

Collection Subject Statement: Anthropology

Last Reviewed: February 2025

Collection Overview

Library materials in anthropology are intended to foster the study of human societies, cultures, behaviors, languages, and the biological aspects of human evolution. The collection aims to enhance scholarly inquiry, critical thinking, and cross-disciplinary approaches that contribute to the advancement of knowledge in anthropology in the following four subfields: social and cultural anthropology, archaeology, physical anthropology, and anthropological linguistics. Collections for this subject are housed primarily at Hillman Library and the Thomas Blvd Library.

Purpose and Audience

The purpose of the Anthropology collections is to support the research and educational needs of students, faculty, and scholars in the Department of Anthropology.

The primary audience for the collections includes undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and academic researchers from the diverse subfields within anthropology. The collections also serve professionals and practitioners in fields such as museum studies, social sciences, and international studies. The collections support cross-disciplinary research and provide access to materials that intersect with other areas such as sociology, psychology, history, and environmental studies.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The materials in the Anthropology collections are intended to represent diverse perspectives, populations, and methodologies, promoting a global understanding of the discipline. In addition to the curriculum, the research areas of faculty and graduate students directly influence the strategy for the collections. Research in archaeology emphasizes Latin America, Eurasia, and North America. Innovations in social and cultural anthropology, together with biological anthropology, encompass the human and expand to include the animal, plant, and microbial worlds.

Scope

The Anthropology collections offer a wide range of print and digital materials in the form of monographs, journals, films, anthologies, conference proceedings, association reports, symposium papers, society and museum publications, and the research reports issued by international organizations (e.g., UNESCO, WHO, etc.) as well as national governments. Materials issued by archaeological commissions of the various American states and foreign governments are also collected.

The collections include a wide selection of peer-reviewed journals and trade publications in both print and electronic formats, discoverable through subscription databases. Films related to

anthropology, in the form of documentaries and feature films, are available in physical and streaming formats.

The time periods covered by the collections include the prehistoric period, as exemplified in archaeology, and continues through the present time as embodied in urban anthropology. Geographic areas of focus for the collections include Eastern and Western Europe, South and East Asia, the Near East, the Pacific, North America, Latin America, and Russia. Languages collected are primarily in English with selective titles in Western European languages.

Library of Congress Classification

The Anthropology collections primarily focus on materials classified under the following:

- **CC** – Archaeology
- **GN** – Anthropology (General)
- **GR** – Folklore
- **GT** – Manners and Customs
- **HM** – Sociology
- **HQ** – Family, Marriage, Women, and Sexuality
- **QK** – Botany
- **QM** – Anatomy
- **RA** – Public Health
- **Z** – Bibliography of Anthropology

Connections & Collaborations

The ULS collaborates with other institutions and consortia to acquire specialized materials that support research, teaching, and learning in the subject of Anthropology, particularly in areas where shared resources improve accessibility to rare or costly materials. Regionally and nationally, the ULS participates in several consortia for collection development (EAST, Hathi Trust, CRL) and resource sharing (PALCI EZBorrow, OCLC Interlibrary Loan, RapidILL) that shape strategy for the Anthropology collections. Within the University, the intersection of Anthropology with other departments and disciplines such as Cultural Studies, Sociology, Linguistics, Global Studies, and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies informs the development and scope of the collections.

Subject Experts

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Sources of Information:

<https://www.anthropology.pitt.edu/>