

# Collection Subject Statements: French Language and Studies

**Last Reviewed:** March 2025

The French Language and Studies collection at the University of Pittsburgh University Library System (ULS) can be found across digital and physical ULS locations including at the Frick Fine Arts Library, Hanley Library, Hillman Library, Millstein Library, Music Library, Owen Library, and Thomas Blvd Library.

## **Purpose and Audiences**

The French collection supports students, faculty, and staff in the learning, research, and teaching of the theory, practice of French language. Undergraduate study in French and Francophone Studies is available across the university campuses, and graduate study at the Ph.D. level is offered at the Pittsburgh campus through the Department of French and Italian. The collection also supports interdisciplinary studies and related subjects including Africana Studies; Film and Media Studies; Literature in Translation; Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies; and General Education electives.

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

The French collection offers a wide range of materials including books, journals, films, newspapers, magazines, anthologies, graphic novels, and conference proceedings.

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 faculty research, and contributions to the field of Francophone studies, including African and Caribbean literature.

The collection is intended to represent and align with the teaching, research, and creative activities of faculty and graduate students. It encompasses a broad range of topics with consideration for French culture, history, language, and literature in a global context. Expanding the collections to support new courses and areas of emerging collaborations, such as with health humanities and business, is a priority.

## **Scope**

Comprehensive resources on theory, research, and practice in the form of scholarly monographs are prioritized. Print format is acquired for specific use cases and upon request. The collection includes peer-reviewed journals and newspapers in both print and electronic formats, discoverable through subscription databases. Films related to French studies, in the form of documentaries and feature films, are available in physical and streaming formats. Materials supporting French language research and development include textbooks and handbooks, which are acquired selectively or upon request, and select databases.

Materials in the French or English language are preferred; however, materials in other major world languages are acquired upon request to support interdisciplinary research and study. The primary geographic focus for the collection is on materials published in the United States and France. Materials from Africa, Canada, and the Caribbean are also collected.

### **Library of Congress Classification**

PC Romance Languages

- PC2001-3761 Romance languages: French

PN Literature (General)

- PN6120.3 General collections of French fiction

PQ1-3999 French literature

- PQ1-771 Literary history and criticism
- PQ781-841 Folk literature
- PQ1100-1297 Collections of French literature
- PQ1300-1595 Old French lit (to ca. 1550)
- PQ1599.2-2726 Modern French lit
- PQ1600-1709 Individual authors, 16th century
- PQ1710-1935 Individual authors, 17th century
- PQ1947-2147 Individual authors, 18th century
- PQ2149-2551 Individual authors, 19th century
- PQ2600-2651 Individual authors, 1900-1960
- PQ2660-2686 Individual authors, 1961-2000
- PQ2700-2726 Individual authors, 2001-present
- PQ3800-3999 Provincial, local, colonial, etc.

### **Connections & Collaborations**

The ULS collaborates with other institutions and consortia to acquire specialized materials that support research, teaching, and learning in French 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 French collection. Within the University, the intersection of French Studies with other departments and disciplines such as Africana Studies; Cultural Studies; English Literature; Film and Media Studies; Global Studies; and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies inform the development and scope of the collections with varying degree by campus. Some rare materials in the French language can also be found in the rare books selection in Archives & Special Collections.

### **Subject Experts**

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- Pittsburgh contact: Leslie Poljak (l.poljak@pitt.edu)

**Sources of Information**

<https://catalog.upb.pitt.edu/>

<https://catalog.upg.pitt.edu/>

<https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/foreign-language-and-literature>

<https://www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu/about>