

Philosophy

Collecting policy

User profile

This collection statement covers provision for the Department of Philosophy in the School of Humanities.

The collections serve all staff and students in the Department, and students in other departments whose courses include an element of philosophy. Interdisciplinary areas include, particularly, Classics (ancient philosophy), Psychology (philosophy of mind), and Politics and International Relations.

Related subjects include:

- aesthetics (shared with Art and Film Theatre & Television)
- theology (purchases are also made by History)

Research interests

Projects and Centres in which members of Philosophy are involved are:

- Reading Ethics and Political Philosophy
- Pervasive Context
- Centre for Cognition Research

A detailed list of academic staff research interests is maintained on the Department's web site, these include:

- Aesthetics
- Animal ethics
- Causation
- Cognitive science
- Epistemology
- Ethics/moral philosophy
- Free will
- History of philosophy
- Indian philosophy
- Kant
- Logic
- Metaphysics
- Modern European philosophy (especially Schopenhauer and Nietzsche)
- Philosophy of cognitive science

- Philosophy of language
- Philosophy of law
- Philosophy of mind
- Philosophy of science, including physics and the history of scientific thought
- Philosophy of the self
- Wittgenstein

Dimensions of teaching and learning

Philosophy can be studied as part of a joint honours undergraduate course in combination with many other subjects. A full list of the programmes available is available on the department's website:

www.reading.ac.uk/Phil

Current holdings

Most material is found in the 100 section of the classification (except for psychology at 130-139 and 150-159). Some additional material is found in the 200s (philosophy of religion, Indian philosophy), 300s (social sciences), 400s (philosophy and theory of language) and at 501 (philosophy of science). For more information see the Philosophy *Finding your way* guide.

Material for teaching and current research projects are held on open access. A number of lesser-used, research-level items which relate to Philosophy are housed in closed access or in our off-site store.

Books and e-books

The Library maintains a number of standing orders of relevance to Philosophy, including:

- *Grazer Philosophische Studien*
- *Handbook of Philosophical Logic*
- *Midwest Studies in Philosophy*
- *Oxford Studies in Epistemology / Metaethics / Metaphysics / Normative Ethics*
- *Publications of the Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society*

In addition to printed monographs, a large number of e-books are available via the Library's catalogue and electronic databases. Access is provided to British Philosophy: 1600-1900, Cambridge Companions Online, Early English Books Online (EEBO), Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), which contains complete works of several major Enlightenment philosophers, Oxford Scholarship Online, which provides access to a large number of Philosophy e-books published by Oxford University Press, and Wittgenstein's complete correspondence. Electronic versions of individual in-demand titles, especially relevant to teaching, are available via aggregators such as MyiLibrary and EBL.

Periodicals

The majority of periodicals are provided electronically. Access to full-text journals is provided, most prominently, via JSTOR and Project MUSE, and is supplemented in certain areas by Periodicals Archive Online (PAO) and JISC Journal Archives as well as individual publisher databases.

Reference/bibliographic

The Library holds a large number of philosophy reference volumes in the 3rd Floor Reference section.

Online access is also provided to:

- Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Macmillan), via Gale Virtual Reference Library
- Several philosophy titles are available via general online packages, Credo Reference and Oxford Reference Online, while online access to Encyclopaedia Britannica provides a useful starting point for research

The Library subscribes to the following bibliographic databases: Arts and Humanities Citation Index (via ISI Web of Knowledge), Philosopher's Index and IBSS (International Bibliography of the Social Sciences). In addition the Library subscribes to a number of general databases, such as WorldCat, ArticleFirst and ZETOC (a current awareness service for researchers). PhilPapers is a freely available database that is heavily used in the department. There are plans for this to become a subscription database and this needs to be monitored.

Related special collections

The Neville Collection contains books and papers on the history of mathematics, while the Overstone Library contains some philosophy books from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Strengths and exclusions

Particular strengths in the collection reflect the department's major research interests, especially:

- ethics/moral philosophy
- philosophy of science
- philosophy of mind
- metaphysics
- philosophy of language
- epistemology/theory of knowledge.

Areas which are not taught are not collected unless a particular text is required for general academic interest or specific research purposes. In general, texts on the philosophy of maths, linguistics / formal semantics, advanced logic, and texts on important philosophical figures are collected even though they may not be directly taught.

An area for development is Indian philosophy.

Collecting level

Support for undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses is the priority. The Library aims to have at least one copy of all items on undergraduate/taught postgraduate reading lists. Undergraduates also find most of the material they need for their dissertations in the Library.

Materials at research level are acquired selectively as funds allow, at the request of academic staff members. Researchers / academic staff are able to use Inter-library loans to access research level material not sufficiently catered for by the Library.

For undergraduate studies, texts are acquired in English as there is no requirement for students to have a second language (ancient or modern). For research level materials, English is preferred, but items may be acquired in other languages if appropriate to the subject matter or of special importance, especially in German and French.

Alternative access

Inter-library loans

The Philosophy Department pays for Inter-library loans for undergraduates (where necessary), taught and research postgraduates and staff. Staff and research postgraduates order Inter-library loans online, via the Library catalogue. Undergraduates and taught postgraduates continue to use a printed form which can be counter-signed by a tutor or supervisor.

Resources outside the library

The Philosophy Department has a small, unstaffed Resource Room, which contains a collection of books and journal parts for use by members of the Department. There is some duplication of stock between the Library and Resource Room, but this tends to be of key texts which are heavily used for teaching. Undergraduate and taught postgraduate dissertations are held from the 1970s onwards, either in the Resource Room or in store, although collection of these has not been complete or systematic.

Use of other libraries

Some members of academic staff and postgraduate research students regularly use the Bodleian Library (University of Oxford) and the British Library.

Selection, acquisition and stock editing

See the General Collection Development Statement for general principles.

The Philosophy department's principal objective for selection is that the Library should continue to be the major resource for undergraduates/taught postgraduates studying courses offered by the Department.

Multiple copies of some key texts which are heavily used are purchased and/or copies are added to the Course Collection (6 hour loan), for the term required, to enable access by as many students as possible. Where available, individual e-books are purchased for modules where high demand is anticipated. Older editions are relegated or withdrawn if they are superseded, but the nature of the subject means that this is not always the case.

Duplicate copies of books, where usage does not warrant holding more than one, and very old texts which are seldom, if ever used are prime candidates for withdrawal and disposal. Little used and valuable material may be relegated to closed access.

Policy written by Anna Richards, Philosophy Liaison Librarian, May 2015