



VCU
Libraries

Guidelines for Biology

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1. Purpose.

Collections in Biology support a research agenda consistent with research enterprise at a Doctoral University: Highest Research Activity, under the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The Biology Department's collection supports the B.S. and M.S. in Biology, and Ph.D. in Integrative Life Sciences. Areas of specialization include molecular and cellular biology, terrestrial and aquatic ecology, systematics, and physiology and developmental biology. The biology collection supplements and supports the M.S. and the Ph.D. programs in Microbiology and Immunology, Neuroscience, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Human Genetics, and Physiology. The collection also supports the programs of the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Allied Health, and Pharmacy. Students and faculty in Chemistry, Biostatistics, Biotechnology, Biomedical Engineering, and Environmental Health may also have an interest in the biology collection.

2. General Collection Guidelines.

A. Language.

English is the primary language for the monographic and serials collections. Foreign or multi-language journal and monographic titles are purchased selectively, particularly research works of international importance or value.



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B. Chronology.

No restrictions.

C. Geography.

No restrictions except in cases of ecological studies of areas outside the country.

D. Publication Date.

Emphasis is on current imprints, particularly the latest editions of core texts and treatises.

E. Treatment of Subject.

Emphasis is on current imprints, particularly the latest editions of core texts. Older materials, for example, classics, are added to the collection whenever necessary. Journal backfiles are purchased whenever able, to fill gaps and to augment the collection. Popular works such as nature guides are purchased selectively. The collection is used by faculty and students on both campuses for both undergraduate and graduate studies and research. Print copies of general biology monographs, serials, and reference materials, particularly those dealing with plant and animal biology, are located in the James Branch Cabell Library. Upper level and advanced materials in specific areas of biology, particularly human genetics, bacteriology, human anatomy, human embryology, and physiology are located in Tompkins-McCaw Library.

F. Types of Materials and Formats.

Primary emphasis is on monographs and periodicals with a preference for electronic formats. Conference proceedings and symposia are also collected as are video materials and other streaming media that support teaching, learning, and research.

3. Area Resources.

There are no comparable resources in the area.

4. Subjects and Collecting Levels.

Resources for Biology are collected at a research level (4).