

Philosophy Collection Management Policy

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Subject Guide: <http://researchguides.case.edu>

I. Purpose:

Kelvin Smith Library supports and develops the collections for the Philosophy Department at Case, acquiring monographs and journals needed to support reference and research, and to support teaching in the Philosophy Department as well as in related departments, primarily in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The collections support the following degrees:

- undergraduate Philosophy major at the B.A. degree level
- interdisciplinary major History and Philosophy of Science & Technology (HPST), B.A. degree level, in collaboration with the Department of History
- Honors Program for Philosophy majors (thesis and oral exam is required)
- graduate coursework, M.A. degree level, in fields such as History, English, Math, Science, and Biomedical Ethics
- coursework is offered for Ph.D. candidates in fields related to philosophy.

Department courses and collections also recognize the relevance of philosophy for the general student body in areas such as computer science, natural science and moral issues, religion, humanities and the arts, medicine, and law. Collections in Philosophy thus also provide a foundation for all Case researchers (specialist or general) for the interdisciplinary nature of critical thinking, analysis, informed decisions, effective communications, and topics that have gained prominence in recent times such as corporate ethics, political and scientific philosophy, and feminist studies.

The Philosophy Department has strengths in the philosophy of logic, math, English, psychology, medicine, metaphysics, social and political sciences, and science. Other areas of importance are metaphysics, contemporary philosophy, feminist philosophy, and ethics, including The Online Ethics Center for Engineering and Science at Case.



Monographs are selected by a variety of methods, beginning with a defined profile in an online publishers' approval plan, from publishers' catalogs and announcements and from notices of associations' and societies' prizes and awards. Requests from department faculty and lecturers help to build collections that are tailored to department interests and agile to support new and potential courses.

II. General Collection Guidelines:

- A. Languages:** English language publications are preferred. Translations from all languages are purchased, but primarily are from works in French, German, and Greek. Other languages are purchased by request, and may be the work's original language.
- B. Chronological Guidelines:** Collections include all timelines, from B.C. through ancient texts, medieval, classic, modern times, and the future. Collections reflect new emphasis on topics relevant to modern times and treatments (20th and 21st centuries) of political, scientific, ethical, and gender issues.
- C. Geographical Guidelines:** Traditional works from ancient cultural and geographical areas are collected, with concentrations on authors of Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States, and emerging areas of cultural significance and influence such as South America.
- D. Treatment of subject:** Individual philosophers' works are collected extensively, as are treatments of same. There is a strong focus on the History of Philosophy shared by other departments such as History. The Philosophy of math, psychology, logic, and science are featured, and religion has a strong related focus. A growing presence for ethical treatments occurs in sociology, law, and business.
- E. Types of materials:** Critical editions, originals and translations, university press publications, reference, bibliographies, and general editions are purchased, with a lesser emphasis on dictionaries, handbooks, and encyclopedias. General works that have broad appeal for undergraduates and related departments are included in the approval plan, but textbooks are not purchased. Dissertations are considered for the collections, upon request. Association conferences and meetings' publications are considered and purchased as part of the approval plan profile. Monographs are purchased in both hardback and soft cover formats. Kelvin Smith Library has a Preservation Department that can apply binding protection to soft cover materials.

Journals are collected selectively in both print and electronic formats, are considered in relation to consortium agreements, and purchased according to fiscal publication patterns. Enhanced electronic article delivery to the desktop (2005-06) is expected to dramatically diminish the need for locally owned journal titles.

- F. Dates of publication:** Emphasis remains on traditional and retrospective works and recent analyses of them, with increasing emphasis on topical subjects that are found in contemporary publications. Series are purchased, and the approval plan is profiled to collect subsequent volumes in series.
- G. Deselection:** Kelvin Smith Library is a 'working collection' facility, with ongoing considerations given to space for the most-utilized works, further balanced by the needs and characteristics of a research collection. Deselection is uncommon.



Most working collection decisions are relocation decisions that take advantage of housing lesser-used or fragile items in the local Retrospective Research Collections Center (RRCC). RRCC items are readily identified on the Case catalog, and are supported by free weekday retrieval service (via an online request form) back to the Library. Items of extremely fragile condition are relocated to National Underground Storage at Iron Mountain, PA, are identified and retrieved (weekdays) in the same manner, or are photocopied and delivered electronically.

- H. Cooperative and Related Collections:** Case is one of the six founding members of the award-winning Ohio academic consortium OhioLINK (Ohio Library and Information Network) that provides a central catalog of statewide consortium holdings and supports user-initiated, unmediated, automated monograph and media borrowing with delivery to the library of choice.

The 86-member consortium (2005) has depth and breadth of collections from public and private colleges and universities, the State Library of Ohio, technical and community colleges, and several public libraries. The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) is also an OhioLINK member, further enriching the OhioLINK Central Catalog. CRL collections not yet cataloged in OhioLINK Central Catalog may be identified and ordered through ILLiad interlibrary loan services, for generous loan services. Enhancements to OCLC and new business practices for OhioLINK interlibrary loan services (2005-06) will further speed article sharing and electronic delivery to Case researchers, maximizing resource-sharing and allowing for local allocations of primary collection materials.

Electronic databases, e-books, and journal resources take advantage of pooled financial resources and pricing structures, and bring collection depth to Case researchers. Collection development decisions regarding these purchases are made through the OhioLINK Cooperative Information Resources Management (CIRM) Committee. Proposals and options for discussion occur through this committee, and offer Case opportunities for dialog in these purchases.

I. Other General Considerations

Overlap in collections most commonly occurs with Religion collections. New focuses on feminist philosophers and ethics programs at Case may find influence in related collections.

Efforts are made to collect works published by Case faculty, current and retired.

Rare books are housed in the Kelvin Smith Library's Special Collections Department, and are readily identified on the Case online catalog. Classes be may held in the Special Collections reading room by pre-arrangement, and offer a unique opportunity to use those resources with related materials and to foster historical discussions.

J. Electronic Resources

Electronic resources are purchased both by Case and by OhioLINK, and include databases, journals, electronic books, and digital media. There is significant interdisciplinary overlap in the



arts and sciences, religion, and general reference works. Databases offer a variety of terms and methods to specify philosophy and all related subject terms in advanced searches.

Additionally, journals may be searched by subject on the List of Electronic Journals, and from the Electronic Journal Center (EJC) from OhioLINK. Combined electronic resources for philosophy and relevant related subjects include (2005):

- Oxford Reference, Religion, and Philosophy
- Philosopher's Index
- Religion and Philosophy Collection
- JSTOR (Browse subject areas for Philosophy electronic journals)
- Project MUSE (journals in Philosophy, and Philosophy & Science)
- Electronic Journal Center (EJC), OhioLINK (Subject>Arts & Humanities>Humanities)
- netLibrary (advanced search by subject, publisher, full Boolean searching)
- Digital Media Center, OhioLINK > Digital Video Collection > Subject Philosophy & Ethics, other related subjects. DMC also has Films for the Humanities & Social Sciences and may be used to support instruction.
- Arts & Humanities Citation Index
- EBSCOhost Web (browse databases such as Academic Search Premier for Subject Terms/Philosophy, related terms)
- ATLA Religion Database
- Bible in English
- FRANCIS (International Humanities and Social Studies)
- Oxford Reference Classics > Religion and Philosophy
- Oxford Reference History

III. Observations and Qualifications by Subject and LC Class:

Collection Development Levels:

- A. Minimal Level:** Indicates that only highly selective purchases—usually materials either for reference use, general interest, or for the support of a very specific research need—will be made.
- B. Instructional Level:** Indicates that standard works and selected current works will be required to support undergraduate and most graduate instruction or sustained independent study. This will include reference and fundamental bibliographic tools pertaining to the subject and a selection of representative journals. Retrospective purchasing is usually limited to standard works.
- C. General Research Level:** Indicates that the library will acquire most of the materials required to support research through the doctoral degree level and the general research needs of the faculty. Allows for retrospective purchasing depending upon the characteristics and needs of the individual disciplines and their state of development in the collection.
- D. Comprehensive Level:** Indicates that all currently published relevant material will be acquired. Involves extensive programs of retrospective purchasing and searching for lacunae.



E. Intensive Level: Indicates the library will strive to acquire all appropriate current and retrospective written or recorded materials in all languages, editions, translations, and formats; manuscripts and other archival materials are acquired extensively. This level is appropriate for the creation or maintenance of a collection serving as a national bibliographic resource.

Subject	LC Class	Location	CDP Collecting Level	Collection Manager	Notes
Philosophy, General & Ref	B 1-5802	KSL	C	K. Oye	
Philosophy, Ancient	B 108-708	KSL	C	K. Oye	
Philosophy, Medieval	B 720-765	KSL	C	K. Oye	
Philosophy, Renaissance	B 770-785	KSL	C	K. Oye	
Philosophy, Modern	B 790-5739	KSL	C	K. Oye	
Logic	BC 1-199	KSL	C	K. Oye	
Speculative Philosophy	BD 10-701	KSL	C	K. Oye	
Aesthetics	BH 1-301	KSL	C	K. Oye	
Ethics–General	BJ 1298-1500	KSL	C	K. Oye	
Religious Ethics	BJ 1188-1295	KSL	C	K. Oye/ S. Gravius	
Ethics–Special Topics	BJ 1298-1500	KSL	C	K. Oye/ E. Reese	

Selection Aids Used: Primary consideration is given to items from:

- approval plan
- faculty input
- [selected] publishers’ catalogs, notices, email alerts, web pages
- in comparison to holdings of other collections, including consortium
- vendor representatives’ recommendations at conferences
- conversations with professional colleagues at Case.

Criteria for selection include:

- usefulness for current coursework or faculty research/interests
- addition to current collections’ depth, or new course developments



- faculty requests
- inclusion within review materials
- publisher reputation in field when considered for subject/course/interests
- use of earlier editions
- replacement of lost titles
- monitoring of interlibrary loan requests by department trends
- resource sharing options (ease of, timeliness of delivery methods)

* This document will be reviewed on an annual basis or with significant departmental program changes

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