

Collection Subject Statement: Linguistics

Last Reviewed: March 2025

The Linguistics collection at the University of Pittsburgh was established in conjunction with the Department of Linguistics's founding in 1965. The Pittsburgh campus houses the bulk of the Linguistics program, although each of the regional campuses offers some foreign language learning options for students. Much of the collections are housed at Hillman Library or the Thomas Blvd Library.

Purpose and Audience

The purpose of the Linguistics collections is to support the research and educational needs of students, faculty, and scholars in the Department of Linguistics, which includes the English Language Institute (ELI), the Less-Commonly-Taught Languages Center (LCTL), and the Robert Henderson Language Media Center.

The primary audience for the collections is the undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and academic researchers from the diverse subfields within linguistics. The collections also serve students, professionals, and practitioners in the fields of education, sociology, global and international studies such as East Asian Studies, Latin American Studies, and Russian and East European Studies, Africana Studies, and Western European Studies.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

According to the Linguistics Department website, the department's areas of strength include second language acquisition, applied linguistics, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and sociolinguistics. The areas of expertise of the faculty are theoretical and descriptive linguistics, Hispanic linguistics, sociolinguistics, and second language acquisition.

Scope

The Linguistics collections offer a wide range of print and digital materials in the form of monographs, journals, edited volumes, conference proceedings, videos, and datasets/corpora. While many titles are purchased in English, the linguistic treatment of all languages of the world is collected, with an emphasis on non-Western and non-Indo-European languages. Geographical coverage is worldwide, both in subject and place of publication. Access to content is provided through the library catalog, subject-related subscription databases, and bundled collections such as JSTOR, Oxford University Press, Sage Reference, Cambridge University Press, and SpringerLink, among several others. Some print textbooks will be acquired on request and will be used to support students through course reserves pending the availability of those texts. Ebook access is favored among faculty requesting books for teaching and research. Print materials will be offered when ebook access is prohibitively expensive and/or does not offer unlimited user access.

Library of Congress Classification

P – Philology. Linguistics

PB – Modern Language. Celtic Languages.

PC – Romance Languages

PE – English Language

PJ – Oriental languages and literatures

PK – Infor-Iranian languages and literatures

PL – Languages and literatures of Eastern Asia, Africa, Oceania

PM – Hyperborean, Indian, and artificial languages

Connections & Collaborations

The ULS collaborates with other institutions and consortia to acquire specialized materials that support research, teaching, and learning in the subject of Linguistics, 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 Linguistics. Within the University, the intersection of Linguistics with other departments and disciplines such as education, sociology, global, and international studies, informs the development and scope of the collections.

Subject Experts

Pittsburgh: Ula Lechtenberg (url1@pitt.edu)

Sources of Information

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

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

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