Located on the entry level of the John W. Scott Health Sciences Library, the University of Alberta Libraries’ Traditional and Indigenous Healing Collection contains materials related to Traditional and Indigenous healing world-wide. The collection focuses on healing in its most inclusive sense, incorporating the knowledge and wisdom of indigenous cultures and traditional healing practices from around the world. Its current strengths are in North American Aboriginal and Chinese medicine and its future development will include materials from diverse cultures and healing practices.

The collection incorporates much of the collection that was held at the Centre for Cross Cultural Study of Health and Healing in Department of Family Medicine, under the direction of Dr. Earle Waugh. It reflects the University’s growing appreciation of the importance of tradition and culture in aboriginal health and healing. A generous donation from the late Dr. Joel Wilbush has allowed us to purchase new materials, particularly in Chinese traditional medicine, which enhanced an already strong collection in this area.

The collection forms the foundation of a significant resource for the University and the wider community. While designed to expose students in all health disciplines to cross cultural healing information, it will also be of value to other programs, such as Native Studies.

The role of the U of A Libraries is to support research, teaching and learning, and this collection will help us serve our increasingly diverse community of users. Not only will it provide the opportunity for our medical students and others, to learn about indigenous healing as part of their education, it will also be a place where anyone interested can discover and use the information they need in the books and videos.

The Library and the University recognizes the richness of the our traditional and indigenous cultures, and is eager to work with the community to provide collections and services that meet the needs of students and faculty, as well as the wider community. We hope that both the teachers and the learners, in the University and Community, will come here to explore the rich knowledge of traditional and indigenous healing.