Collection Development Policy
Biological Sciences

Subject Librarian: Rhonda Culbertson

Purpose of policy: The collection development policy for Biological Sciences guides the development and management of the Biological Sciences collection.

Program Description: The Department of Biological Sciences provides undergraduate education critical to understanding living organisms, and is fundamental to understanding life itself. A major in biology centers on a core that includes cell biology, genetics, physiology, plant science, anatomy and physiology, microbiology, and immunology. Additional courses in general chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, and mathematics round out the basic program.

Areas of established specialization
- Comparative, environmental and organismal physiology
- Ecology of species interactions
- Biology of plants, evolution of plants
- Cell biology, cell motility mechanisms
- Genomics of cancer
- Molecular biology of vision and neural growth
- Developmental biology
- Microbiology of gut flora

Changes in user population for most recent five years:
- Many if not most of the students have a strong preference for internet based resources.

New and expanding areas of interest:
- Health impact of Cannabis use and medical use of marijuana

Degrees Offered:
- BA in Biological Sciences
- BS in Biological Sciences

Clientele: The primary clientele are the undergraduate students, faculty, and staff of the Biology Department. Members of the Michiana community may also use the collection.

Scope and Collection Guidelines

The Biological sciences collection consists of works written for the basic through advanced undergraduate level and for basic faculty research. Graduate- and research-level publications are collected selectively.

Formats collected: Scholarly monographs, serials, collections of essays, conference proceedings, videos, and electronic resources are extensively collected.

Formats excluded: Pamphlets, newsletters, article reprints, and required textbooks. Popular and/or journalistic monographs about social issues are selectively collected.
Language: The collection is primarily in English.

Geographic coverage: All geographic areas are covered. For titles with a geographic focus, preference is given to materials relating to the region (Michiana, northern Indiana, and Midwest).

Chronological periods collected: Priority is given to current publications. Older imprints are collected selectively, usually as replacements for classic works, or upon request.

Subject Emphases: The Biological sciences collection focuses on the topics of general biology, genetics, botany, anatomy and physiology, cell biology,

Current Collecting Priorities: Emphasis is on scholarly periodicals in electronic format.

Subjects Collected Selectively: health impact of marijuana

Reference: Reference material for Biological sciences are selected by the Biology subject librarian

Location: Biological sciences materials are housed in the Schurz Library. Works specifically about the discipline of biology are classified in the Q schedule of Library of Congress system;

Biology call number areas:
QH 1-278.5 Natural history
QH 30-705.5 Biology
QK 1-989 Botany
QL 1-991 Zoology
QM 1-695 Human Anatomy
QP 1-981 Physiology
QR 1-502 Microbiology