Library Policy Statements
Public Health Sciences and Epidemiology

I. PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Public Health Sciences and Epidemiology program offers the masters of science (MS) in public health and the master of public health (MPH) with a specialization in epidemiology or social and behavioral health sciences. Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health events, including diseases, in human populations. Epidemiology is based upon the premise that these health events do not occur in a random manner. Nonrandom patterns provide clues to their causes and their modes of transmission and acquisition. Epidemiologic methods, including biostatistical methods, are essential for evaluating the effectiveness of disease control measures. Epidemiology is thus the science of public health.

Students are required to take advanced level training in chronic and infectious disease epidemiology, advanced biostatistics, and research design. There is opportunity for students to choose from epidemiology electives in the following areas: nutrition, genetics, environment, aging, AIDS, cancer and heart disease. Course work in specialized statistical applications is also available. Students participate in on-going epidemiological research programs throughout the university system through a field-work assignment.

II. COORDINATION OF COLLECTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Hamilton Library and the John A. Burns School of Medicine Health Sciences Library provide resources in public health. The two libraries’ collections are accessible through the online catalog.

Public health draws on material in business, education, nursing, nutrition, psychology and sociology. Clinical-related materials are available at the Health Sciences Library.

Because of the School's Asian and Pacific connections, students and faculty focus on topics with a geographic emphasis in these areas. This is
especially true of the program's foreign students from the Pacific and the
Pacific Rim countries, who make extensive use of the Pacific Collection.
There is an increasing use of materials in the Hawaiian Collection by
students doing research on health concerns of native Hawaiians. Because
the Asia Collection is essentially a humanities and social science
collection, it has some compilations of vital statistics and background
information on socioeconomic aspects of health.
The Government Documents Collection houses material from the
Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture
and Health and Human Services, and the Public Health Service, as well as
international documents from the World Health Organization (WHO), the
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and UNESCO.

III. GUIDELINES TO MATERIALS COLLECTED OR EXCLUDED

Language:
Almost exclusively English.

Chronological:
Primarily current interest material; some material on the historical
aspects of public health is also collected.

Geographic:
The focus is on the Pacific Rim and Pacific Basin countries, including
Hawaii, with an emphasis on Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, and to a
lesser extent Japan.

Date of Publication:
No limitations, but primarily current imprints.

Types/Formats of Materials Collected:
Specialized monographs, general interest books of exceptional quality; periodicals and selected newsletters; handbooks, directories, encyclopedias and dictionaries; atlases; conference proceedings; selected English language government publications relating to public health from Pacific rim countries; indexes and abstracts in paper or electronic format with preference for Web access. Excluded are manuscripts, theses and dissertations, and reprints of articles.

**Treatment:**

Reference; historical; reports of new research; bibliographical; cultural, political, social and educational aspects; biographical; management and administration; demographic, sociological and psychological aspects; and theoretical are all collected.

**IV. GIFTS**

Books that document scholarly research and university-level textbooks no more than five years old may be accepted. Gifts in other formats that are relevant to the research or instruction mission of public health and epidemiology will also be reviewed. Popular magazines, short journal runs, materials that duplicate items already in our collections, and materials in poor condition generally are not accepted. Contact the librarian who collects for public health and epidemiology (http://www.hawaii.edu/reference.html) to discuss the nature, extent and timing of your donation. Gifts of archival materials that relate to the history of the university should be discussed with the University Archives (http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/archives/).

When donated items are accepted by the UH Manoa Library they become the property of the Library. The Library reserves the right to make decisions about the disposition of these materials. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to donors, but the Library cannot provide monetary appraisals of gifts.

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