

Northwestern University Library Collection Development Policy Statement

Life Sciences by Lloyd A. Davidson March 19, 1999

I. Brief overview of the collection

A. History of the collection

Not applicable

B. Broad subject areas emphasized or de-emphasized

Broad subject areas covered are cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, neurobiology, physiology, genetics, immunology, bioengineering, biomedical engineering and some natural history, ecology and environmental studies and evolutionary biology. Specialized areas of particular note include biological rhythms and photoperiodicity, heat shock/stress proteins, DNA structure and function, virology, procaryote photosynthesis, developmental genetics, membrane structure and function, reproductive biology, endocrinology and environmental microbiology. Emphasized: Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Neurobiology, Physiology, Physical Anthropology, Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, Biotechnology, Environmental Sciences De-emphasized: Ecology, Evolutionary Biology

C. Collection locations

Seeley G. Mudd Library for Science and Engineering (SEL).

II. Purpose or objectives

This collection is designed primarily to serve the research and teaching needs of the Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cell Biology (BMBCB) and Neurobiology and Physiology (NBP) departments, as well as the life science and biochemical literature needs of the Chemistry, Biomedical Engineering, Materials Science, Chemical Engineering and Civil Engineering departments, and the Catalysis Center. All science fields are cross-disciplinary to some extent, and it is not unusual for geologists, physicists, even astronomers, to have need of life science material for their research. A comprehensive list of primary Northwestern departments and other units served by the life sciences collection is given below.

List of Departments and other programs additionally supported:

Biological Sciences Undergraduate Program
Life Sciences oriented faculty in Chemical Engineering
Life Sciences oriented faculty in Chemistry
Biomedical Engineering Department
Center for Biotechnology
Center for Circadian Biology and Medicin
Center for Reproductive Science
Communication Sciences and Disorders Department
Physical Anthropology section of Anthropology Department
Psychology Department
Evolution and Paleontology sections of Geology
Neuroscience Undergraduate Program
Institute for Neuroscience
Interdepartmental Biological Sciences Graduate Program
Integrated Science Program

Institute for Health Services Research & Policy Studies This collection is also designed to satisfy the life-science research and teaching needs of faculty, graduates students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting scholars in these departments and specialties. It also attempts to meet major undergraduate

teaching needs, for example, by acquiring important textbooks, journals and databases aimed at undergraduates in the life sciences.

III. Library unit or title of the selector responsible for this collection

Life Sciences Librarian and Bibliographer.

IV. Scope of the subject coverage

A. Language

Virtually all acquisitions are in English with very few non-English materials collected.

B. Geographical scope

The vast majority of our material comes from the United States, Canada, Britain and Europe. Geographic considerations are usually only applicable to natural history works of interest to specific faculty.

C. Chronological scope

Mainly current materials, 1980 to present, except for some items of historical interest.

D. Publication dates collected

Late 1900s through current date

E. Formats and genres

1. Inclusions

Bibliographies

Indices

Abstract material

Encyclopaedia

Dictionaries

Directories

Handbooks

Books (including proceedings of congresses and symposia)

Journals, either in print or electronic format.

Monographic Series

Government Publications (few)

Microfilms

Northwestern Life Sciences Doctoral dissertations

Northwestern Life Sciences Master theses (where required)

Reference Materials:

Abstracting and Indexing Services, either on paper or in electronic format

Guides to the literature and directories

Bibliographies and handbooks

General data compilations

When appropriate, electronic materials are collected, and, in some cases, this is becoming the preferred format. Databases and reference works are the primary materials in electronic format, with an increasing number of electronic journals.

2. Exclusions

Catalogs of any kind

Films

Slides

Photographs

Newspapers

Microforms

Maps

Reprints

Sound recordings

Software (except when part of a book or journal)

AV materials

Dissertations from other universities

Antiquarian titles
All books below the four-year college level

V. Acquisitions procedures affecting collection policies

A. Standing Orders

We have standing orders to very few monographic series.

B. Approval plans and blanket orders

Our only current approval plan is for slip notifications from a major vendor.

C. Gifts and exchanges

Gift monographs and replacement serial volumes are added when the material is appropriate to our collection and not otherwise duplicated.

VI. Duplication with other NU library units

There is limited duplication of important journals and monographs between our library and the Galter Health Sciences library. It is kept to a minimum and both libraries depend on interlibrary loans to satisfy the information needs of patrons.

VII. Expensive purchases

Expensive purchases are considered on an individual basis in relation to the scope of the collection policy and to available funding.

VIII. Interdisciplinary collections

Refers to other collections in the Library with significant overlap. Not group of scientists

A small portion of my collecting includes materials of specific interest to computer scientists and psychologists, but a great deal of the collection is of potential interest to chemists, physical anthropologists, physicists, materials scientists, geologists and even to some students of the humanities. There is a significant use of our life sciences collection by medical and psychology faculty, and vice versa. The major shared multidisciplinary database used by life scientists is the Web of Science (~\$20,000/annum (1998)).

IX. Purchases with endowed funds

Life sciences has limited endowed funds available, of mention are the Pearse and Davis funds

X. Cooperation with other libraries

A. Other resources, including local, regional or national libraries

Formal or informal agreements with other libraries, such as: UIC, UC, etc.

We cooperate with the Galter Health Sciences Library to the extent that we do not duplicate our collections any more than is necessary. As noted in VI, above, Galter has agreed to pay for our online access to the Journal of Biological Chemistry in return for our agreement to retain the paper subscription to this journal for archival purposes. Similarly, Current Contents Life Sciences Online is shared between GHSL and ourselves, and we have dropped our paper subscription.

B. Consortia

See Introduction.

XI. Policies for purchasing journal article reprints or electronic files on demand

Journal articles are rarely purchased directly.

XII. Other factor of local importance

Not applicable.

XIII. Collection levels

All Language Codes are E (English-only)

Classification Range: Current Collecting Intensity

Biological Chemistry	4	
Paleozoology	2	
Paleobotany	2	
Natural History, Life Sciences		
General Natural History	2	
Nature Conservation, Landscape Protection	2	
Microscopy; Light, Electron		4
General Biology		3
Genetics	4	
Reproduction		4
Life	3	
General and Animal Ecology		3
Cytology, Cell Biology		4
Economic Biology	2	
Botany	2	
Plant Anatomy	2	
Plant Physiology, Photosynthesis		3
Plant Ecology	2	
Zoology	2	
Animal Behavior and Psychology		3
Morphology	2	
Anatomy		2
Embryology	4	
Human Anatomy	3	
Human Embryology		3
Physiology	4	
Neurophysiology		4
Neuropsychology	2	
Animal Biochemistry		4
Experimental Pharmacology		2
Microbiology		4
Bacteria	4	
Immunology	4	
Virology		4