

Assessment of Library Collections  
Academic Program Review

**Physical Therapy**

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Because of their length, the eight 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**

**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.

**Core Journals.** Of the seven citation-ranked journal literatures allied to Physical Therapy—Sport Sciences, Orthopedics, Rehabilitation, Geriatrics and Gerontology, Biomedical Social Sciences, Nutrition and Dietetics, and Pediatrics—the library has 126 of the 346 titles (36%). On review of these lists, the faculty selected \_\_\_ of the 220 titles not in the collections for acquisition: \_\_\_ as high priorities, and \_\_\_ as medium priorities. The total *annual* cost of the high priorities would be about \$\_\_\_\_; that of the medium priorities would be about \$\_\_\_\_, for an aggregate cost of about \$\_\_\_\_.

**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.

**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 with priorities for collection development. Eight spreadsheets are appended. The first outlines the framework of book acquisitions, the others are evaluations of the journal collections.

**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.<sup>1</sup> To structure this situation, subject literatures and library collections must be bounded in certain ways. For example, 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.<sup>2</sup>

### Books

**Print.** The framework of FIU’s book-acquisitions plan provides reasonably comprehensive coverage for the cross-disciplinarity of Physical Therapy, which spans Public Health and General Medicine (Physiology, Orthopedics, Rehabilitation, Geriatrics), as well as the social sciences (primarily Physical Education and Gerontology).

Through its book-approval plan, 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](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Other fields may be of interest, such as those in the library’s report for Occupational Therapy, online at <http://www.fiu.edu/provost/aaproreview/prarchives.htm>. The library will provide any core-literature analysis on request.

<sup>2</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.

Of specific interest to Physical Therapy, Public Medicine total book-publication output in FY03 was 590 titles, of which university presses accounted for 100 (17%). This is on par to that of other Florida libraries of comparable size.<sup>3</sup>

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 spreadsheet 1, 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>.

## **Journals**

In Physical Therapy, the library has 38 journal subscriptions (listed at end of report): 32 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.

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.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

Comparison of the library's collections to the core journals in **Sports Sciences** according to *JCR* is shown in spreadsheet 2. Of the total 68 titles, the library has 18 (26%). Of the 50 titles not in the collections, \_\_\_ were selected by the faculty as priority-acquisitions:

Comparison of the collections to the core journals in **Orthopedics** is shown in spreadsheet 3. Of the total 42 titles, the library has seven (17%). Of the 35 titles not in the collections, \_\_\_ were selected by the faculty as priority-acquisitions:

Comparison of the collections to the core journals in **Rehabilitation** is shown in spreadsheet 4. Of the total 69 titles, the library has 33 (48%). Of the 36 titles not in the collections, \_\_\_ were selected by the faculty as priority-acquisitions:

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, \_\_\_ were selected by the faculty as priority-acquisitions:

Comparison of the collections to the core journals in **Biomedical Social Sciences** is shown in spreadsheet 6. Of the total 24 titles, the library has 11 (46 %). Of the 23 titles not in the collections, \_\_\_ were selected by the faculty as priority-acquisitions:

Comparison of the collections to the core journals in **Nutrition and Dietetics** is shown in spreadsheet 7. Of the total 50 titles, the library has 27 (54 %). Of the 23 titles not in the collections, \_\_\_ were selected by the faculty as priority-acquisitions:

Comparison of the collections to the core journals in **Pediatrics** is shown in spreadsheet 8. Of the total 69 titles, the library has 20 (29 %). Of the 49 titles not in the collections, \_\_\_ were selected by the faculty as priority-acquisitions:

## **Databases**

FIU's collection of databases, about 275 in number, includes the core resources for Physical Therapy: primarily *Medline* and *PubMed Central Life Sciences Journals Archive*, along with *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. For the seven core (citation-ranked) journal literatures reviewed, the library has 126 of the total 346 titles (36%). Of the 220 titles not in the collections, the faculty selected \_\_\_ for acquisition: \_\_\_ as high priorities, and \_\_\_ as medium priorities. The total *annual* cost of the high priorities would be about \$\_\_\_\_; that of the medium priorities about \$\_\_\_\_, for an aggregate cost of about \$\_\_\_\_ .

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.