

Collection Subject Statement: Social Work

Last reviewed: March 2025

The Social Work collection at the University of Pittsburgh has evolved alongside the profession itself, growing from early materials focused on charity and casework to a comprehensive, interdisciplinary collection that reflects the field's expanding roles in policy, advocacy, and clinical practice. The collection is primarily located within the general collection at Hillman Library.

Purpose and Audience

The Social Work collection supports course work, instruction and research from the undergraduate through the doctoral level in the School of Social Work. The collection also supports undergraduate and master's level work in child development. In addition, the collection serves to a minor degree, practicing social workers in Pittsburgh. Students, faculty, and staff needing information on social problems and policies also use the collection.

Guiding Principle and Areas of Focus

The Social Work materials are acquired utilizing approval plans, major publishers, and open access scholarly providers. The major areas of focus within the collection are administration, social policy and planning, child welfare, community organization and development, direct practice with individuals, families, and small groups, work with veterans, and international social work. Materials that support specific specializations within the school include resources on children, adolescents, and families, gerontology, home and school visitors, community economic development, community service, and child development.

Scope

The language of focus is English, and the primary areas of coverage are the United States and Western Europe. New acquisitions in print and electronic format are guided by review and selection of materials, with additional items acquired through requests based on curriculum, researching, and contributions to the field of Social Work. Monographs (print and electronic), databases, encyclopedias, proceedings, and conference reports are within the scope of materials collected. Books on the current social welfare systems of other countries and on comparative social welfare policies are also selected. Most books have current publication dates, older books that fall within the scope of the collection are purchased when such titles are available. Replacement items for materials beyond repair are purchased when possible. Textbooks are acquired selectively or upon request. Licensing tests are not purchased; however, books about tests are included within the collection. Films and videos are purchased at the request of faculty and graduate student researchers.

Library of Congress (LOC) Classification

BF- Development psychology

BF- Child psychology

HA- Statistics

HN- Social History, social reform

HN- Church and social problems

HQ- Sexual life

HQ- Youth Adolescence

HQ- Family violence

HQ- Divorce

HQ- Women

HT- Races-works on the race as social ground

HV- Charity organizations

HV- International Social Work

HV- Aged

HV- Poverty

JK- United States Government

KF- Law of the United States

KF- Poverty

KF- Foster home care

KF- Disaster relief

KF- Care of mentally ill

KF- Child abuse

LB- Child Study

RA- Long term care

RC- Psychiatry

RJ- Child psychiatry

Connections & Collaborations

The ULS collaborates with other institutions and consortia to acquire specialized materials that support research, teaching, and learning in the field of social work 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 Social Work collection. The Social Work collection is strengthened and extended by other collections in Hillman Library and other libraries at the University of Pittsburgh.

Subject Experts

- Pittsburgh campus contact: Arif Jamal (ajamal@pitt.edu)
- Bradford campus contact: Catherine Baldwin (cab137@pitt.edu)

Sources of Information

Existing approval plans, collection inventories, faculty and student consultations, and faculty meetings.