

# **Collection Subject Statement: Religious Studies**

**Last Reviewed:** April 2025

The Religious Studies collections are interdisciplinary in nature, and as such, overlap with many other programs and departments including Jewish Studies; Classics; History, Philosophy; Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (GSWS); Fine Arts; Anthropology; Political Science; East Asian Languages and Literatures; French and Italian; English; Slavic Languages and Literatures; and German. Relevant collections for this subject can be found at multiple University Library System (ULS) locations including Hanley Library, Hillman Library, Millstein Library, Owen Library, and Thomas Blvd Library.

## **Purpose and Audience**

The Religious Studies collections at the University of Pittsburgh Library System support the academic programs and research needs of students, faculty, and staff in the department and programs of Religious Studies on the Pittsburgh Campus and Religious Studies courses on the regional campuses.

The primary audience for the collections includes undergraduate students and faculty within Religious Studies. Research interests among the faculty include Medieval Religion; Lived Religion; Religion and Society; Asian Religions; and Major World Religions. The university offers an undergraduate major in Religious Studies at the Pittsburgh campus. Undergraduate courses in Religious Studies are offered at the Johnstown Campus through the English Literature; History; and Philosophy Departments.

## **Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus**

The Religious Studies collections are designed to support the curriculum. The collections are also intended to represent and align with the teaching, research, and creative activity of faculty who teach Religious Studies courses. Undergraduate courses in Religious Studies are offered at the Johnstown Campus through the English Literature, History, and Philosophy Departments.

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 Religious Studies.

## **Scope**

Comprehensive resources on theory, research, and practice in the form of scholarly monographs are prioritized. 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 in both print (for historic collections) and electronic

formats (for current subscriptions). Resources are discoverable through subscription databases.

The primary geographic focus for the collections is on materials from the United States and Western Europe. However, the library also strives to maintain resources from diverse global perspectives. The majority of the Religious Studies collections are in English; however, materials in other languages, especially those in French, Spanish, German, and other major world languages, are selectively acquired to support interdisciplinary research and study.

### **Library of Congress Classification**

**B** (Philosophy, Psychology, Religion)

- **BL:** Religions. Mythology. Rationalism
- **BP:** Islam
- **BQ:** Buddhism
- **BR:** Christianity
- **BS:** Bible
- **BT:** Doctrinal Theology
- **BV:** Practical Theology
- **BX:** Christian Denominations

### **Connections & Collaborations**

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

### **Subject Experts**

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- Pittsburgh contact: Chris Lemery (clemery@pitt.edu)

### **Sources of Information**

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

<https://catalog.upj.pitt.edu/>