

# **Collection Subject Statement: Film & Media Studies**

**Last Reviewed:** March 2025

The Film & Media Studies 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 Film & Media Studies at the Pittsburgh Campus. The Film & Media Studies Program includes a variety of courses in both critical studies and film and video production courses. Its undergraduate program provides an undergraduate major and minor in Film and Media Studies. The Program offers an interdisciplinary PhD in Film and Media Studies in conjunction with six associated departments: English, French & Italian Languages and Literatures, Hispanic Languages and Literatures, History of Art and Architecture, and Slavic Languages and Literatures. Student areas of focus include the history, theory, aesthetics, and cultural politics, of film, television, and new media, and courses and areas of research draw from a variety of fields and disciplines. The Program also offers an MA Certificate or PhD Certificate in Film and Media Studies for those interested in sub-specializing in Film and Media Studies while completing graduate work in another discipline.

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 and minors in Film & Media Studies, an interdisciplinary PhD program, and graduate certificates 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 film theory, history, and media in both traditional and digital environments. The collections encompass a broad range of topics from the theory and history of cinema and television, aesthetics and production of multiple media forms, and also the production of film, video, and digital media.

## **Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus**

The Film & Media Studies 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 Film & Media Studies. The collections are intended to represent and align with the teaching, research, and creative activity of faculty and graduate students in Film & Media Studies. Bridging the various areas of Film Studies, the collections incorporate interdisciplinary topics relevant

to film history, aesthetics, cinematography, and production. Expanding the collections to support new and emerging research at the University, such as the examination of film and media in different regions and countries around the world, and deeper work in genres such as horror.

### **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 FIAF International Index to Film Periodicals Database and American Film Institute Catalog. Popular, independent, and documentary films are available in physical and streaming formats and are collected through the Stark Media Collection. Translations are acquired selectively or upon request. The horror film genre is a particular area of focus and strength in general collections and in collaboration with Archives & Special Collections. Pitt faculty and alumni writing are acquired selectively or upon request. Film scripts are acquired selectively.

The primary geographic focus for the existing collections is histories, criticism, theory, biographies or memoirs relating to film and major film personalities in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Western and Eastern Europe, Russia, India, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Materials on film history and filmmaking in the developing nations of the Middle East, Central and Southeast Asia, and Africa are acquired selectively. The library also strives to cultivate resources from diverse global perspectives. The majority of the Film & Media collections are in English; however, materials in other languages, especially those in Russian, Chinese, and other major world languages, are selectively acquired to support research and study.

### **Library of Congress Classification**

- **CT, PN** Biography
- **NC1765-1766** Motion picture cartoons
- **PN1992** Television broadcasts
- **PN1993-1999** Motion Pictures
  - --Australia
  - --Canada
  - --China
  - --France
  - --Germany
  - --Great Britain
  - --India
  - --Ireland
  - --Italy

- --Japan
- --New Zealand
- --Russia and Eastern Europe
- --Spain
- --United States
- **PN1995.9 D6** Documentary films
- **PN1996** Motion picture authorship
- **TR858-897** Cinematography

### **Connections & Collaborations**

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

Other collections in the library system supplement the scope of the Film & Media Studies collection. Histories of film and biographies of, or memoirs by, major film personalities published by trade presses for public consumption are routinely acquired and may be housed in the Alldred Collection. Archives & Special Collections contains several prominent filmmakers' archives, including George Romero. Popular films, independent films, and documentaries are housed in the Stark Media Collection and at various libraries.

Within the University, the intersection of Film & Media Studies with other departments and disciplines such as English, French & Italian Languages and Literatures, Hispanic Languages and Literatures, History of Art and Architecture, and Slavic Languages and Literatures inform the development and scope of the collection.

### **Subject Experts**

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### **Sources of Information**

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