Soils and Sustainable Crop Systems
Information Access Policy

Soils and Sustainable Crop Systems Librarian – Lois Sill
Written July, 2011

I. General Purpose and Objective
To support instruction at the B.S. level in: Agricultural Biotechnology; Soil and Water Environmental Science; and Sustainable Crop Production and to support interdisciplinary research and public service in related fields.

A. Description of the Curriculum and the mission statement from the University’s Undergraduate Announcements. The BS degree only is offered.

“The Soils and Sustainable Crop Systems degree deals with the theory and practice of field-crop production and soil management. It involves the application of basic sciences such as botany, biochemistry, chemistry, genetics, mathematics, microbiology, and physics to food and fiber production and to solving environmental problems. Careers in Soils and Sustainable Crop Systems exist in biotechnology, environmental sciences, sustainable agriculture, and traditional agriculture.”

B. Mission Statement
“Students in this program will be among a new elite group of graduates who will play a significant role in bringing sustainable approaches and modern technologies to agricultural and environmental sciences that will enhance environmental protection and improve food and fiber production.”

II. Scope of the In-House Collection

A. Materials purchased will primarily be English language sources: books, journals, handbooks, manuals, and encyclopedias – all in digital format if available and affordable. Scholarly, technical, and professional treatments are emphasized but a popular treatment of a subject is not excluded.

B. The following materials will be excluded unless there is a specific need expressed.
   1. Workbooks
   2. Computer software
   3. Rare materials
   The materials purchased will be current unless there is a specific request and need for historically important works. DVDs will be collected upon request.

C. Geographic Guidelines

Materials purchased will have an emphasis on soils, crop systems, and sustainable agriculture in the United States but materials may also be purchased from Great Britain and Canada. If a researcher has grants involving research in other parts of the world, materials will be purchased as funds are available to support that research.

D. No soils, crops, or agronomy subject is completely excluded.
E. List of Core Journals

Access to the present core collection of journals will be maintained if possible, and, as funds allow, new journals requested by faculty or grad students will be considered. Online access will be purchased if available. The plant sciences are intricately intertwined and many important journals from plant pathology, genetics, physiology, molecular biology, and biochemistry are important to soils and sustainable crop systems majors. Those are included in the specific policy covering that subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soil biology &amp; biochemistry.</td>
<td>Plant and soil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advances in agronomy</td>
<td>Applied soil ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of production agriculture</td>
<td>Pedosphere</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of environmental quality</td>
<td>Soil use and management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crops and soils</td>
<td>Catena</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian journal of plant science</td>
<td>Clays and clay minerals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agronomy journal</td>
<td>Weed science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of soil contamination</td>
<td>Weed research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European journal of soil science</td>
<td>Weed biology and management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop science</td>
<td>Field Crops Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of sustainable agriculture</td>
<td>Plant and soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil and tillage research</td>
<td>Agriculture, ecosystems &amp; environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soil science and plant nutrition</td>
<td>The journal of applied ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of soil science</td>
<td>Pest management science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil science</td>
<td>Postharvest biology and technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soil Science Society Of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geoderma</td>
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F. Important Databases to be retained if possible.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGRICOLA</td>
<td>GreenFILE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological and Agricultural Index</td>
<td>Environmental Science and Pollution Management (ProQuest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BioOne</td>
<td>Pollution Abstracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOSIS (Part of the Web of Knowledge)</td>
<td>TOXNET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Contents (Part of the Web of Knowledge)</td>
<td>Web of Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecology Abstracts</td>
<td>Web of Science (Part of the Web of Knowledge)</td>
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G. Weeding Guidelines

Monographic materials, with an imprint of 1995 or earlier, which have not circulated in the last ten years, will be reviewed for weeding. If a book has not circulated and is historically important, our Special Collections Unit will be asked to consider housing it. For other important or rare books, remote storage can be considered.

Books may also be discarded if the physical condition of the book is such that it cannot be used effectively. If such a book is important for the collection, a replacement copy will be purchased.
III. Collection Analysis by Subject. Those in bold are collected at the research level for support of interdisciplinary areas that offer Masters and Doctorate degrees.

Library of Congress Subject Classifications:

S1-(972) Agriculture (General)
   S21-400.5 Documents and other collections
   S403 Agricultural missions, voyages, etc.
   S419-482 History
   S530-559 Agricultural education (separate information access policy for ag. ed.)
      S539.5-542.3 Research. Experimentation
      S544-545.53 Agricultural extension work
   S548-548.6 Historic farms
   S550-559 Exhibitions. Fairs
   S560-571.5 Farm economics. Farm management. Agricultural mathematics Including production standards, record keeping, farmwork rates, marketing
   S583-587.73 Agricultural chemistry. Agricultural chemicals
   S588.4-589.6 Agricultural physics including radioisotopes in agriculture
   S589.7 Agricultural ecology (General)
      S589.75-589.76 Agriculture and the environment
   S589.8-589.87 Plant growing media. Potting soils
   S590-599.9 Soils. Soil science including soil surveys, soil chemistry, soil structure, soil-plant relationships
   S600-600.7 Agricultural meteorology. Crops and climate
   S602.5-604.37 Methods and systems of culture. Cropping systems including fallowing, rotation of crops, plowing
   S604.5-604.64 Agricultural conservation
   S604.8-621.5 Melioration: Improvement, reclamation, fertilization, irrigation, etc., of lands
   S605.5 Organic farming. Organiculture
   S606-621.5 Special classes of lands and reclamation methods including woodlands, burning of lands, deserts, saline environments, moors
   S622-627 Soil conservation and protection
   S631-667 Fertilizers and improvement of the soil
   S671-760.5 Farm machinery and farm engineering
   S770-790.3 Agricultural structures. Farm buildings
   S900-(972) Conservation of natural resources including land conservation

Related Classifications: Select from these areas as needed both at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

   Soil biology QH 84.8
   Soil ecology QH 541.5
   Soil microorganisms QR 111
   Soil mechanics and engineering TA 710+
   Soil pollution TD 878+
IV. Access to Information Not Owned by Clemson University

A. Interlibrary Loan
For those articles to which we do not have access, the University Libraries will provide them free via our interlibrary loan service (ILL) to students, faculty, and staff. Also, the Libraries will use commercial document suppliers if there is no other option.

B. Pascal Delivers is also available to faculty, staff and students, at no cost to them, for the delivery of monographic materials from other libraries in the state.

V. Selection Tools and Review Sources

A. Major journals often provide lists of important works in the subject area.
B. Publishers’ Websites and Catalogs
C. Society Websites and Catalogs
D. GOBI service from YBP if funds are available
E. The students and faculty are most helpful in suggesting resources to purchase. While working with undergraduates at the reference desk or through class contacts, one learns what topics are of interest. Also, by reading current journals and professional magazines, the topics of current interest are apparent. Co-workers are also extremely helpful in suggesting areas that may need more coverage. Looking at the ILLs requested also helps in the selection process as does scanning the course offerings in the Clemson University Graduate and Undergraduate Announcements.
F. If faculty members fail to recommend material or to respond to reviews and notices of books in their subject fields, the librarian will encourage them to take a more active part in selection. If this encouragement fails, the subject librarian will make appropriate selections.
G. The librarian is also responsible for the selection of general materials not specifically related to the curriculum and for maintaining a balance between the various subject areas and between standard and current works.

VI. Evaluation Tools

A. Use studies involving circulation and browsing data from our online catalog, databases, and journal vendors will show the areas of highest circulation in the soils and crops areas.

B. Journal Citation Reports purport to pinpoint the most influential journals in any science discipline through several quantitative methods.

C. Interlibrary Loan -- if the students and faculty are frequently requesting articles from specific journals or books that we do not have access to, this is a clue that these materials may need to be ordered or electronic access gained. By communicating with faculty and students, especially grad students, one can determine if the material needed is available in a timely manner.
VII. Assessment and Planning

A. Qualitative Measures
   1. The information access policy for this department will be reviewed every five years.
   2. Appropriate bibliographies will be checked against our holdings.
   3. Benchmarking projects, to be determined.

B. Quantitative Measures
   1. Interlibrary Loan Activities will be monitored to see what subject areas are lacking and what type materials are being requested most.
   2. Circulation Statistics, both for print and electronic resources, will be reviewed to see which areas of the collection are most heavily used.
   3. Keeping track of the new research grants undertaken and the new courses taught in the Soils and Sustainable Crop Systems Department can also help determine what materials to purchase and helps in the planning.