

Pharmacy

Collecting policy

User profile

This collection statement covers Library provision for the School of Pharmacy which lies within the School of Chemistry, Food and Nutritional Sciences & Pharmacy.

There are a number of interdisciplinary areas shared with other subjects, most notably biological sciences, chemistry, and food and nutritional sciences.

Research interests

The School of Pharmacy was established in 2004 and has grown steadily each year. Research programmes in the School span the core disciplines and use the unique capabilities of the Reading School of Pharmacy where active pharmaceutical compounds can be synthesised, evaluated for pharmacological activity and then developed into functional dosage forms with consideration of patient use. The School attracts support from the research councils, major charities, the pharmaceutical industry and the University itself, and it has also had funding to commercialise research findings. Current research is carried out in four major areas:

- Pharmacology
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Pharmaceutics
- Pharmacy Practice

Dimensions of Teaching and Learning

The majority of students in the School are enrolled on the MPharm programme which is an integrated 4 year programme approved by the General Pharmaceutical Council. There are also a substantial group of taught postgraduate students enrolled on programmes via CIPPET, the Centre for Inter-Professional Postgraduate Education and Training, which sits within the School. The length and credits for these programmes vary and the majority of students are part-time and studying whilst working. The School of Pharmacy is setting up two courses at the University of Reading Malaysia which are due to start in 2016 and one of which will be accredited by the Malaysian Pharmacy Board, with the other being accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council. These students will mostly be studying in Malaysia, where there is a separate Learning Resource Centre, but some will come to the UK for the final years of their course.

Current undergraduate and postgraduate programmes are detailed on the School website: www.reading.ac.uk/pharmacy

Current holdings

A significant amount of printed library material falls into the 615 section of the classification but the interdisciplinary nature of the subject means that material will also be found at a variety of numbers in the Sciences and Social Sciences. For more detail see the Pharmacy guide: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/pharmacy>

Books

The 615 section (Pharmacy) is a rapidly expanding area, though a very significant proportion of material is now being purchased as e-books. Much use is also made of the organic chemistry section, plus related materials in other areas, including biochemistry, medicine, and nursing.

Budgetary pressures caused by journal price inflation have led to a relatively small departmental book budget - this, combined with pressure to support the increasing undergraduate numbers, has led to very little research-level material being purchased. Pressure has been eased slightly by the continuing use of the Library's Course Support Fund to buy e-books, extra copies and new editions of course texts. For this reason all new purchases are preferentially acquired as e-books to maximise availability to students.

Periodicals

The department supports subscriptions to a small number of periodicals, some of which are shared with other Schools (Biological Sciences, Food Biosciences, and Chemistry).

The Library also holds a significant number of back runs of titles.

The majority of pharmacy related journals (which are not bought from the School library budget) are electronic and are available via the catalogue. These are part of various subscriptions, bundles and publisher packages. One database of particular note is ScienceDirect (which offers full text articles from 1995).

Any new subscriptions to specific titles are usually taken as online only.

Reference materials - print and electronic

There is a wide range of pharmacy-related titles in the Library's reference collection. A detailed list is available at: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/pharmacy>. The Library has an online subscription to the British Pharmacopoeia and MedicinesComplete which covers many key reference texts.

Bibliographic databases

There are many electronic databases relevant to Pharmacy; these are listed at <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/pharmacy>. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the studies taking place in the department a diverse range of sources can be useful for tracking down relevant literature.

Key databases include:

- Web of Science
- MEDLINE

- The Cochrane Library
- ScienceDirect

Strengths, exclusions and areas for development

The University Library collection is adequate, but still growing, in the areas which are taught. All the key areas of pharmacy are collected to some extent.

Areas of particular strength include:

- Pharmacology and therapeutics
- Medicinal chemistry
- Pharmaceutics
- Pharmacy Practice
- Cardiovascular research
- Neuroscience
- Natural product research

The new integrated MPharm programme and new Physician Associate programme run by CIPPET have led to a small clinical medicine collection being developed.

The e-books collection continues to be developed and promoted where possible in order to cater for the demand by undergraduates. We are also looking to expand the range on electronic reference sources available.

The department has developed research strengths in regenerative medicine, and patient safety and compliance so would like the Library collection to be developed in these areas. Staff would also like to see more online access to journals.

Collecting level

The collection supports the teaching requirements of the School. The School is responsible for selecting new acquisitions to support research. Given the multidisciplinary nature of pharmacy, the sub-collections tend to have a mixture of teaching-related and more advanced texts which provide support for research. Most selection takes place in consultation with the Liaison Librarian who is able to monitor usage and highlight areas needing to be strengthened. Extra copies and additional e-access is bought when appropriate.

Alternative access

Inter-library loans

Students are given the opportunity to make use of the Inter-Library Loans service to find information on topics not covered by the Library's collections. Undergraduate students require a tutor's authorisation to confirm requested items are required for study. Staff and research postgraduates order inter-library loans directly. Such items are often delivered electronically.

Pharmacy students, however, are relatively low users of the Inter Library Loan service. This may be due to the increasing number of articles available online via services such as ScienceDirect.

Use of other libraries

Staff and students in the School have the opportunity to use other libraries if appropriate, for example the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of London Library allows access to members of the School of Pharmacy (staff and students).

Students on placement can access other HE libraries via the SCONUL Access scheme. Students who are also working may have access to electronic resources via the NHS Athens scheme.

Selection, acquisition and stock editing

See the Collection Development Policy: General Statement for general principles.

The Library allocates funds to the school to select books, journals and licensed sources of information. It is possible to vire between book and journal funds. Selection is managed by The School's Library Representative and the Liaison Librarian in consultation with academic staff.

The School's aim in selecting materials is to build a collection that gives students an overview across the whole range of pharmacy related sciences. The book collection aims to provide students with the opportunity to understand the underlying principles of many different areas so that any investigation may be usefully furthered in specific topics by consulting the research journals. Books and e-books will be purchased to support the teaching directly, with multiple holdings of key texts plus the wider holding of more specialised books.

E-books and E-journals are purchased in preference to print when available. The use of e-books is increasingly important in the School to maximise access to material.

Donations relevant to the areas of teaching and research are accepted, but only if current.

Multiple copies of old editions are weeded without consultation. Older monographs are selected for relegation to closed access collections by the Liaison Librarian without consultation. Items will be selected for withdrawal/relegation based on the guidelines in the General Collection Development Policy.

Withdrawal of unique monographs and periodicals will be carried out in consultation with the School. In areas of very rapid change some items may be withdrawn if they are more than ten years old.

Policy written by Rosie Higman, Pharmacy Liaison Librarian, July 2015