,204 sound and image resources owned by the library, 375 have *sociology* as a subject descriptor, and 580 have *anthropology* as a subject descriptor.

---

<sup>9</sup> See Danny Postel, “New Series to Focus on Works by Young Scholars; Gutenberg-E Project Rolls Out Its First 6 Books,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 27, 2002, A17. A good account is Robert Darnton, “The New Age of the Book,” *The New York Review of Books*, March 18, 1999, <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/546>. The idea of *Gutenberg-E* arose at a conference, “The Specialized Scholarly Monograph in Crisis,” American Council of Learned Societies, American Association of University Presses, and Association of Research Libraries, Washington, DC, September 11–12, 1997, <http://www.arl.org/scomm/epub/papers/index.html>.

## **GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS**

University Park campus is a selective (partial) Federal depository. In addition, it receives a broad range of publications from Florida state and local governmental agencies. Two milestones were reached last year when FIU was granted European Documentation Center status by the European Union (the only such center in the state, other than the University of Florida) and full United Nations depository status. See: <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/govdocs/index.html>.

## **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS / REMOTE SENSING CENTER**

In some social-economic research areas, the Geographic Information Systems / Remote Sensing Center (Green Library) provides demographic mapping resources and services, chiefly in the form of Decennial Census data and associated TIGER / Line Files (both online and print), and commercial mapping software (e.g., *ArcGIS* and *ERDAS Imagine*) and data sets (e.g., *Geolytics*). The GIS / RS Center also maintains broad collections of demographic and social-economic data sets of South Florida counties and municipalities. See <http://gislab.fiu.edu/>.

## **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

The library's Special Collections span the disciplines, from the sciences to the humanities, but generally focus on Cuban, Caribbean, and Miami interests. The following collections should be singled out for the social sciences: *Levi Marrero Archives* (Cuban History); *Cuban Exile Archives and History Project*, including the *Cuban Pamphlets Collection*; *Judge Mattie Belle Davis Papers* (the inaugural collection of the *Miami Dade Women's Archives*); *Dana Dorsey Collection* (Miami history) *Marrero Ms Collection* (Cuban History); *William Rio Collection* (Puerto Rican politics); *Papers of Dr. Jan Tucker* (Caribbean education and society); and *Papers of Ralph Renick* (journalism, history of 20<sup>th</sup> century). Special Collections include comprehensive series on the U.S. Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the *Colleccion Tabula Americae*.

## **WOLFSONIAN MUSEUM**

The Wolfsonian–FIU (<http://www.wolfsonian.fiu.edu/>) contains artifacts and print materials primarily of North American and European origin, documenting the post-industrial revolution era through the close of the Second World War. The objects and artifacts in the collection comprise a wide variety of media: furniture, industrial-design objects, glass, ceramics; metalwork, textiles, paintings, posters, architectural drawings, textiles, rare books, periodicals, and printed ephemera. Objects are interpreted to explore key issues in design history—the way design has both altered and been altered by cultural change, industrial innovation, and strategies of persuasion.

## **RESOURCE–SHARING ARRANGEMENTS**

The library belongs to several consortia for interlibrary lending: the State University System, Southeast Florida Library Information Network, Southeastern Library Network, and Association of Southeastern Research Libraries. Of importance for specialized, particularly foreign, resources is the Center for Research Libraries (<http://www.wrl.uchicago.edu>).

## **SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES**

### **I. Specific Collections**

On three broad measures, the library's collections for Sociology/Anthropology are in reasonably good shape. First, the library's fairly comprehensive book-approval plan appears to be above average for that of other doctoral-extensive libraries of comparable size.

Second, access-versus-ownership evaluation of the journals collections found that the collections in Sociology and Anthropology, as well as in the social sciences generally, meet this criterion of cost-effectiveness.

Third, evaluation of the journal collections for missing important titles also yielded fairly good results. Of the 16 citation-ranked journal literatures taken together, the library has 437 of the 617 titles (71%). The tally is indicative, not precise, as some titles are on more than one core list. Of the 180 missing titles, 29 (one in six) meet both criteria to be collection-development priorities: *broad caliber* (in the scholarly communication system) and *local relevance* (to campus interests).

Five of those titles fall directly in Sociology or Anthropology; their aggregate annual cost would be about \$1,220:

- *Discourse and Society* (\$558)
- *Sociology of Health and Illness* (\$587)
- *Work and Occupations* (\$345)
- *Journal of Law and Society* (\$305)
- *Human Nature: An Interdisciplinary Biosocial Perspective* (\$185).

The other 24 titles, over the social sciences, would have a total annual cost of about \$9,600.

- *Housing Policy Debate* (free)
- *Housing Studies* (\$499)
- *Journal of Women's Health* (\$379)
- *Feminist Economics* (\$184)
- *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* (\$70)
- *Feminism and Psychology* (\$461)
- *Future of Children* (free)
- *Journal of Social Policy* (\$585)

- *European Journal of Industrial Relations* (\$322)
- *Local Government Studies* (\$290)
- *IDS Bulletin* (\$140)
- *Journal of Planning, Education, and Research* (\$193)
- *Ecosystems* (\$1,658)
- *Evolutionary Ecology Research* (\$406)
- *Environmental History* (\$90)
- *Environment and Planning: A* (\$1,067)
- *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design* (\$397)
- *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* (\$397)
- *Social and Legal Issues* (\$458)
- *Theory, Culture and Society* (\$598)
- *Sociology of Health & Illness* (\$587)
- *Journal of Medical Ethics* (\$178)
- *Journal of Biosocial Sciences* (\$171)
- *History of the Human Sciences* (\$487 ).

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

While library-collections assessments for academic-program reviews are generally for long-range strategic planning, the online-journal packages described in this report should be considered for funding forthwith. This kind of collection-development initiative meets the two main goals of research productivity and cost-effectiveness.

## II. Benchmark Institutions and Subject Literatures

Once the framework of analysis shifts to a broader plane, from specific resources to benchmark institutions, the picture becomes less sanguine. As [spreadsheet 20](#) shows, the library's budgets and collections are, on the whole, average for universities of similar scale (in the \$10M library budget range) and comparable to only a few of the universities selected by FIU for benchmarking purposes. For example, FIU's total library budget and its resource (collections) budget are just 70% of those of the benchmark universities.

## III. System and University

On the broadest plane, prospects for collection development following any program review are conditioned by prolongation of inflation in the scholarly system at large. As the accompanying [graph](#) shows, since the mid-1980s journal expenditures for research libraries as a group have increased 210% and book expenditures 66%—resulting in the nationwide decline of acquisitions, and a restructuring of sorts for university presses.<sup>10</sup>

Apart from inflationary pressures “out there,” collection development may become increasingly problematic as a campus resource-allocation process, in face of increasing research and curricular interests, program diversification, and the university’s goals for a broad expansion of new Ph.D. programs. Overall, it is of fundamental importance for each program to advise the library on the specific resources and research services that will best serve the faculty’s needs. While the library endeavors to stay abreast of new markets and opportunities in the scholarly system, collection development is an area of mutual knowledge and concern.

---

<sup>10</sup> Such restructuring has led to “endangered species” in book publishing—subject areas of declining economic viability for publishers, given the loss of academic libraries as a ready market. Among the “endangered species” are area studies and some fields in History, Literary Criticism, and the Performing Arts. Yet, little is known in a systematic way about the true dimensions of the “endangered species” problem. Clarification may come from a study, begun in 1999 by the Association of American University Presses (<http://aaupnet.org/programs/data.html>). The first report of this project has a different focus: university–press revenues. In Sociology for the period 1989-2000, university press books had an inflation rate of 13.91%, in contrast to a rate of 56.72% for commercial publishers. Given such price differentials across all fields, the study raised the question of whether university presses may be “leaving money on the table” by not pricing aggressively enough.

Some observers envision a solution in electronic-book publishing. See, for example, Karen J. Winkler, “Academic Presses Look to the Internet to Save Scholarly Monographs,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 12, 1997, A18; and “University-Press Group to Study Whether Books in Some Fields Are Disappearing,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 1, 1999, A24.