

Collection Subject Statement: Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

Last Reviewed: March 2025

The Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (GSWS) collections at the University of Pittsburgh Library System support the academic programs and research needs of students, faculty, and staff in the GSWS program at the Pittsburgh Campus. GSWS includes a variety of core and cross-listed courses to explore the changing role of gender and sexuality and their significance in many disciplines. GSWS offers MA and PhD graduate certificates, undergraduate degrees through a BA major, and two BA minors that connect students and faculty across disciplinary fields and with the larger community. Program offerings provide opportunities for students and faculty to explore the historical development, cultural variations, and changing representations of gender and sexuality as they organize identities, interactions, and institutions and intersect in complex ways with sex, race, class, ethnicity, ability, age, religion, and nation.

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 and Audience

The University offers an undergraduate major, minors, and certificates and certificates in graduate study in GSWS 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 gender, sexuality, and women's studies in both traditional and digital environments. The collections encompass a broad range of topics including feminism, women, masculinity, the sex/gender system, homosexuality, heterosexuality, bisexuality, trans*, queer, intersex, and other gendered matters, highlighting gender and sexuality as operating always in conjunction with other identities such as race, class, ethnicity, nation, ability, age, and religion, with consideration for study that investigates the histories of gender and sexuality and their impacts on literature and the arts, on science and the media, and on politics and culture.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The GSWS collection offers 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 GSWS.

The collections are intended to represent and align with the teaching, research, and creative activity of faculty and graduate students in GSWS. Bridging the various areas of GSWS, the collections incorporate interdisciplinary topics relevant to sexuality, feminism, gender, and women's studies. Expanding the collections to support new and emerging research at the University, such as the critical sexuality studies and changing roles of gender and sexuality in the United States and globally, 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 and online collections of historical materials including diaries, images, commentaries, letters, and conference proceedings, providing retrospective coverage of important events. Related 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. Pitt faculty and alumni writing are acquired selectively or upon request. There are several large microform collections in Women's Studies, including *Herstory*, *The History of Women*, and *The Margaret Sanger Papers*, which serve to supplement our historical collections.

The primary geographic focus for the existing collections is histories, criticism, theory, biographies or memoir materials from the United States. The library also strives to cultivate resources from diverse global perspectives, particularly in the areas of global gender studies. The majority of the GSWS 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

- **BJ 1359** Feminist Ethics
- **HQ 1 - 472** Sexuality
- **HQ 503 - 1064** The Family. Marriage. Home
- **HQ 1075 - 1075.5** Sex Role
- **HQ 1088 - 1090.7** Men
- **HQ 1101 - 2030.7** Women, Feminism
- **JK 1846 - 1936** Suffrage

Connections & Collaborations

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

Other collections in the library system supplement the scope of the GSWS collection. The Alldred Collection contains selected popular material related to gender and sexuality. Archives & Special Collections contains primary source materials in queer and sexuality studies including local LGBTQIA+ newspapers and newsletters, reports, magazine, pulp paperbacks, and underground press.

Within the University, the intersection of GSWS with other departments and disciplines such as History, English, Religious Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Education, and Communication inform the development and scope of the collections.

Subject Experts

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Sources of Information:

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