

Collection Subject Statement: Theatre Arts

Last Reviewed: March 2025

The Theatre Arts collections at the University of Pittsburgh University Library System (ULS) are found in the following locations: Finney Music Library, Hanley Library, Hillman Library, Millstein Library, Owen Library, and Thomas Blvd Library as well as Archives & Special Collections.

Purpose and Audiences

The collections support the academic programs and research needs of the students, faculty, and staff in departments and programs related to Theatre Arts, including student theatre clubs. The university offers undergraduate majors and minors related to Theatre Arts at the Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh campuses as well as graduate study at the Pittsburgh campus.

Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus

The Theatre Arts collections are intended to represent and align with the teaching, research, and creative activity of faculty and graduate students in Theatre Arts, bridging the various areas of performance, design, technology, management, history, literature, and criticism. 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 Theatre Arts.

Scope

The Theatre Arts collections include scholarly literature, playtexts, and texts and manuals for theatre production. Comprehensive resources on theory, research, and practice in the form of scholarly monographs are prioritized. While ULS policy is that new acquisitions are eBook preferred, exceptions for print materials are made. Textbooks are acquired selectively or upon request.

The collections include a wide selection of peer-reviewed journals and trade publications in both print and electronic formats, discoverable through databases such as the International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance. Media resources related to performance, history, and theory, in the form of documentaries, films, recorded stage productions, and teaching and learning resources are available in physical and streaming formats.

The primary geographic focus for the collections is on materials from the United States and Western Europe. The ULS also strives to maintain resources from diverse global perspectives. The collections are primarily in English; however, materials in other languages are selectively acquired upon request.

Library of Congress Classification

- GT500-2370 Costume, Tattoos
- GV1543-1547 Magic
- GV1580-1799 Dance
- GV1800-1860 Circuses, Spectacles
- ML1-3930 Literature on Music
- MT955-960 Musical Theatre
- MT960 Music in the Theatre
- NX705-800 Patronage, Arts Administration
- PN1582-1912 Drama, Tragedy
- PN1910-1988 Puppets, Mime, Popular Theatre
- PN1990-1991 Radio
- PN1992-1993 Television, Video
- PN1993-2037 Film, Cinema, Film Makers
- PN2053 Production, Directing
- PN2055-2065 Acting
- PN2065-2091 Improvisation, Actor Training, Stage Management
- PN2085 Stage Management
- PN2101-2284 / PN2779-3030 Theatre History
 - Canada
 - China
 - France
 - Germany
 - Great Britain
 - Iran
 - Ireland
 - Italy
 - Japan
 - Russia
 - Sweden
 - United States
- PN2285-2778 Actor Biographies
- PN3100-3209 Theatre Applications, Theatre in Education, Community Theatre

Connections & Collaborations

The ULS collaborates with other institutions and consortia to acquire specialized materials that support research, teaching, and learning in the subject of Theatre Arts, 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 Theatre Arts collections. Within the University, the intersection of Theatre Arts with other departments and disciplines such as English Literature; Creative Writing; Film and Media Studies; Art History; Music; and Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies inform the development and scope of the collections.

Relevant holdings related to Theater Arts can also be found in Archives & Special Collections, for instance the August Wilson Archive and the Bob Johnson Papers.

Subject Experts

- Bradford contact: Catherine Baldwin (cab137@pitt.edu)
- Greensburg contact: Renee Kiner (rak137@pitt.edu)
- Johnstown contact: David Kupas (dmk24@pitt.edu)
- Pittsburgh contact: William Daw (williamdaw@pitt.edu)

Sources of Information

<https://www.upb.pitt.edu/academics/interdisciplinary-arts-ba>

<https://www.upb.pitt.edu/academics/theater>

<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/academics/visual-and-performing-arts>

<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/academics/theatre-arts-minor>

<https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/academics/majors-programs/humanities/theatre-arts>

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