

Collection Subject Statement: English

Last Reviewed: March 2025

The English 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 English across all five campuses, including Composition, Literature, and Writing Programs, as well as specific subjects such as creative & professional writing, writing for the disciplines, English education, English and language arts, film & media studies, multimedia and digital culture, journalism, public & professional writing, and digital narrative & design. 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/Audiences

The University offers undergraduate majors, minors, and certificates in English 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 literature, writing, and composition in both traditional and digital environments. The collections encompass a broad range of topics from English education to poetry and poetics, with consideration for literature study across the centuries and the globe, writing in traditional forms and emerging media, and disciplinary and real-world forms of writing.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The English collections offer a wide range of materials that cover different political, economic, religious, and social topics from a diverse range of authors; thereby encouraging discovery and exploration of every side of any issue, cause, theory, 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 English.

The collections are intended to represent and align with the teaching, research, and creative activity of faculty and graduate students in English. Bridging the various areas of English studies, the collections incorporate interdisciplinary topics relevant to literature criticism, different forms of creative writing, and public and professional writing. Expanding the collections to support new and emerging research at the University, such as the digital narrative and generative artificial intelligence, is a priority.

Scope

Comprehensive resources on theory, research, and practice in the form of scholarly monographs are prioritized in print and ebook format. Ebook format is sometimes preferred for specific use cases to 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 databases such as Literature Resource Center and MLA (Modern Language Association). Sound and video recordings of readings of English-language poetry and fiction, and of play productions, as well as film and television adaptations of English-language fiction and plays, are available in physical and streaming formats. Translations, graphic novels, and young adult genre materials are acquired selectively or upon request. The horror literature genre is a particular area of focus and strength in general collections and in collaboration with Archives & Special Collections. African American poetry and poetics is a particular area of focus and strength. Pitt faculty and alumni writing are acquired selectively or upon request.

The primary geographic focus for the existing collections is on materials from the United States, England, Ireland, Canada, Scotland, India, South Africa, and Australia. Creative writing collections for the local geographic areas are prioritized (Pittsburgh, Northwestern and Western Pennsylvania, and Appalachia). The library also strives to cultivate resources from diverse global perspectives, particularly in the areas of global literature, Hispanic literature, Caribbean diasporic writing, and African diasporic writing. The majority of the English 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 research and study.

Library of Congress Classification

P (Language and Literature)

Philology and Linguistics: General

- **PE** English Language

Literature: General and Universal

- **PN1-9** Periodicals
- **PN45-57** Theory, Philosophy, Esthetics
- **PN59-72** Study and Teaching
- **PN80-99** Criticism
- **PN101-239** Authorship
- **PN441-749** Literary History
- **PN905-1008** Teaching Young Adult Literature
- **PN1010-1551** Poetry
- **PN3311-3448** Prose Fiction Writing, Science Fiction
- **PN6010-6700** Collections of General Literature
- **PN6710-6790** Comics, Graphic Novels

English Literature

- **PR1-58** Literary History and Criticism
- **PR58-77** Criticism
- **PR1098-1369** Collections of English Literature
- **PR1490-1799** Anglo-Saxon Literature
- **PR1803-2165** Anglo-Norman period, Early English, Middle English
- **PR2199-3195** English Renaissance (1500-1640)
- **PR3291-3785** 17th and 18th Centuries (1640-1770)
- **PR3991-5990** 19th Century (1770-1900)
- **PR6000-6049** 1900-1960
- **PR6050-6126** 1961 to date
- **PR8309-9680** Provincial, Local

American Literature

- **PS126-138** Biography, Memoirs, Letters
- **PS147-152** Women Authors
- **PS153-185** Literature of Peoples
- **PS185-231** History by period
- **PS241-286** Special Regions, States
- **PS301-326** Poetry, Biographies of Poets
- **PS330-353** Drama
- **PS370-380** Prose Fiction
- **PS501-689** Collections of American Literature

American Literature: Individual Authors

- **PS700-893** Colonial Period (17th and 18th centuries)
- **PS991-3390** 19th Century
- **PS3500-3549** 1900-1960
- **PS3550-3626** 1961 to date

Connections & Collaborations

The ULS collaborates with other institutions and consortia to acquire specialized materials that support research, teaching, and learning in the subject of English, 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 English collections.

Other collections in the library system supplement the scope of the English collection. The Alldred Collection contains selected popular and literary fiction as well as nonfiction titles. Archives & Special Collections contains several first editions of English and American literary works from the 16th through the 21st centuries, as well as an extensive contemporary small press poetry collection. Archives & Special Collections also contains

many prominent writer archives, including August Wilson, Mary Roberts Rinehart, Linda D. Addison, Bebe Moore Campbell, Gwendolyn Kiste, Hervey Allen, Gerald Stern, and others. Within the University, the intersection of English with other departments and disciplines such as Education, Film and Media Studies, Political Science, History, Global Studies, Communication, 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: Robin Kear (rlk25@pitt.edu)

Sources of Information

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

<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/academics/english-literature>

<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/academics/creative-and-professional-writing>

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

<https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/academics/majors-programs/humanities/writing-creative-or-professional>

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