

Collection Subject Statement: Classics

Last Reviewed: July 2025

Collection Overview

The Classics collections at the University of Pittsburgh Library System support the academic programs and research needs of students, faculty, and staff in the Classics department, as well as comparative studies across history, linguistics, philosophy, cultural studies, political theory, and the arts. It encompasses a broad range of primary texts, scholarly works, and reference materials that explore the languages, literature, history, philosophy, religion, art, archaeology, and cultural legacy of the ancient world. Relevant collections for this subject can be found at multiple University Library System (ULS) locations including Hillman Library and Thomas Blvd Library.

Purpose/Audiences

The overall goal of the collections is to provide comprehensive resources that support undergraduate and graduate programs in the Classics department and related disciplines. Active areas of research and teaching include Ancient History and Society, Ancient Philosophy and Science, Art and Archaeology, Greek Language and Literature, Latin Language and Literature, Reception Studies, and Religion, Myth and Ritual. The collection is intended to facilitate coursework, independent study, faculty research, and academic publication. Primary users include students, faculty, and researchers affiliated with the Department of Classics and cognate disciplines such as History, Philosophy, Comparative Literature, Religious Studies, and Archaeology.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The development and maintenance of the Classics collection are informed by scholarly relevance and curricular alignment. The collections include books, selected book series, journals, reference materials, and databases relating to Classics. The focus is on original writings and research in all formats, but occasional reprints of classic works or collected works of major contributors to the field may be included. Advanced and graduate level textbooks may be acquired, but most undergraduate and introductory textbooks will only be acquired on request in support of course reserves. Emphasis is placed on acquiring authoritative editions of primary texts in original languages (Greek and Latin), as well as high-quality translations, critical commentaries, and current academic research. The collection reflects a commitment to intellectual diversity, aiming to represent a range of critical approaches and historiographical perspectives.

Scope

The collection covers materials from the Bronze Age through Late Antiquity, focusing on the civilizations of Greece and Rome but also including adjacent cultures such as Etruscan, Egyptian, and Near Eastern societies when relevant to classical scholarship. Languages represented include Greek, Latin, English, and key modern European languages

of classical scholarship. The collection also incorporates contemporary analyses of the classical tradition and its reception from the medieval period to the present.

Library of Congress Classification:

B108–708: Ancient philosophy

BL700–820: Classical religion & mythology

CN1–1100: Ancient inscriptions

D – History (Ancient History & Civilizations)

DF – History of Ancient Greece

DF1–500, with DF10–16 (general), DF75–135 (culture/civ), DF207–241 (periods & local history)

DG – Ancient Italy & Rome

DG11–190: Covers Rome’s civilization and culture

DG201–365: History of Rome (political, social, etc.)

DE – The Greco-Roman World

DE1–15: General works

DE46–98: History & culture of Greco-Roman world

NA210–340: Ancient architecture

NK4645–4654: Greek & Roman vases

PA – Greek and Latin Languages & Literatures

PA1–199: Classical philology

PA201–899: Greek philology & language

PA2001–2915: Latin philology & language

PA3000–3049: Classical literature (general)

PA3050–4505: Greek literature

PA3051–3285: Greek literary history

PA3818–4505: Individual Greek authors

PA6000–6971: Roman (Latin) literature

PA6001–6097: Literary history

PA6202–6971: Individual Latin authors

PA6801–6961 for Virgil

Connections & Collaborations

The ULS collaborates with other institutions and consortia to acquire specialized materials that support research, teaching, and learning in the subjects of Classics, 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 Classics collections. Within the University, the intersection of Classics with other departments and disciplines such as history, philosophy, religious studies, archaeology, and art informs the development and scope of the collections.

Subject Experts

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Sources of Information:

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