Iowa State University Library  
Collection Development Policy  
Veterinary Medicine

I. General Purpose

The user needs of the entire College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and beyond are supported by the collection of the Veterinary Medical Library (VML). This includes:

Approximately 587 students in the 4-year professional curriculum leading to the DVM degree;

Approximately 100 graduate students enrolled in an MS or PhD degree program in the College; CVM faculty and staff in the five academic departments: Biomedical Sciences, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine, Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine, and Veterinary Pathology;

Faculty and staff in other CVM units, including the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center, Laboratory Animal Resources, Veterinary Administration, Office of Academic and Student Affairs, and IT and Educational Support;

Interns and residents who come to the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center to complete an internship/residency through the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians Matching Program. Residency training through the level of board certification is available. More information: [http://vetmed.iastate.edu/vcs/academics/residencies](http://vetmed.iastate.edu/vcs/academics/residencies)

Iowa State University students, faculty and staff not affiliated with CVM (a limited group of users due to VML's specialized subject focus on the veterinary sciences and closely related disciplines);

Off-campus users of the library: CVM alumni, retired CVM faculty, veterinary and related organizations; veterinary practitioners and clinics, other veterinary businesses, pet/animal owners, and the non-ISU affiliated public at large.

The emphasis in collecting activity is in supporting the professional (DVM) and veterinary graduate programs (MS and PhD), and CVM research. General interest and popular materials are selectively purchased in subjects such as pet health and care, breed books (dog and cat), and animal-people relationships. Due to limited shelf space, retention limits have been set on most journal titles, and monographs are routinely reviewed and weeded.

II. History

In 1879 Iowa State established the nation's first state college of veterinary medicine, and in 1903 offered the first four-year program in veterinary medicine. Approximately 587 DVM students and 100 graduate students are enrolled in the college. The college produces the most DVMs working with large animals of any veterinary school in the U.S. Its faculty
and staff are actively engaged in research involving animal diseases and medicine, and many are recognized nationally and internationally.

III. Iowa State University Program

Students entering the professional degree (DVM) program need to have completed a minimum of 60 semester hours in a preprofessional program. Preveterinary students are encouraged to complete a bachelor's degree before enrolling in the college. During the first three years of the program students are required to take specified courses in the biomedical and clinical sciences, microbiology and preventive medicine, diagnostic and production animal medicine, and pathology. The fourth year curriculum is designed to be flexible and in addition to a required block of clinical service rotations, allows for species option blocks: small animal, food animal, production medicine, and equine. A concurrent DVM/MS or DVM/PhD program is available.

Starting in Fall 2007, the ISU-CVM has partnered with the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Every fall, 25 Nebraska students are admitted to the ISU DVM program. The first two years of the program are completed at UNL; the students complete the last two years of the program at the ISU-CVM. The students who complete the first two years in Lincoln are issued an ISU ID and have off-campus access to ISU library materials.

The following graduate programs are offered (listed by department):

Biomedical Sciences: MS, non-thesis MS, and PhD in Biomedical Sciences with areas of emphasis in anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology. The research programs being conducted in the department include: fundamental neuroscience, neurotoxicology, immunology, vaccine development, infectious diseases of several types, cell biology, nutrition, development, mechanisms of learning and memory, auditory processing, and aquatic biology. The department also participates in several interdepartmental graduate programs including: toxicology, neuroscience, molecular biology, genetics, and immunobiology.

Veterinary Clinical Sciences: MS in Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Surgery, and Theriogenology.

Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine: MS in Veterinary Preventive Medicine (interdepartmental major).

Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine: MS and PhD in Veterinary Microbiology.

Veterinary Pathology: MS and PhD in Veterinary Pathology. Five areas of emphasis in PhD program: Anatomic Pathology, Clinical Pathology, Pathology, Parasitology, Toxicology, and Immunobiology.
Interdepartmental majors and programs available through the College of Veterinary Medicine are: Genetics; Immunobiology; Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology; Neuroscience; Toxicology; Veterinary Preventive Medicine.

Centers and institutes include: Iowa Center for Advanced Neurotoxicology, Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics (IICAB), Food Safety Consortium, Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship, Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH), Center for Advanced Host Defense Immunobiotics and Translational Comparative Medicine (CAHDIT), One Health Commission, and the Swine Medicine Education Center. The ISU-CVM also collaborates with the National Animal Disease Center (NADC) and National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL). NADC and NVSL are USDA organizations and are supported by their own library.

IV. Subject Boundaries

Although the focus of the VML is on collecting the veterinary literature, works in human medicine, zoology, animal science, and agriculture make up a sizable portion of both the serial and monograph collections. Non-veterinary literature is collected to the extent that it supports the classroom, research, and other needs of CVM students, faculty and staff.

Human medicine materials selected for the VML include basic and research-level texts, whereas titles ordered from the General Medical fund for Parks Library are more likely to be popular and general interest in nature. With regards to human medicine (R call numbers), topics in the collection that appeared to be getting usage (based on a 2011 weeding project) include: animal experimentation, public health, epidemiology, toxicology, pathology, virology, parasitology, and clinical trials.

Selection decisions for monographs are made independently of Parks Library holdings; for example, a particular title on reproduction in swine or cattle may be chosen for both Parks and the VML if patron interest and potential use warrants. However, the number of monographs in which a copy is purchased for Parks Library and the VML has decreased substantially due to the increasing availability of electronic books and the daily delivery service between both libraries.

V. General Collection Guidelines

A. Linguistic.

English language for monographs, unless an important work is available only in another language or in mixed languages, or unless requested by faculty or other patron with a specific need or use in mind, or unless the item is donated and determined to be of merit. Some serials and monographs have been received as gifts/exchange in non-English or mixed languages, and may be housed in Parks Library or the Storage Building due to infrequent use.
B. Geographical Areas.

No strict geographic limitations; depends on subject matter and likely degree of use of the publication. For example, a variety of Canadian, British, and Australian publications in the veterinary sciences have been selected for the VML.

C. Types of Materials Collected.

Textbooks are important learning tools in the veterinary curriculum and are often selected and placed on reserve for specific courses as requested by the instructor. Many of these same texts serve double duty in the library as ready reference sources. As the number of electronic books has increased, the usage of print books in the reserve collection has decreased.

The library maintains an extensive, but not exhaustive collection of veterinary journals. New veterinary and related titles are selected for the library as the budget allows.

Veterinary conference proceedings may be purchased by the library as subscriptions or obtained as single issues. A variety of publications are donated by CVM faculty, staff, and student attendees of conferences, symposia, meetings, and workshops. Gifts such as these are welcome additions to the collection, especially proceedings from international, national, regional, state, and local meetings that may not be widely publicized or distributed.

D. Format of Materials Collected

Monographs are purchased in electronic and/or print format. Since 2009, the purchase of electronic books has increased dramatically. Electronic books published by Elsevier are available on Science Direct, and Wiley electronic books are accessible in the Wiley Online Library.

Some CDs and DVDs are selectively purchased and maintained in a separate Media collection. The number of CDs with conference proceedings has increased.

Veterinary electronic journal format is generally preferable to print. However, there are still veterinary medicine journals (e.g. Bovine Practitioner) published in which no electronic format is available to libraries.

The two bibliographic databases most important to veterinary faculty, researchers and students are PubMed and CAB Abstracts. Another resource of importance is the Swine Information Library, http://www.aasv.org/library/swineinfo/

CAB Abstracts & Coverage

CABI had two print publications: “Index Veterinarius” and “Veterinary Bulletin”. Both publications contain citations to the veterinary medicine literature. The Veterinary Medical
Library has “Index Veterinarius” from 1933-1995 and “Veterinary Bulletin” from 1931-1996. The “Bulletin” has abstracts; the “Index” does not. From 1972 forward, everything in the “Bulletin” and the “Index” is contained in the online version of CAB Abstracts. The ISU subscription for CAB Abstracts is 1910 – present because the library purchased the CAB Abstracts archive. However, according to CABI, the archive does not have everything that was contained in the “Index Veterinarius.” “The types of materials noted in “Index Veterinarius” but not abstracted in “Veterinary Bulletin” are materials from marginal fields of veterinary medicine, such as history and jurisprudence, minor contributions to the literature such as case reports, correspondence, news items etc.—literature written for students or farmers, chapters in books, repetitive literature or that from other fields of the biological sciences.” The bottom line is: there may be references in “Index Veterinarius” that are not in CAB Abstracts.

VI. Specific Collection Guidelines

RESERVE: Many textbooks and some other materials are placed in the VML reserve collection, primarily to support classes in the professional (DVM) curriculum. Depending upon anticipated use, class size, and instructor recommendations, multiple copies of a textbook may be ordered and placed on reserve. Editions of standard veterinary texts are frequently updated by publishers, and the library places orders for the new editions as they become available. Older editions are then typically moved to the VML book stacks. At least one copy of each edition of a veterinary textbook is saved for historical and reference purposes. Depending upon likely amount of continued use, along with shelf space considerations, these older editions may be retained in VML or transferred to Parks Library or the Storage Building. An increasing number of books that are placed on reserve are also available as an electronic book.

Copies of some items that are not used for specific courses may also be placed on reserve in order to provide quick access to important and frequently requested veterinary and biomedical titles. Such titles sometimes also serve as popular ready reference resources for students, faculty, and library staff.

REFERENCE: A small reference collection is maintained for the convenience of library users and library staff. It consists of encyclopedias, specialized dictionaries, thesauri, directories, guides, handbooks, etc. In addition to veterinary materials, some animal science, medical, biology, and general science items are selected for the collection. A few standard general references such as college dictionaries, style manuals, and periodical guides are included.

SERIALS: Serials selected (journals, magazines, conference proceedings), as with books, are in veterinary, medical, agricultural, zoological, and related areas. Due to space limitations, retention limits have been set on most journal titles. As a rule veterinary (SF600-1100) titles are given longer retention limits than those in other subject areas. Older volumes are not withdrawn (unless duplicate print copies exist) but are transferred to Parks Library or the Library Storage Building. (Since journals are now generally preferred in electronic format if that option is available, older print volumes of many titles have been removed from VML shelves as they are replaced by their online counterparts.)
Current issues of approximately 68 journals displayed in the Current Journals area.

BOOK STACKS: Because veterinary, medical, and books on related topics are rapidly outdated and replaced with newer editions and other new titles that appear on the subject, and because of the pressures of limited library space, the book collection is frequently weeded. Older and/or infrequently used titles are withdrawn or transferred to Parks Library or the Storage Building. At least one copy of most veterinary texts, including different editions of a title, is retained indefinitely due to its potential reference and historical value, the importance of the subject matter to the college and the university, and the relative scarcity of veterinary libraries and collections worldwide.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Because there are several internship and residency programs that are hosted by the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center, it is important to be aware that the veterinary specialty organizations have “reading lists.” Most specialty boards have posted lists of resources on their website. These may include specific journals or books or specific articles. In the event of future journal cancellation projects, it would be wise to consult these lists before journals are suggested as candidates for cancellation. As of October 2013, there is a listing of required readings for all board specialties available from the Texas A & M Medical Sciences Library, http://guides.library.tamu.edu/content.php?pid=454532&sid=3724306

VII. Detailed Subject Areas

VETERINARY MEDICINE: SF600-SF1100

This subject area is collected extensively in the English language. For a more detailed subject breakdown of SF600-1100, see Library of Congress Classification S, Agriculture.

600-604 periodicals, serials
605 congresses
612-613 biographies
615-723 history and conditions
724-740 public health
743-745 general works
745-746 alternative veterinary medicine
756 careers, study and teaching, research, ethics, economics, ethology
757 hygiene, immunology, toxicology, radiology
760-767 anatomy, embryology
768 physiology
769 pathology, hematology
771-773 diagnosis
780 microbiology, bacteriology, virology, epidemiology
781-809 communicable diseases of animals
810 parasitology
811-909 special organs, regions, systems
910-914 other diseases and conditions, orthopedics, surgery
915-919 pharmacology, drugs
925 physical medicine
951-959 diseases, medicine of horses
961-967 cattle
968-969 sheep and goats
971-977 swine
981 pets, general
985-986 cats
991-992 dogs
994-995 birds, poultry
995-997 zoo animals, wildlife, laboratory animals, reptiles, other animals

In the following subject areas, representative titles are selected to augment the core veterinary science collection. These subjects are not collected comprehensively, but titles are chosen as needed to support instructional and research needs and interests of CVM students, faculty, and staff.

ANIMAL CULTURE: SF1-SF597: Animal feeds, feeding, and nutrition; animal breeding, reproduction and genetics; cattle; horses; sheep; swine; pets; dogs and specific dog breeds; cats and cat breeds; rabbits; birds; poultry; other animals.

OTHER AGRICULTURE: general agriculture (S); range plants, pastures, forages, weed and insect control (SB); aquaculture, fish diseases (SH); wildlife management (SK).

MEDICINE: Representative titles are selected from these (human) medical sub-disciplines, with an emphasis on LC classifications R, RA, RB, RC, RD, RE, RM.

R: general medicine
RA: public aspects of medicine
RB: pathology
RC: internal medicine
RD: surgery
RE: ophthalmology
RF: otorhinolaryngology
RG: gynecology and obstetrics
RJ: pediatrics
RK: dentistry
RL: dermatology
RM: pharmacology
RS: pharmacy

SCIENCE: Items selected here are mainly in the life sciences and most often relate to animals, humans, or both.

QH: biology, microscopy, biostatistics, genetics, molecular and cell biology, reproduction, ecology

QL: zoology, animal behavior and psychology, morphology, anatomy, embryology, parasitology, insects and other invertebrates, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals
QM: human anatomy, embryology
QP: physiology, neurology, nutrition, endocrinology, reproduction, biomechanics, animal biochemistry, experimental pharmacology, toxins

QR: microbiology, medical and clinical microbiology, bacteria, immunology, virology

A few texts representing other science disciplines are also chosen, as convenient references for VML users, for example, general science, statistics, chemistry, physics, botany, mycology.

TECHNOLOGY: A few items are selected in the following subject areas: science, medical, and animal photography (TR); meat science and meat inspection (TS); food science (TX).

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES: Titles are selected in the social sciences and humanities only insofar as they relate to the veterinary sciences or other needs and interests of the College, for example: animal welfare, rights, experimentation, ethics, and people-animal relationships (HV); animal, veterinary, and medical law (K); education and teaching (L); animals and medicine portrayed in art (N); literature at all levels as it deals with veterinary themes and human-animal relationships, especially pets and other domestic animals (P); and a few general reference items such as college dictionaries, guides and manuals as mentioned in Section VI.

VIII. Other Resources Available

The library of the National Animal Diseases Center and National Veterinary Services Laboratories, USDA, is located in Ames. A professional librarian provides services and maintains a collection of veterinary journals and other publications.

The Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, a large academic medical library, is a part of the University of Iowa, Iowa City. It supports Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health at the University of Iowa, and also the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Recommended Readings


Grindlay DJ, Brennan ML, Dean RS. Searching the veterinary literature: a comparison of the coverage of veterinary journals by nine bibliographic

IX. Cross-references to Collection Policies

Animal Science

X. Creation date

June 2000
William H. Wiese

XI. Revision History

July 2006 by William H. Wiese
December 2012 and October 2013 by Andrea L. Dinkelman

XII. LC Classes

SF600-SF1100

XIII. Bibliographer name

Andrea L. Dinkelman

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