

Collection Subject Statement: Geology and Environmental Science

Last Reviewed: April 2025

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 Geology at Johnstown, and Pittsburgh campuses and minors at the Bradford and Johnstown Campuses. Graduate degrees in Geology are offered at the Pittsburgh Campus.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The geosciences collections offer a wide range of materials that cover different anthropological, scientific, agricultural, 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 Geology and Environmental Science.

The collections are intended to represent and align with the teaching, research, and creative activity of faculty in Geology and Environmental Science. Bridging the various areas of geosciences, the collections incorporate interdisciplinary topics relevant to the study of geography, ecology, agriculture, and geology.

Scope

Geology is a multidisciplinary field that aims to understand the inner workings of our planet. Traditionally, it has centered on the study of the solid Earth—such as rocks, volcanic activity, and mountain formation—as well as the history of life through paleontology. In recent years, however, there has been a growing focus on Earth's climate history and the environmental effects of human activity. As a result, geosciences now cover a broad range of topics, spanning the atmosphere, oceans, surface processes, and the Earth's interior, including the crust, mantle, and core. The Geology and Environmental Science collections at the University of Pittsburgh Library System support the research needs of students, faculty, and staff of the departments.

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 Geology and Environmental Science collections are in English; however, materials in other languages are selectively acquired to support interdisciplinary research and study.

The Geology and Environmental Science collections are primarily classified under the following areas.

Library of Congress Classification

G (Geography. Anthropology. Recreation)

- **GB 3-5030** Physical Geography
- **GC 1-1581** Oceanography
- **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)

- **QB 455-456** Astrogeology
- **QB 500.5-785** Solar system
- **QC 794.95-798** Radioactivity and radioactive substances
- **QC 801-809** Geophysics. Cosmic physics
- **QC 811-849** Geomagnetism
- **QC 851-999** Meteorology. Climatology Including the earth's atmosphere
- **QD 901-999** Crystallography
- **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

- Bradford contact: Kim Bailey (hanold@pitt.edu)
- Pittsburgh contact: Aimee Jenkins (aimees@pitt.edu)
- Pittsburgh contact: Margarete Bower (bower@pitt.edu)

Sources of Information

<https://www.geology.pitt.edu/geology-bs>

<https://www.geology.pitt.edu/environmental-science-bs>

<https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/academics/majors-programs/natural-sciences/geology>

<https://www.upb.pitt.edu/academics/geology>