

Collection Subject Statement: Environmental Studies

Last Reviewed: April 2025

Environmental Studies collections at the University of Pittsburgh Library System support the research needs of students, faculty, and staff of the departments. Our collection reflects broad topics contained within this discipline. Relevant collections for this subject can be found at multiple University Library System (ULS) locations including Hanley Library, Hillman Library, Owen Library, Bevier Science & Engineering Library, and Thomas Blvd Library.

Purpose/Audiences

The university offers undergraduate majors in Environmental Studies at the Bradford, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh campuses. The library collections in Environmental Studies include materials that aid research, teaching, and learning.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The swift growth of the human population and development has created intricate environmental issues at both local and global levels. The way we approach these challenges will greatly influence our society and the Earth in the coming century. To find meaningful solutions, it is essential to combine scientific understanding with an awareness of the related societal concerns. The Environmental Studies collections offer a wide range of materials that cover different anthropological, scientific, agricultural, sociological, political, geographical and technological topics; thereby encouraging discovery and inquiry across multiple programs of study. 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 Environmental Studies. The collections are intended to represent and align with the teaching, research, and creative activity of faculty in Environmental Studies

Scope

Comprehensive resources on theory, research, and practice in the form of scholarly monographs are prioritized. While the Pittsburgh campus is eBook preferred for new monograph acquisitions, new monographs at the regional campus libraries are acquired in print format with eBook format exceptions made for specific use cases or upon request. 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.

The primary geographic focus for the collections is on materials from the United States. However, the library also strives to maintain resources from diverse global perspectives and studies. The majority of the Environmental Studies collections are in English; however,

materials in other languages are selectively acquired to support interdisciplinary research and study.

The Environmental Studies collections are primarily classified under the following areas and developed at the instructional support level, consisting of works created for the basic through advanced undergraduate level. Graduate- and research-level materials are collected selectively and upon request.

Library of Congress Classification

G (Geography. Anthropology. Recreation)

- **GE 1-350** Environmental Sciences
- **GF 51** Environmental Influences on Humans
- **GF 75** Human Influences of the Environment

K (Law)

- **K3581-(3598)** Environmental Law

Q (Science)

- **QE 1-996.5** Geology
- **QH 540-549.5** Ecology
- **QP 1-345** Physiology General Including influence of the environment

R (Medicine)

- **RA 565-600** Environmental health Including sewage disposal, air pollution, nuisances, water supply

S (Agriculture)

- **S 589.75-589.76** Agriculture and the environment
- **S 606-621.5** Special classes of lands and reclamation methods Including woodlands, burning of lands, deserts, saline environments, moors
- **S 622-627** Soil conservation and protection
- **S 900-(972)** Conservation of natural resources

T (Technology)

- **TA 170-171** Environmental engineering
- **TD 1-1066** Environmental technology. Sanitary engineering
- **TH 6014-6081** Environmental engineering of buildings. Sanitary engineering of buildings

Connections & Collaborations

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

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 Environmental Studies collections.

Subject Experts

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- Johnstown contact: David Kupas (dmk24@pitt.edu)
- Pittsburgh contact: Aimee Jenkins (aimees@pitt.edu)
- Pittsburgh contact: Margarete Bower (bower@pitt.edu)

Sources of Information

<https://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/academics/majors/environmental-studies-ba>

[https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/academics/majors-programs/social-](https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/academics/majors-programs/social-sciences/environmental)

[sciences/environmental](https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/academics/majors-programs/social-sciences/environmental) <https://www.upb.pitt.edu/academics/environmental-studies-ba>