Collection Development Policy for Physical Science
(including Geology and Astronomy)

The collection development policy for Physical Science guides the development and management of the library’s physical science materials collection. This policy is for the use of the Physical Science subject liaison and the library's users. The policy will be updated as needed. Faculty and students are encouraged to provide recommendations for library materials.

GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE COLLECTION

The Physical Science Collection supports the educational needs of teaching faculty and students at the college. The primary purpose of the collection is to support the curricula in physical science, which include introduction to physical sciences, geology and astronomy.

The Physical Science collection is housed in the Magnolia Library and is incorporated into the circulating, reference, and periodical collections. The collection primarily reflects the interests of the Physical Science department in providing thorough introductory coursework in Physical Science.

SCOPE OF COVERAGE

1. Readership level: advanced high school, undergraduate.

2. Languages collected (primary and selective) or excluded: English.

3. Geographical areas covered by the collections in terms of intellectual content, publication sources, or both, and specific areas excluded, as appropriate: No area of the world is excluded from consideration.

4. Chronological periods covered by the collection in terms of intellectual content, movements or schools, and specific periods excluded, as appropriate: All chronological areas are included.

5. Chronological periods collected in terms of publication dates: The collection emphasizes current material, with the primary purpose of supporting coursework and student research.

GENERAL SUBJECT BOUNDARIES

The subject scope of this collection is determined by the Library of Congress classifications:
RELATED SUBJECTS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RELATIONSHIPS

The following topics fall within the purview of the following subject selectors:

Physics: The Physics subject liaison has primary responsibility for selecting materials relating to Physics coursework, although the Physical Science subject liaison will supplement this collection.

Chemistry: The Chemistry subject liaison has primary responsibility for selecting materials relating to Chemistry, although the Physical Science subject liaison will supplement this collection.

TYPES OF MATERIALS

Books

Books, periodicals, and reference works, including encyclopedias, biographical and subject-specific dictionaries, handbooks, and almanacs.

Serials/Series

Subscriptions primarily to English-language journals and monthly magazines in Physical Science.

Reference Materials

Up-to-date English-language encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, catalogs, iconography sources, and research guides.

Electronic Resources

Selected specialized indexing, abstracting, full text, and primary resources in Physical Science primarily to support the college’s curriculum.

Videos/DVDs

Acquisition is primarily curriculum-based as requested by faculty to support instruction. Some videos of wide interest (such as PBS programs) purchased to enhance the general Physical Science collection. Preferred medium is now DVD (if available) over videocassette.
Exclusions

Textbooks, foreign-language dissertations, single or discrete issues of periodicals, vanity press publications, microforms, microfilm, and 16mm or 35mm films.