

Collection Subject Statement: History

Last Reviewed: March 2025

The History subject collections at the University of Pittsburgh Library System support cross-disciplinary research and provide access to materials that intersect with other areas such as Area Studies; African and Africana Studies; Economics; Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies; Latin American Studies; Political Science; and Sociology. Relevant collections for this subject can be found at multiple University of Pittsburgh University Library System (ULS) locations including Hanley Library, Hillman Library, Millstein Library, Owen Library, and Thomas Blvd Library.

Purpose and Audience

The History collections support the academic programs and research needs of students, faculty, and staff in departments and programs of History (and History-Political Science at the Bradford Campus) across the University.

The primary audience for the history and history-political science collections are the students, faculty, and academic researchers within the discipline. Major areas of research include the African diaspora; Atlantic history; early modern worlds; and world history. The university offers undergraduate majors in History at the Greensburg, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh campuses and graduate study at the Pittsburgh campus. The Bradford campus offers an undergraduate major in History-Political Science. The library collections in this subject include materials that aid research, teaching, and learning of the theory, practice, and development of History in both traditional and digital environments.

On the Pittsburgh campus, the History Department houses the World History Center. The Department also partners with interdisciplinary programs and centers including the following in the University Center for International Studies (UCIS): Asian Studies Center; Center for African Studies; Center for Latin American Studies; the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES); and the European Studies Center.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The History collections offer a wide range of materials that support the curriculum. The research interests of faculty and graduate students also influence the strategy for the collections.

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 History.

The collections are intended to represent and align with the teaching, research, and creative activity of faculty and graduate students in History. Expanding the collections to support new courses, emerging research, and neglected and underrepresented perspectives is a priority.

Scope

The majority of the History collections are in English. However, materials in other languages are selectively acquired to support interdisciplinary research and study. While we are format agnostic, for English-language books in the sciences and social sciences we may consider e-formats first. 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 America: History & Life and Historical Abstracts.

The primary geographic focus for the collections is on materials about the United States and Western Europe. However, the library also strives to maintain resources from diverse global perspectives, particularly from historically marginalized groups.

Library of Congress Classification

CB: History of Civilization

D: History (General)

- **DA:** Great Britain. England. Scotland. Wales. Ireland. Northern Ireland.
- **DB96-879:** Austria, 1918-present
- **DC:** France
- **DD:** Germany (excluding East Germany 1945-1990)
- **DF:** Greece
- **DG:** Italy
- **DH:** Belgium and Luxembourg
- **DJ:** Netherlands (Holland)
- **DL:** Northern Europe. Scandinavia (Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland)
- **DP:** Spain and Portugal
- **DS:** Asia, except Armenia (DS161-195.5) and Central Asia (DS327-329.4)
- **DT43-346:** North Africa. Northwest Africa. Maghrib. Egypt. Sudan. Libya. Algeria. Tunisia. Morocco. Sahara.
- **DU:** Oceania (South Seas). Australia. New Zealand. South Sea islands.

E: History of the Americas, except Indians of North America (E75-99)

F: History of the Americas, except Central America, West Indian, and other countries, etc. (F975) and Caribbean and Central American areas within F1141-1145.2

HC: Economic history and conditions

HD: Industries. Land use. Labor.

- 101-1395.5. Land use.
- 1401-2210. Agriculture.

- 4801-8943. Labor. Work. Working class.

Connections & Collaborations

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

Subject Experts

- Bradford contact: Jenelle Jensen (cab137@pitt.edu)
- Greensburg contact: Renee Kiner (rak137@pitt.edu)
- Johnstown contact: David Kupas (dmk24@pitt.edu)
- Pittsburgh contact: Chris Lemery (clemery@pitt.edu)

Sources of Information:

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

<https://www.upb.pitt.edu/academics/history-political-science-ba>

<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/academics/degree-finder/history>

<https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/academics/majors-programs/social-sciences/history>