

Collection Subject Statement: Jewish Studies

Last Reviewed: April 2025

Purpose

The purpose of the Jewish Studies collections is to support coursework for the undergraduate certificate, along with teaching and research on the graduate and faculty level. Undergraduate certificates and self-designed majors in Jewish Studies are available on the Pittsburgh campus. The collection aims to enhance scholarly inquiry, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary approaches that contribute to the advancement of knowledge in Jewish Studies and supports teaching and research at all Pitt campuses.

Audience

The primary audience for the collections includes undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and academic researchers from the diverse subfields within Jewish Studies. The collections also serve professionals and researchers in fields such as Religious Studies, Political Science, Anthropology, English, French and Italian, German, and History. Library materials in Jewish Studies are interdisciplinary in nature, and they intersect with other areas such as Sociology, Psychology, History of Art, and Environmental Studies.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The materials in the Jewish Studies collections are intended to represent diverse perspectives, populations, and methodologies, promoting a global understanding of the discipline. In addition to the curriculum, the research areas of faculty and graduate students directly influence the strategy for the collections. Faculty come from departments across the University, including Religious Studies, Political Science, Anthropology, English, French and Italian, German, and History. They are actively mentoring graduate students whose research focuses on Jewish experiences, culture, language, and history.

Scope

The Jewish Studies collections offer a wide range of print and digital materials in the form of monographs, journals, films, anthologies, and conference proceedings. Titles published in English are primarily purchased, along with a small percentage of materials published in Hebrew, French, German, and Spanish. There are no limits for place of publication or geographical focus of the materials purchased for the collection, nor are there any chronological limits.

Library of Congress Classification

The Jewish Studies collections primarily focus on materials classified under the following:

- BM – Judaism
 - BM1–449 – General works on Judaism
 - BM150–263 – Sources (e.g., Talmud, Midrash)

- BM495–532 – Jewish theology
- BM535–545 – Jewish ethics
- BM648–747 – Jewish history
- BM720–755 – Denominations and sects within Judaism
- BS – The Bible
- D804.3 – Holocaust studies
- DS101–151 – Jewish history
- DS101–135 – General history
- DS135 – Jews by region or country
- DS135.E5 – Jews in Europe, for example
- DS140–151 – Zionism
- PJ – Semitic languages
 - PJ4501–PJ5192 – Hebrew language
 - PJ5010–PJ5192 – Hebrew literature
 - PJ5201–PJ5329 – Aramaic

Connections & Collaborations

The ULS collaborates with other institutions and consortia to acquire specialized materials that support research, teaching, and learning in the subject of Jewish 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 Jewish Studies collections. Within the University, the intersection of Jewish Studies with other departments and disciplines informs the development and scope of the collections. A vast selection of primary sources related to Jewish history in Pittsburgh can be found in Archives & Special Collections, most notably the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Pittsburgh Section, records, 1894–2003.

Subject Experts

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Sources of Information

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