

Collection Subject Statement: Entrepreneurship

Last Reviewed: April 2025

The Entrepreneurship collection at the University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS) supports research, teaching and commercialization efforts at the University of Pittsburgh. Entrepreneurship is interdisciplinary by nature with applications in engineering, business, legal, medical, and other disciplines. This print and electronic collection, primarily housed in the Hillman, Hanley and Owen Libraries and online, provides current and actionable information sources that not only reflect diverse voices and perspectives on entrepreneurship education and research, but that also assists in the real-world decision-making and discovery for those transferring their innovations from the lab into the marketplace.

Purpose and Audience

Innovation development and commercialization is on the rise as more universities work to bridge the gap between academia and industry. There are several courses, certificate programs and minors within the Swanson School of Engineering, School of Computing and Information, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Pitt Business and School of Public and International Affairs that focus on entrepreneurial education.

Furthermore, university-based incubators, technology transfer programs and spinoffs (USOs) play an important role in the transfer of knowledge and technology to society that might otherwise remain siloed. The university hosts several research centers and student and faculty competitions, living learning communities, Entrepreneurs-in-Residence and student groups that assist in homegrown commercialization at the university and in the broader Pennsylvanian community. Some of those research centers include:

- Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which houses the Innovation Institute, Big Idea Center, Institute of Entrepreneurial Excellence, and the Office of Industry and Economic Partnerships.
- Center for Medical Innovation
- Clinical and Translational Science Institute

Entrepreneurship curriculum and commercialization efforts have been expanded to other campus locations including Bradford and Johnstown.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The library acquires materials in formats that best support the research, curricular, and commercialization needs of the campus. Approval plans, standing orders, user requests and publisher notifications account for most of the material purchased. Due to the high costs associated with these resources, acquisition of new resources is highly selective. Generally, the library does not purchase individual industry reports, datasets, or investor reports.

The following are principal publishers of entrepreneurship resources: EBSCO, Lexis Nexis, London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), Taylor & Francis, Bloomberg, UPenn/Wharton, S&P Global, government resources, Elsevier, Thomson Financial, Edward Elgar, Palgrave, Ashgate, Sage, Free Press, Jossey-Bass, Wiley, Frank Fabozzi, Harvard Business School Publishing, other university presses as appropriate, Oxford, Cambridge, Proquest, and Blackwell.

Typical subject headings include "Entrepreneurship," "Business Incubators," "New Business Enterprises," or "Venture Capital." Relevant titles can be located in the library's catalog [PittCat](#) by searching on the names of companies, industries, target markets, individuals, and technologies.

Scope

Types of Materials and Formats

The types of materials and formats included in the collection are monographs (print and electronic), serials (electronic), magazines (electronic), trade publications, conference proceedings, business directories, business plans, market surveys, demographic datasets, and other statistical reports, case studies, government publications, censuses, startup guides and electronic databases with company profiles, industry and consumer reports.

Electronic formats are preferred, but acquisition of e-resources may be contingent on platform usability, acceptable license terms, cost, and other factors. Electronic items with reduced barriers to access are preferred, such as DRM-free e-books or multi-user licenses.

Languages

The collection is largely in English and English language is preferred. Foreign language titles are purchased rarely.

Chronological

Current publications with an emphasis on current information, data, and research are preferred. Historical items are purchased selectively.

Geographical

Primary emphasis is on the United States, however, materials on entrepreneurship in other countries are collected selectively. Electronic resources provide a more international focus with an emphasis on emerging markets. They allow the library to collect diverse perspectives, populations, and methodologies, promoting a global and transnational understanding of global entrepreneurship. No geographic areas are specifically excluded.

Library of Congress Classification and Collection RLG level (or at the LC class)

Call number ranges, HB 615 – 715 and other relevant LC classes

Connections & Collaborations

Other Relevant Subjects

The Entrepreneurship collection overlaps significantly with the Business and Economics collections. The Entrepreneurship curriculum in many disciplines makes use of legal, medical, engineering, science, and social sciences materials that are outside the scope of this collection policy. Materials related to entrepreneurship are collected regardless of their LC classification.

University and External Partnerships

The ULS participates in several consortia for collection development (NERL, EAST, Hathi Trust, CRL) and resource sharing (PALCI EZBorrow, OCLC Interlibrary Loan, RapidILL). Items such as industry reports, market and consumer surveys, case studies cannot be obtained via resource sharing avenues.

Some electronic entrepreneurship resources can be accessed via walk-in by Pitt affiliates and community members. Walk-in access can be obtained by visiting the Hillman Library with a photo ID. Additionally, Pitt affiliates can access entrepreneurship resources through university and community partners including Carnegie Mellon University and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Subject Experts

- LaMonica Wiggins, Entrepreneurship Librarian, Pittsburgh (lmw129@pitt.edu)
- Peter Egler, Head of Owen Library, Johnstown (pegler@pitt.edu)
- Kim Bailey, Reference/Instruction Librarian, Bradford (hanold@pitt.edu)

Sources of Information

<https://www.innovation.pitt.edu/university-pittsburgh-innovation-institute/university-pittsburgh-office-innovation-entrepreneurship/>

<https://www.engineering.pitt.edu/programs/ipde/innovation-product-design-and-entrepreneurship/>

<https://www.cba.pitt.edu/careers/student-career-development/innovation-and-entrepreneurship/>

<https://www.spia.pitt.edu/academics/undergraduate-opportunities/nonprofit-management-certificate>