

# Subject Level Collection Statement: Biology

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## ***1. Purpose of the Statement***

The purpose of the statement is to provide a framework to guide the collection development and management activities for Biology. The Statement supports the teaching, learning and research activities of the School of Biological Sciences within the Faculty of Science.

This statement is developed in accordance with the principles outlined in the [Collection Development and Management Policy](#) (CDMP).

## ***2. Description of the Academic Subject***

Biology has a long history at Victoria University. It was first taught in 1903 when Harry Borrer Kirk was appointed professor in biology. Research and teaching currently covers a broad range of subjects in Biomedical Science, Biotechnology, Cell and Molecular Bioscience, Ecology and Biodiversity, and Marine Biology. In addition to these subjects, advanced degrees are also offered in Conservation Biology, Ecological Restoration, Molecular Microbiology and Marine Conservation.

In 2000 Bachelor of Biomedical Science (BBmedSc) was introduced. Biomedical science is now taught to an advanced level A programme in Clinical Research that provides health researchers with the skills required for undertaking drug development and clinical trials was launched in 2010. The programme is delivered in collaboration with the Capital Coast District Health Board (CCDHB).

Further information can be found on the School of Biological Sciences [website](#).

## ***3. Focus of the Subject***

Biology as it is taught and researched at VUW is a highly diversified subject with strong links to other science disciplines as well as subjects such as Law and Architecture.

[Research](#) concentrates on:

## **Marine biology**

Please see the School's [webpage](#) on Marine Biology for more information. Victoria takes full advantage of Wellington's coastal location. Research is supported by the [Victoria University Coastal Ecology Laboratory](#) (VUCEL).

## **Ecology and biodiversity**

Research draws on the NZ natural environment which can be easily explored at two local field sites, Zealandia and Otari-Wiltons Bush. Please see the School's [webpage](#) on Ecology and Biodiversity for more information. There are close connections to the [Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology](#) which is a centre of excellence for conservation management and research based at Victoria.

## **Cell and molecular biology**

Please see the School's [webpage](#) on Cell and Molecular Biology for more information. Research in cell and molecular biology is conducted in collaboration with the [Malaghan Institute of Medical Research](#) and the [Centre for Biodiscovery](#).

## **4. Overview of the Current Collection**

The core Biological Sciences collection has shown steady and strong growth over the last half century. In recent years significant expansion has occurred in the collection in genetics, reproduction, molecular and cell biology, ecology, conservation and biomedical science. The more traditional subjects, botany and zoology, have experienced a decline in collecting.

## **Reference Collection**

The reference collection (dictionaries, encyclopaedias, handbooks) aims to be tightly focused and absolutely current.

It includes the following critical resources:

- [AccessScience](#)
- (online version of the McGraw-Hill's Encyclopedia of Science & Technology)
- [Encyclopedia of Life Sciences \(ELS\)](#)
- [Oxford Reference](#)
- [NEUROSCIENetBASE](#)
- [BIOSCIENetBASE](#)
- [ENVIROnetBASE](#)

## **Electronic Resources**

The biological sciences are well covered by a wide range of specialist and multidisciplinary databases. The essential specialist databases for biology are:

- [Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts](#), 1971 to present
- [BIOSIS Previews](#), 1926 to present (in Web of Knowledge)
- [CAB Abstracts](#), 1910 to present (in Web of Knowledge)

- [Essential Science Indicators](#) (ESI (in Web of Knowledge))
- [Medline](#), 1950 to present (in Web of Knowledge)
- [New Zealand Science](#)
- [ProQuest Illustrata](#)
- [Science Citation Index Expanded](#) 1899 to present (in Web of Knowledge)
- [Zoological Record](#), 1864-2010 (in Web of Knowledge)

As noted above, Web of Knowledge is a cross-search facility which allows users to simultaneously search six key biology literature databases.

Many resources which support the Marine Biology programme are delivered through ProQuest. Key databases include all five sections of [Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts \(ASFA\)](#), [Oceanic Abstracts](#) and [Aqualine](#).

Multidisciplinary databases such as [Scopus](#), [ProQuest](#), and [Academic OneFile](#) are also often used, particularly by undergraduates.

## Books

Though Biology and Biomedicine are journal based disciplines books are still required, especially to support the large undergraduate student population. The book collection reflects past and current academic interests and courses and is adequate for existing needs.

E-books are an increasing component of the Library collection. [ScienceDirect](#), [SpringerLink](#) and the [Wiley Online Library](#) are important sources of full text content.

Otago University has a large collection of scientific and medical literature which usefully supplements and extends the collection held at Victoria. Victoria University staff and students can easily access this material through the Library's [Interloan](#) service or can visit the [Wellington Medical and Health Science Library](#) in Newtown.

## Journals

The journal collection in the Biological sciences is comprehensive, and supports the teaching and research needs of the programme well. While some journal titles are still available in print, the great majority are available electronically via a wide variety of electronic providers.

In Biology and Biomedicine, journal articles are the most important source of information. Full text databases are therefore essential. Full text databases with relevant journal coverage include [SpringerLink](#), [ScienceDirect](#), [Wiley Online Library](#), [BioOne Full Text](#), and [ProQuest](#).

The following key resources are noted because of their general science and cross disciplinary content and commentary:

- Nature Journal Archive. Online 1869 to present
- New Scientist Australasian Edition print Q1 N532
- New Scientist International Edition online (limited access)
- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Biological Sciences. Online 1887 to present via JSTOR and Royal Society Publications
- Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series B. Online 1854 to present via JSTOR and Royal Society Publications

- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) – online and print Q11 N2 P
- Royal Society of New Zealand Journals (7 titles) – online only
- Science Magazine (American Association for the Advancement of Science). Library has online PDF 1997 onwards and print (Q1 S416) subscriptions. Both are required
- Scientific American. Online 2007 to present, print 1959-2009

## 5. Collection Development Guidelines

For general policy refer to [Section 4.3](#) in the CDMP.

Selection of material is undertaken by staff in the School of Biological Sciences and the subject librarian. Some academics receive regular new publication notifications in electronic format from which they can make selections.

LC Callmark Range	Subject Area	Current Collection Level	Future Collecting Level
GN	Physical anthropology	Basic	Basic
GN281-GN289	Human evolution Fossil man. Human paleontology	Study	Study
QD415-QD436	Chemical aspects of biological materials	Study	Study
QH	Natural history, general biology	Study	Study
QH75-QH78	Conservation biology, extinction	Research	Research
QH90-QH100	Water. Aquatic biology, marine biology	Research	Research
QH324.2	Bioinformatics	Study	Study
QH325	Origin and beginnings of life	Study	Research
QH332	Bioethics	Study	Study
QH345	General biochemistry of plants and animals	Study	Study
QH359-425	Evolution	Study	Study
QH426-QH470	Genetics	Study	Research
QH506	Molecular biology	Study	Research
QH540-QH549.5	Ecology and biodiversity, restoration ecology	Research	Research
QH573-QH671	Cytology (cell biology)	Study	Study
QK	Botany	Study	Study
QK86	Plant conservation	Study	Research
QK640-QK707	Plant anatomy	Study	Study
QK710-QK899	Plant physiology (including plant biochemistry)	Study	Study
QK900-QK989	Plant ecology	Study	Research
QL	Zoology	Study	Study

QL81.5 - QL86	Wildlife conservation, rare and endangered animals, introduced animals	Study	Research
QL360-QL599.82	Invertebrates	Study	Study
QL461-QL599.82	Insects	Research	Research
QL605-QL739.8	Chordates, vertebrates	Research	Research
QL614-QL639.8	Fishes	Research	Research
QL640-QL669.3	Reptiles and amphibians	Research	Research
QL666	Tuatara	Research	Research
QL750-QL794	Animal behaviour	Study	Study
QL799	Morphology	Study	Study
QL801- QL950.9	Anatomy	Basic	Basic
QL951-QL991	Embryology	Basic	Basic
QM	Human anatomy	Basic	Basic
QP	Physiology	Study	Study
QP351-QP421	Neurophysiology and neuropsychology (including molecular neurobiology and cognitive neuroscience)	Study	Research
QP501-QP801	Animal biochemistry	Study	Study
QR	Microbiology	Study	Research
QR180-QR189.5	Immunology	Study	Research
QR180.2 A54	Animal models	Basic	Research
RA	Public aspects of medicine	Basic	Basic
RA1226	Environmental toxicology	Basic	Basic
RA1270	Toxicology-pesticides	Basic	Basic
RB	Pathology	Study	Study
RC	Internal medicine	Basic	Basic
RC261	Cancer	Basic	Research
RC377	Multiple sclerosis	Basic	Research
RC563-RC564	Drug abuse, Substance abuse	Basic	Research
RC591	Asthma	Basic	Study
RM	Pharmacology	Study	Study
RM300-RM666	Drugs and their actions	Study	Research
RS380	Pharmaceutical biotechnology	Basic	Study
SB950.9-SB970.4	Pesticides	Study	Study
SK351-SK579.5	Wildlife management and game protection	Basic	Research
TP248.13-TP248.65	Biotechnology	Study	Research

## **5.1 Languages Collected**

English is the preferred language for new acquisitions; however no resource is excluded based on the criteria of language alone.

## **5.2 Geographical Areas Collected**

The collection is international in scope but special significance should be placed on acquiring material originating in New Zealand and the Pacific.

## **5.3 Chronological Periods Collected**

The focus is on recent and current materials with occasional key older materials collected.

## **5.4 Format Guidelines**

Please refer to [sections 4.1\(e\)](#) and [4.3.2](#) in the CDMP.

### **Books**

A number of academic staff prefer to purchase book titles in print format and the Library will continue to support this. The e-book format is best suited to “quick reference material” such as reference books, handbooks and manuals. E-books may also be a good choice for textbooks and edited books, as chapters from these books are often recommended for reading. E-books in PDF format and with unlimited access are preferred.

### **Journals**

Electronic journals are the preferred format. Print journals are subscribed to only if electronic access is unavailable.

## **6. Life-Cycle Management Guidelines**

For general policy refer to [section 4.4.1](#) of the CDMP.

Wherever possible, the potential life-cycle of new materials will be considered at the point of acquisition, and notes made as to any continuing historical or research value.

### **6.1. Preservation Guidelines**

For general policy on preservation refer to [section 4.4.1](#) in the CDMP. Any books that are lost or damaged will be assessed for re-purchase.

### **6.2. Relegation Statement**

For general principles refer to section 4.1(b) in the CDMP.

### **Journals**

Print journals not available electronically (including back issues and journals that have ceased publication) will be retained in the Library collection in the following locations:

- Most recent 20 years – Kelburn Library
- Issues older than 20 years – Offsite Storage

Journals no longer required for research or teaching purposes will be cancelled (in consultation with academic staff). Other areas will be consulted where journals have interdisciplinary content.

Cancelled print journals will be retained in the Library collection in the following locations:

- Most recent 5 years – Kelburn Library
- Issues older than 5 years – Offsite Storage

Cancelled print subscriptions remain in off-site storage until deselection is negotiated with academic staff.

## **Books**

Books will be retained in the library collection in the following locations:

Kelburn Library:

- Books added to the collection within the last 20 years
- Books issued in the last 15 years irrespective of publication date
- Books relevant to current research or teaching, seminal and historic works, works on the history of biology, biomedicine and science and books that fill gaps in the existing collection irrespective of publication date
- Multiple copies of editions (including superseded editions) used for study or teaching

## **Offsite Storage:**

- Books added to the collection over 20 years ago that have not been issued in the last 15 years where consultation with academic staff indicates they should not be deselected.

## **6.3. Deselection Statement**

For general principles please refer to [section 4.4.3](#) in the CDMP.

In all cases the subject librarian oversees this process, consults where appropriate and makes recommendations to relevant academic staff.

## **Journals**

- Print journals where the library has equivalent perpetual electronic access will be deselected.
- Print journals cancelled because they no longer support research or teaching will be reviewed for deselection.

## **Books**

Books will be reviewed for deselection according to the following criteria:

- Books published or added to the collection more than 20 years ago
- Books that have not been issued in the last 15 years irrespective of when they were added to the collection

- Duplicates and superseded editions (except for teaching material identified above) will be deselected

Note: special care will be made to retain items regardless of usage and date which fall into the following categories:

- Items by local authors
- Items related to local topics, e.g. marine reserves and sanctuaries

### ***Other Guidelines/Considerations***

The Library endeavours to provide secure access to key scholarly resources. If a current provider discontinues access to an e-journal the Library will seek to reinstate access from an alternative source if it is required. Books and journals held offsite will be returned to the main collection if requested.

### ***Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements***

- [Chemistry](#)
- [Cultural Anthropology](#)
- [Geography, Environmental Studies and Development Studies](#)
- [Nursing, Midwifery and Health](#)
- [Physics](#)
- [Psychology](#)