

Assessment of Library Collections
Program Review

Masters in Public Health

Tony Schwartz
Associate Director for Collection Management

November 3, 2004 / Updated April 12, 2006

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).

SUMMARY REPORT

Budget planning. There is some history to this report that pertains to budget planning for new library resources for Public Health programs. In January, 2004 a collection analysis was done for the Ph.D. program proposal for Public Health: Health Promotion and Community Nutrition. That report covered eight citation-ranked literatures. The total cost estimate for new journals was \$39,337—of which about \$23,000 was for those in the normal cost range for this field, and about \$16,000 was for a few high-cost online journals: *Journal of the American Medical Society* (\$5,000), *New England Journal of Medicine* (\$5,400), and *HIV Clinical Trials* (\$5,533).

At the Faculty Senate Graduate Council hearing of April 2, 2004 for that Ph.D. program, it was agreed that the library does not have the financial capacity to undertake such acquisitions without supplemental funding from the university.

For the program under review here—the Masters in Public Health—the faculty selected three of the citation-ranked literatures pertain: Health Policy and Services; Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health; and Infectious Diseases. The costs are in line with those of the Ph.D. program: **\$29,516**, of which \$16,000 relates to the same three high-cost journals noted above.

Journals. The three citation-ranked literatures total 165 journals, of which the library has 91 (55%). Of the 74 journals not in the collections, the faculty selected 20 (about one in four) for collection development: 15 as high priorities, five as medium priorities. The aggregate annual cost of the high priorities would be \$4,231; the aggregate annual cost of the medium priorities would be \$8,307, for a total cost of \$12,538.

The library also relies on the faculty to submit a list of other journal needs (some journals may be too new for citation ranking, others may have high impact factors for public health as a whole). Six titles on the list for the Ph.D. program fall into the literatures under review for the masters program. Three of the six journals have moderate prices totaling \$1,045. The others three are the high-cost ones noted above.

The overall cost for the master’s program may be figured at different levels:

- The 15 high-priority citation-ranked journals together with the three moderately priced journals on the faculty’s list would be **\$5,276** annually.
- Inclusion of the five medium-priority citation-ranked journals would increase that cost to **\$13,583** annually.
- The additional three high-cost journals would bring the overall cost to **\$29,516** annually.

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

Databases. There are no salient gaps in the collections of databases in the health sciences.

MAIN REPORT

SCOPE. Analysis focuses primarily on journals, books, and databases. Some other categories of library support—geographic information systems, reference services, and government documents—are briefly described. Four spreadsheets are appended: the first three are journal collection analyses, the last outlines the framework of book acquisitions.

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. To structure this situation, subject literatures must be bounded in certain ways, primarily by focusing on the core journals of a field according to the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* database of citation-impact rankings.¹

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.² *Importance* is gauged for the scholarly system as a whole by citation-impact rankings of the core literatures.

¹ *JCR* covers about 5,000 journals in the sciences and technology, and about 1,500 in the social sciences; there are 52 categories in the health 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.

² Local demand is shown by interlibrary loan data (as well as faculty lists). In 2002, the library did an analysis of the journals (not in the collections) most often involved in interlibrary loan requests. 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 begin January 2003. Six are in health fields: *Rehabilitation Management*; *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*; *Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation*; *Ostomy/Wound Management*; *Stroke*; and *Cancer*.

Method 1: Core Literatures. Of 52 health science fields which have citation-impact rankings, the faculty found three of chief interest for the Master's in Public Health program: Health Policy and Services; Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health; and Infectious Diseases.

Health Policy and Services. Comparison of the library's collections to the citation-ranked journals in this field is shown in spreadsheet 1. Of the total 39 titles, the library has 33 (85%). Of the six titles not in the collections, the faculty selected one as a high priority: *Qualitative Health Research* (ranked 22nd; and 9th of 42 in Nursing), \$710.

Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health. Comparison of the library's collections to the citation-ranked journals in this field is shown in spreadsheet 2. Of the total 88 titles, the library has 42 (48%). Of the 46 titles not in the collections, the faculty selected nine. Five are high priorities: *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health Part B* (ranked 1st; and 1st of 29 in Environmental Sciences; and 3rd of 78 in Toxicology); *Epidemiology* (4th); *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* (11th; and 10th of 36 in Infectious Diseases); *Epidemiology and Infection* (33rd; and 23rd of 36 in Infectious Diseases); and *Journal of Health Population and Nutrition* (88th; and 121st of 129 in Environmental Medicine). The cost of the high priorities for this field would be \$2,121.

The other four are medium priorities: *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention* (2nd; and 15th of 107 in Oncology); *Cancer Cause Control* (10th; and 38th of 107 in Oncology); *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* (21st); *Genetic Epidemiology* (23rd; and 62nd of 113 in Tropical Medicine). Those four would be \$4,488; the overall cost for this field, \$6,609.

Infectious Diseases. Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals in this field is shown in spreadsheet 3. Of the total 38 titles, the library has 16 (42%). Of the 22 titles not in the collections, the faculty selected five. Four are high priorities: *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (ranked 5th; and 5th of 38 in Immunology; and 10th of 82 in Microbiology); *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* (13th; and 14th of 88 in Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health); and *Epidemiology and Infection* (20th; and 32nd of 88 in Public, Environmental, and Occupational Health). The cost of the high priorities would be \$1,400.

The fifth is a medium priority: *American Journal of Infection Control* (19th), \$298. The overall cost for this field would be \$1,698.

As noted at the outset in the summary report, these three literatures have a total 165 journals. The library has 91 (55%) of them. Of the 74 journals not in the collections, the faculty selected 20 for collection development: 15 as high priorities, the other five as medium priorities. The aggregate annual cost of the high priorities would be \$4,231; the aggregate annual cost of the medium priorities would be \$8,307. The total cost for the citation-ranked journals would be \$12,538.

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 relevant to a campus program. Accordingly, the library relies on the faculty to submit a list of such additional journal needs. Of the six journals on the faculty’s list for the Ph.D. program that fall in the citation-ranked literatures covered in this report, three have moderate subscription prices: *Pediatrics* (\$336); *Clinical Infectious Diseases*,(\$551); and *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* (\$158)—totaling \$1,045.

The other three journals on the faculty’s list are quite costly. One would be new: an (online) subscription to *HIV Clinical Trials* (\$5,533). The other requests are to shift to online access the library’s current print subscriptions to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (about \$5,000) and the *New England Journal of Medicine* (\$5,400). These three journals have an aggregate cost of \$15,933. The overall cost for all six journals on the faculty’s list would be in the range of \$16,978.

BOOKS

Print. The analysis pertains to University Park campus.³ In health and other science fields, the library’s book approval plan covers:

- topics of general interest (e.g., history of science, social or public policy aspects of science);
- all university-press titles in science and health fields relevant to campus programs;
- trade-publisher titles in certain fields that have coherent and affordable literatures (e.g., sports medicine, nutritional diseases and disorders, and communication disorders);
- all adult-level titles reviewed in either *The New York Times Book Review* or *Times Literary Supplement*.

Spreadsheet 4 outlines the book approval plan in health and science fields and its operation in FY04 in relation to U.S. and U.K. book publication output. It also lists the library’s monograph series standing orders. For the Ph.D. program, the only addition requested by the faculty was for a certain standing order in the field of nutrition (acquired).

³ Over the past year, all of the collections in health fields at the Biscayne Bay campus library have been shifted to University Park, other than Nursing. The Nursing collections are expected to be shifted this year, depending on the university’s final plan for that program.

Public health programs also require books in the social sciences and humanities, particularly on health issues of minority and underserved populations. The library's approval plan in those disciplines is fairly comprehensive in providing automatic coverage of all academic-level titles.

Online Books. Of the total collection of 40,187 NetLibrary online books owned by the library, some 1,109 titles have *health* as a keyword descriptor, and 115 have *public health* 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>.

DATABASES. The library's collections of databases, about 270 in number, include all of the core ones for Public Health. (For the Ph.D. program collection analysis, the only database not found in the collections was *EMBASE Excerpta Medica* (biomedicine and pharmacology.)

Databases that FIU owns or accesses in the Health Sciences include:

- *Medline*
- *CINAHL Plus Full Text*
- *Human Nutrition*
- *Cochrane Library*
- *PubMed*
- *PubMed Central Life Sciences Journal Archive*
- *Medical Journals*
- *Health and Wellness Resource Center*
- *AbleData*
- *AgeLine*
- *Agricola*
- *Agriculture and Environmental Biotechnology Abstracts*
- *AIDS and Cancer Research Abstracts*
- *Bacteriology Abstracts*
- *Basic BIOSIS and BIOSIS*
- *Bibliography of Bioethics*
- *Bioengineering Abstracts*
- *Biological and Agricultural Index*
- *Biological Sciences*
- *Biology Digest*
- *Biotechnology and Bioengineering*
- *Health and Safety Science Abstracts*
- *Calcium & Calcified Tissue Abstracts*
- *Medical News*
- *Cancer.gov*
- *CCH Health and Human Resources*
- *CDC Wonder*
- *CHEM ID Plus*
- *Chemoreception Abstracts*
- *CRIS*
- *Ecology Abstracts*
- *EIS: Digests of Environmental Impact Statements*
- *Entomology Abstracts*
- *Environmental Engineering Abstracts*
- *Environmental Sciences & Pollution Management*
- *FAOSTAT*
- *Genetics Abstracts*
- *Hazardous Chemical Database*
- *Health and Psychosocial Instruments*
- *Health & Safety Science Abstracts*
- *Human Genome Abstracts*
- *IBIDS Immunology Abstracts*
- *Industrial & Applied Microbiology Abstracts*
- *Medical & Pharmaceutical*
- *Biotechnology Abstracts*
- *Mental Measurements Yearbook*
- *Microbiology Abstracts*
- *Neurosciences Abstracts*
- *Oncogenes & Growth Factors*
- *Pollution Abstracts*

- *PopLine*
- *PsycINFO*
- *Risk Abstracts*
- *Safety Science & Risk*
- *Toxicology Abstracts*
- *Toxicology & Environmental Health*
- *Toxline*
- *ToxNet*
- *USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference*
- *Virology & AIDS Abstracts.*

For descriptions, see <http://library.fiu.edu/subjects/medhealth.html>. Health and nutrition promotion make use of Education databases, primarily *ERIC* and *Education Abstracts*; for descriptions, see <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/subjects/education.html>.

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.

Library Instruction in the Health Sciences

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 which are required of all students in which 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.

Government Documents

Sherry Mosley, Head

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/internet/subjects/govern.html>.