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Biological Sciences Collection Development Policy

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Biological Sciences Collection Development Policy

University Libraries, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jacquelyn Petzold, Biological Sciences Liaison Librarian, November, 2009

Approved: CDC, December 16, 2009

I. GENERAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

Collection Overview

The biological sciences collection exists to support the teaching, research, and service functions of the School of Biological Sciences and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln community. The public may benefit from the biological sciences collection, although specific materials are not collected to meet their needs. Biology-related materials not available in the library's collection are generally readily available through Interlibrary Loan. The collection is focused on the biologically-based subsections of the Q Library of Congress call number range, although the heavily interdisciplinary nature of scientific study necessitates some overlap with R, S, T, and other areas.

School of Biological Sciences Overview

In May of 1973, the Board of Regents approved a proposal to integrate the Departments of Botany, Microbiology, and Zoology as well as the teaching programs of the Departments of Plant Pathology, Biochemistry, and Nutrition into the School of Life Sciences. This realignment was intended to facilitate interdisciplinary research and study as the traditional lines of biological fields were beginning to blur as the modern view of biology sought an integration of the living world. The School of Life Sciences was one of the original areas designated as an Area of Excellence, which included an appropriation that allowed the School to strengthen its educational offerings as well as its research capabilities, particularly in cell and molecular biology, ecology, and plant science. In 1983, the Board of Regents approved a request from the faculty to change the name to the School of Biological Sciences. Since 1974, the School of Biological Sciences has been housed in Manter Hall, which has 82,396 square feet of usable space.

The School of Biological Sciences is an academic unit of the College of Arts and Sciences. In the fall semester of 2009, the School of Biological Sciences reported 40 tenured or track-track faculty members. Adjunct instructors and other non-tenure-leading faculty members also play an important role. The research opportunities of individuals affiliated with the School of Biological Sciences are enhanced by a wide variety of facilities including Cedar Point Biological Station, Nebraska Center for Virology, Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory, Madigan Prairie, Nine-Mile Prairie, Arapaho Prairie, Biotechnology Core Facilities, and Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology.

Current research interests in the School of Biological Sciences are quite varied. They include animal cognition, apoptosis, behavioral ecology, bioinformatics, disease resistance, environmental stress, evolutionary physiology, functional genomics, gene function and signaling, hormone signaling, host-parasite relationships, life-history evolution, microbial genomics, microbial physiology, mitochondrial genetics, molecular virology, nematology, paleoparasitology, parasite

ecology, phylogenetics, plant virology, sexual selection, soil-borne diseases, and transgenic plants.

Library users affiliated with the School of Biological Sciences may have interests that overlap with other areas of study covered by separate collection development policies. These include agronomy, biochemistry, biological systems engineering, chemistry, entomology, food sciences, horticulture, plant pathology, natural resources, nutrition, and physics.

Degrees Offered

The School of Biological Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln offers several different degree programs as well as a minor for undergraduate and graduate students. In the fall semester of 2009, the School of Biological Sciences reported 589 undergraduates working toward a BS, 6 undergraduates working toward a BA, 21 graduate students working toward an MS, and 67 graduate students working toward a PhD.

Bachelor of Science (BS)/Bachelor of Arts (BA) – Undergraduate biology majors are required to take five core biology courses, at least eighteen hours of elective biology courses, and specified ancillary courses in chemistry, biochemistry, mathematics/statistics, and physics.

Undergraduate Minor – Undergraduates electing to complete a minor in biology are required to complete the five-course sequence of core biology courses, which totals eighteen credit hours.

Master of Science (MS) – Graduate students admitted to the School of Biological Sciences can opt to complete a master of science degree after consulting with a faculty advisor.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – The doctoral program in the School is subdivided into the following specialized Graduate Research Emphasis Groups (GREGs): Evolution, Ecology, & Behavior, Genetics and Bioinformatics, Microbiology & Molecular Biology, Parasitology, Plant Systems Biology, and Plant Pathology. Upon entering the program, each doctoral student affiliates with a GREG that is associated with his/her proposed research area.

II. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

For materials with a geographic focus, specific attention is given to topics relating to Nebraska and the Great Plains region. However, no geographical region is excluded.

III. CHRONOLOGICAL COVERAGE

Emphasis is on current research, although history of science titles and other historical treatments are also collected as funding allows.

IV. DATE OF PUBLICATION

Priority is given to works that have been published in the past five years. Other materials may be acquired selectively when gaps in the collection are identified.

V. FORMAT

Academic monographs, serials, databases, and reference works form the core of the biological sciences collection with an increasing tendency toward electronic materials. Materials in other

formats are acquired when appropriate. Textbooks are acquired minimally, especially at the lower undergraduate level.

VI. LANGUAGE

English is the primary language collected, although materials in other languages may be acquired on a limited basis to fulfill patron requests. Translations into English are preferred.

VII. CLASSIFICATIONS AND INTENSITY LEVEL

Materials Selected with Funds Designated for Biological Sciences

The following list contains Library of Congress call number ranges, subject, and corresponding collection intensity levels for topics most closely related to Biological Sciences:

BF 309-499	Consciousness and Cognition – STUDY
BF 660-685	Comparative Psychology – BASIC
RC 321-571	Neurosciences – BASIC
QH 1-278.5	Natural History (General) – STUDY
QH 359-425	Evolution – RESEARCH
QH 426-470	Genetics – RESEARCH
QH 471-489	Reproduction – RESEARCH
QH 501-531	Life – RESEARCH
QH 540-549	Ecology – RESEARCH
QH 573-671	Cytology- RESEARCH
QH 705-705	Economic Biology – BASIC
QL 1-355	General Zoology – STUDY
QL 360-599	Invertebrates – RESEARCH
QL 605-739	Chordates – RESEARCH
QL 750-795	Animal Behavior – RESEARCH
QL 801-950	Anatomy – STUDY
QL 951-991	Embryology – RESEARCH
QR 1-74.5	Microbiology (General) – STUDY
QR 75-99	Bacteria – RESEARCH
QR 100-130	Microbial Ecology – RESEARCH
QR 180-189	Immunology – RESEARCH
QR 355-502	Virology – RESEARCH