

Collection Subject Statement: Communication

Last Reviewed: January 2025

The Communication collections at the University of Pittsburgh Library System support the academic programs and research needs of students, faculty, and staff in departments and programs of Communication across all five campuses, as well as related subjects such as media studies, rhetoric, journalism, and communication technology. Relevant collections for this subject can be found at multiple University Library System (ULS) locations including Hanley Library, Hillman Library, Millstein Library, and Owen Library.

Purpose and Audiences

The university offers undergraduate majors in Communication at the Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh campuses and graduate study at the Pittsburgh campus. The library collections in this subject include materials that aid research, teaching, and learning of the theory, practice, and evolution of communication in both traditional and digital environments. The collections encompass a broad range of topics from argumentation and public speaking to rhetoric and media studies, with consideration for socio-political and cultural implications of communication in a global context.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The Communication collections offer a wide range of materials that cover different political, economic, religious, and social topics; thereby encouraging discovery and exploration of every side of any issue, cause, or movement. New acquisitions in print and electronic format are informed by thoughtful review and selection of materials, with additional items acquired upon request for research and teaching purposes. Materials are selected based on their academic quality, relevance to the curriculum, and contributions to the field of Communication.

The collections are intended to represent and align with the teaching, research, and creative activity of faculty and graduate students in Communication. Bridging the various areas of Communication studies, the collections incorporate interdisciplinary topics relevant to rhetorical criticism, public address, media studies, and political communication. Expanding the collections to support new and emerging research at the University, such as the rhetoric of science and science communication, is a priority.

Scope

Comprehensive resources on theory, research, and practice in the form of scholarly monographs are prioritized. eBook format is preferred for specific use cases that support broadly available access. Textbooks and handbooks are acquired selectively or upon request. 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 communication history and theory, in the form of documentaries and feature films, are available in physical and streaming formats.

The primary geographic focus for the collections is on materials from the United States and Western Europe. However, the library also strives to maintain resources from diverse global perspectives, particularly in the areas of intercultural communication and international media studies. The majority of the Communication collections are in English; however, materials in other languages, especially those in French, Spanish, German, and other major world languages, are selectively acquired to support interdisciplinary research and study.

Library of Congress Classification

P (Language and Literature)

- **PN 1-6790:** Communication, General works, Journalism, Broadcasting
- **PN 1990-1992:** Motion pictures
- **PN 4001-4999:** Communication (specific to broadcasting, film, journalism)
- **PN 4700-5749:** Rhetoric, Rhetorical criticism
- **PN 5121-5650:** Nonverbal communication, Body language, Public speaking

HM (Sociology)

- **HM 121-128:** Social psychology, Communication theory, Mass communication
- **HM 258-260:** Information technology and communication
- **HM 500-519:** Media, Cultural communication
- **HM 621-621.7:** Media ethics, Journalism ethics

T (Technology)

- **T 10-11:** Communication technology
- **T 55.5-55.6:** Information technology, Computers in communication
- **T 58.5:** Telecommunications

Z (Bibliography, Library Science)

- **Z 671-674:** Library science, Information retrieval, Information communication

Connections & Collaborations

The ULS collaborates with other institutions and consortia to acquire specialized materials that support research, teaching, and learning in the subject of Communication, 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 Communication collections. Within the University, the intersection of Communication with other departments and disciplines such as Cultural Studies, Film and Media Studies, Philosophy of Science, Global Studies, and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies inform the development and scope of the collections.

Subject Experts

- Bradford contact: Catherine Baldwin (cab137@pitt.edu)
- Greensburg contact: Renee Kiner (rak137@pitt.edu)
- Johnstown contact: David Kupas (dmk24@pitt.edu)
- Pittsburgh contact: Carrie Donovan (cdonovan@pitt.edu)

Sources of Information:

<https://www.upb.pitt.edu/academics/communications-ba>

<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/academics/communication>

<https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/academics/majors-programs/humanities/communication>

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