

**Executive Summary**  
**American Literature Collection Assessment**

Submitted by Laura Pitts

March 13, 2023

**INTRODUCTION**

The American Literature collection is adequate to support the courses taught in the bachelor's and master's programs. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

**HOLDINGS**

The American Literature collection contains **70,507** print titles in the PS and PZ call number ranges, including **6,511** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for PS call numbers for American Literature from FY 2016/2017 – FY 2021/2022 were **\$219,515.56** with 2,406 new titles added. These newer additions comprise 3% of the current American Literature collection.

These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth. These numbers do not represent additional titles available through e-book databases.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Library Holdings</b>
PS1 - 441	General Criticism, History	4,707
PS451 – 478	Folklore and Folk Literature	19
PS501 – 690	Collections	16,727
PS700 - 893	Colonial Period	143
PS991 – 3390	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	5,185
PS3500 – 3549	1900 – 1960	12,033
PS3551 – 3600	1961 - 2000	12,844
PS 3601	2001 - Present	89
PZ 1 – 4	Fiction in English	4,479
PZ 5 – 10	Juvenile Literature, American and English Supplemental Materials	14,281
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>70,507</b>

**Monograph Expenditures for American Literature (which include English Literature expenses)**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2016/2017	\$39,987.85
2017/2018	\$41,248.36
2018/2019	\$41,017.71
2019 /2020	\$33,155.27
2020/2021	\$35,429.25
2021/2022	\$28,677.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$219,515.56</b>

**PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

The Library has access to full-text journals available throughout the Library databases. There are over 660 journals available electronically through database subscriptions, which can be found in EBSCO’s Publication Finder at <http://bit.ly/2zO6DjD>. The Serials expenditures in American Literature for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average **\$31,938.11** from FY 2016/2017 – FY 2021/2022.

**Serial Expenditures for American Literatures (include English Literature expenditures)**

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>Total</b>
2016/2017	\$34,208.84
2017/2018	\$33,581.60
2018/2019	\$32,994.55
2019/2020	\$32,248.13
2020/2021	\$30,385.67
2021/2022	\$28,209.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$191,628.64</b>

Expenditures for serials have migrated away from the individual subscription model to the aggregator database model. Dollar amounts spent on aggregator databases cannot be sub-divided into subject categories. In 2021/2022, aggregator databases totaled **\$281,810.00** which came from the general fund.

**DEFINED ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

Defined access points users to resources through menu options on the Library’s homepage by linking the user to quality, highly relevant, electronic resources. Because the Library provides access to electronic journals, documents, e-books, and video databases along with integrated quality websites that encompass the area of American Literature, the Library's electronic collection in this subject is adequate to support the curriculum.

A complete list of all of the Library's databases can be found in the A to Z Database Listing at <http://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php>. The A to Z List also subdivides databases by subject, providing a list of all English and American Literature related databases at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26269&p=1>. Additionally, the American Literature guide (<https://libguides.jsu.edu/eh201-202>), which is maintained by the subject specialist, provides a list of and access to the resources specifically for this subject.

Complete details are available in the full assessment, which is available upon request or accessed at <http://bit.ly/2fyeMMU>.

## American Literature Collection Assessment

Submitted by Laura Pitts

March 13, 2023

### INTRODUCTION

The American Literature collection is central to the University curriculum, since it supports study for degree programs in English at both the Bachelor's and Master's levels offered by the College of Arts and Humanities and degrees in language arts and secondary education offered by the School of Education, as well as K-12 teachers pursuing a Master's degree. The collection also supports students taking a minor in English along with the degree in their major field. Refer to the checklists, tables, and conspectus sheets which follow this narrative for a more detailed examination of the Library's holdings. Complete conspectus sheets and checklists are available upon request for a more detailed examination of the collection.

### HOLDINGS

The American Literature collection contains **70,507** print titles in the PS and PZ call number ranges, including **6,511** e-books. Total monograph expenditures for PS call numbers for American Literature from FY 2016/2017 – FY 2021/2022 were **\$219,515.56** with 2,406 new titles added. These newer additions comprise 3% of the current American Literature collection.

These numbers represent a snapshot of the collection as titles are continually being added and withdrawn for collection maintenance and growth. These numbers do not represent additional titles available through e-book databases.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Library Holdings</b>
PS1 - 441	General Criticism, History	4,707
PS451 – 478	Folklore and Folk Literature	19
PS501 – 690	Collections	16,727
PS700 – 893	Colonial Period	143
PS991 – 3390	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	5,185
PS3500 – 3549	1900 – 1960	12,033
PS3551 – 3600	1961 – 2000	12,844
PS 3601	2001 – present	89
PZ 1 – 4	Fiction in English	4,479
PZ 5 – 10	Juvenile Literature, American and English Supplemental Materials	14,281
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>70,507</b>

**Monograph Expenditures for American Literature (which include English Literature expenses)**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2016/ 2017	\$39,987.85
2017 /2018	\$41,248.36
2018 /2019	\$41,017.71
2019 /2020	\$33,155.27
2020/2021	\$35,429.25
2021/2022	\$28,677.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$219,515.56</b>

**SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT**

American Literature is an interdisciplinary subject that extends beyond the boundaries of the discipline. Supplemental support for research includes a wide range of subject areas, including the holdings in the related subject collections of Art, Drama, English Literature, General Works, Germanic Literature, Languages, Literature of Music, Philosophy, Religion, and Romantic Literature.

**Number of titles held for support subdivisions outside the American Literature Classifications:**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Totals</b>
NX	Arts (General)	857
PN	Drama	3,407
PR	English Literature	39,218
A-AZ	General Works	4,100
PT	Germanic Literature	519
PA, PB, PC	Classical, Modern European, Celtic, and Romance Languages	2,761
ML	Literature of Music	8,689
B	Philosophy (General)	4,182
BK – BX	Religion	14,698
PQ	Romantic Literature	792

**TITLES ADDED/TITLES PUBLISHED**

Below is a comparison of the number of book titles added to the Houston Cole Library collection versus those made available for sale each fiscal year through GOBI.

**Monographs Added Versus Published Comparison**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Added to PS Collection</b>	<b>YBP New Titles Report<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2016/2017	418	3,738	11%
2017/2018	426	3,417	12%
2018/2019	454	3,003	15%
2019/2020	331	2,540	13%
2020/2021	440	2,767	16%
2021/2022	353	2,720	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,422</b>	<b>18,185</b>	<b>13%</b>

**CHECKLIST SUMMARIES**

Bibliographies including National Book Award Winners, Pulitzer Prize Winners, Choice’s Outstanding Academic Titles (OATs), and Resources for College Libraries were used to measure the quality of the Library’s collection. In checking the bibliographies against the Library’s catalog, the following percentages were revealed in the subject area of American Literature. Winners over a 30-year-period for specific categories as related to American Literature were used to measure the quality of the Library’s collection.

<b><i>Resources for College Libraries 2016 -2019</i></b>			
<b>LC CLASS / Subject</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percentage Held</b>
PS / American Literature	469	867	54%

<b><i>Choice’s Outstanding Academic Titles 2016-2022</i></b>			
<b>LC CLASS / Subject</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
PS / American Literature	217	267	81%

**BOOK AWARDS**

Another aspect of the American Literature Collection includes titles held that fall into the category of a specific book award. These awards include the National Book Award for categories of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, young people’s literature and translated literature as related to American Literature; and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and Nonfiction titles. Having these titles as part of the collection help to ensure that classical works within the call number range are represented, as well as new titles that have award winning merit. Looking at a thirty-year range of winners between 1992 - 2021, the following total and percentages is represented for each award. Please note that for each

---

<sup>1</sup> GOBI New Titles Report  
[https://www.gobi3.com/StaticContent/GOBIContent/YBP/Private/Help/Pages/newtitlereport\\_us.html](https://www.gobi3.com/StaticContent/GOBIContent/YBP/Private/Help/Pages/newtitlereport_us.html)

award, only one award is given annually per-award category, resulting in the low number of titles, which are relevant, nonetheless.

<i>Award Winning Books Titles 1992 - 2021</i>			
<b>Award</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
Pulitzer Prize for Non-Fiction	20	30	67%
Pulitzer Prize for Fiction	25	30	83%
National Book Award Fiction	23	30	77%
National Book Award Non-Fiction	23	30	77%
National Book Award Poetry	13	28	46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>70%</b>

### **WITHDRAWALS**

As currency of information is very important in the American Literature collection, older books are withdrawn on a regular basis or as newer editions supersede them, and new books are ordered to fill gaps as curriculum requirements change. The table below shows withdrawals from the PS classification.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>PS Withdrawn</b>
2016/2017	1
2017/2018	22
2018/2019	38
2019/2020	1,143
2020/2021	3
2021/2022	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,266</b>

### **PERIODICALS AND SERIALS**

The Library currently subscribes to 9 print journals in the American literature classification PS. This number includes journals that have ceased publication or to which the subscription has been cancelled and is supplemented by several journals in the Languages and General Literature classes (P through PN), by general reviews in classes AP through AS, and the occasional journal found in another classification. The Library also has access to over 660 full-text journals available throughout the Library database subscriptions, which can be found in EBSCO's Publication Finder at <http://bit.ly/2utPiGH>. The Serials expenditures in American Literature for both print and electronic subscriptions and standing orders average \$31,938.11 from FY 2016/2017 – FY 2021/2022 (see table below).

**Serial Expenditures for American Literature (including English Literature Expenses)**

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>Total</b>
2016/2017	\$34,208.84
2017/2018	\$33,581.60
2018/19	\$32,994.55
2019/2020	\$32,248.13
2020/2021	\$30,385.67
2021/2022	\$28,209.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$191,628.64</b>

Expenditures for serials have migrated away from the individual subscription model to the aggregator database model. Dollar amounts spent on aggregator databases cannot be sub-divided into subject categories. In 2021/2022, aggregator databases totaled **\$281,810.00**, which came from the general fund.

The following indexes and bibliographies were checked against the Library's holdings for serial titles pertaining to American Literature, revealing the corresponding percentages:

<b>Titles</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Listed</b>	<b>Percent Held</b>
<i>Magazines for Libraries</i> 28th Edition 2019	94	106	89%

**DEFINED ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

Defined access points users to resources through menu options on the Library's homepage by linking the user to quality, highly relevant, electronic resources. Because the Library provides access to electronic journals, documents, e-books, and video databases along with integrated quality websites that encompass the area of American Literature, the Library's electronic collection in this subject is adequate to support the curriculum.

A complete list of all of the Library's databases can be found in the A to Z Database Listing at <http://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php>. The A to Z List also subdivides databases by subject, providing a list of all English and American Literature related databases at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?s=26269&p=1>. Additionally, the American Literature guide (<https://libguides.jsu.edu/eh201-202>), which is maintained by the subject specialist, provides a list of and access to the resources specifically for this subject.

Through partnerships, such as the one with the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL), the Library is able to obtain more content. Resources provided to the Library by the AVL are designated with the AVL icon.



There is also a growing amount of content published via Open Access (OA) publishing and/or under the Creative Commons (CC) Attribution License. Anyone is allowed to download, use, reuse, distribute, or even modify the content as long as the original author and source are cited. More information can be found at <https://libguides.jsu.edu/oer>.

## **SUMMARY**

### **Strengths:**

Total holdings, conspectus evaluation, and checklist comparisons indicate the overall American Literature collection is more than adequate to support the curriculum. Of particular note on the conspectus worksheets are the holdings in the subject areas of American Literature 1900-1960 and 1961-2000, Collections, and Juvenile Literature. A review of the journal holdings reveals that the American Literature collection is adequate to support the curriculum.

### **Weaknesses:**

Total holdings, conspectus evaluations, and checklist comparisons indicate that the weakest areas of collection are the American Literature 2001 – present; Colonial Period; Folklore and Folk Literature.

### **Recommendations:**

The growth rate of the American Literature collection should be maintained in order to continue providing support for the majors and minors in English. The monograph collection should be generally increased, based on budget, with a strong focus on core and outstanding titles. The periodical collection available via databases is substantial and should be maintained. The weak subject areas (noted above) should also be addressed in future additions to the collection.