

Collection Subject Statement: Korean Studies Collection

Last reviewed: March 2025

The Korean Studies collection has been systematically developed through an approval plan since 2003. The collection is in the East Asian Library at the Hillman Library and LCSU. Materials related to Korean studies can also be found, to a way smaller extent, in the Frick Fine Arts Library and departmental campuses.

Collection Purpose/Audiences

The primary purpose of the Korean Studies Collection is to support undergraduate teaching, learning, and research in the Korean Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh. The Korean Studies Program is housed in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures. Faculty members teach a variety of subjects, including but not limited to, Korean language, Korean literature, Korean society, and Korean culture.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The Korean studies collection has been developed through the approval plan since 2003 with different areas of focus such as cinema, history, language, literature, politics, society/culture, art, economics, and philosophy. K-Pop and pop culture in general is a growing field of interest.

Collection Scope

Materials include print and electronic monographs, print and electronics journals, databases, and DVDs. The Korean collection holds about 21,000 physical monographs, about 500 volumes of electronic monographs and subscribes to 3 databases. The collection is mainly in Korean but contains some bilingual works as well. Works published in English are limited. The geographical focus is on South Korea, North Korea and Asian countries in relation to Korea. The chronological focus is pre-modern, modern, and contemporary eras.

Library of Congress Classification

The Korean Studies Collection focuses primarily on materials classified under the following:

- **DS** – History of Asia, Korea
- **HC** – Economic history and conditions
- **HQ** – The Family, Marriage, Women
- **JQ** – Political institutions and public administration in Korea
- **PL** – Languages and Literatures of Korea

Connections & Collaborations

Because some faculty in other departments and schools across the university study a variety of topics related to Korea, many subject areas are relevant. These include

Anthropology, East Asian Languages and Literatures, Economics, Film Studies, History, History of Art and Architecture, Linguistics, Music, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Sociology.

Subject Experts

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Sources of Information

Internal notes on the history of East Asian Library and Korean Studies collection, inventory data, faculty and student consultations, and existing approval plans.