

Psychology & clinical language sciences

Collecting policy

User profile

This collection statement covers provision for the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences. The collections serve all staff and students in the School.

Research interests

The School has about 65 academic staff. There are three research divisions: Affective Neuroscience and Psychopathology; Language, Development, and Aging; and, Perception Cognition and Nutrition. In addition, the School houses the following clinical and research centres: the Charlie Waller Institute for Evidence-Based Treatments (CWI), the Centre for Autism, Berkshire Memory and Cognition Centre, and the Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics (CINN). The School also plays a leading role in the Centre for Literacy and Multilingualism

Areas of interdisciplinary interest include education, philology, paediatrics and health sciences.

Dimensions of teaching and learning

Joint undergraduate degree courses in psychology are run with Mathematics, Philosophy, and Art.

Postgraduate courses include:

- MSc Research Methods in Psychology
- MSc Cognitive Neuroscience
- MSc Development and Psychopathology
- MSc Clinical Aspects of Psychology
- MSc Language Sciences
- Diploma Evidence Based Psychological Treatment
- Certificate Evidence Based Psychological Treatment
- Diploma Children and Young People's IAPT

There are no part-time undergraduate courses, but the MSc courses in 'Research Methods in Psychology', 'Cognitive Neuroscience', 'Development and Psychopathology' and 'Language Sciences' are offered on a full- or part-time basis. There are no distance learning courses.

Current holdings

Materials of relevance to Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences fall in four main areas of the classification: 130 (branches of psychology), 150 (general psychology), 400 (linguistics) and 610 (medical sciences including speech and language pathology, and paediatrics). There is also additional material at 301.15 (social psychology). For more detail see the Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences finding your way guides.

Books and e-books

The sections relevant to psychology and clinical language sciences continue to expand although e-books are also bought where available, especially for those modules with large numbers of students. E-book collections which contain relevant titles include Oxford Scholarship Online and Oxford Handbooks Online.

Periodicals and e-journals

Recent Library subscriptions to large journal packages, have resulted in many more Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences - related titles becoming available online. Relevant e-journals packages include PsycArticles, ScienceDirect, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, Sage, Oxford University Press, and Cambridge University Press.

Reference materials - print and electronic

There is a wide range of reference works covering relevant areas. Some reference titles are available online as well as in print eg *International encyclopedia of the social and behavioural sciences*. Other reference sources - dictionaries and encyclopedias - are available electronically only.

Bibliographic databases

The Library subscribes to the following web-based databases of use to members of the School:

- PsycINFO (covering psychology, and psychological aspects of related disciplines) - includes access to PsycArticles
- IBSS (International Bibliography of the Social Sciences)
- ISI Web of Knowledge (Science and Social Science Citation Indexes)
- BIOSIS Previews (Biological Abstracts)
- BEI (British Education Index)
- ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center)
- MEDLINE (covering biomedical sciences)
- LLBA (Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts)

Strengths, exclusions and areas for development

The University Library collection is strong in undergraduate texts. There is a substantial collection of psychology reprints in the Course Collection for undergraduates. Some reprints are also available electronically under the terms of the CLA Scanning Licence via Blackboard.

A priority is given to maintaining an up-to-date collection in the area of methods (both qualitative and quantitative), as well as books on neuroscience, cognition, development, and speech and language pathology.

The periodicals collection is considered appropriate for research and teaching purposes in neuroscience, but needs to be actively monitored on a yearly basis to reflect research and teaching needs of the department. Greater availability of periodicals in neuroscience and genetics will be particularly useful in strengthening the basic research focus of the curriculum.

Other areas for development currently are additional journals in clinical psychology/psychiatry eg autism and intellectual disability; and, textbooks in genetics.

Collecting level

The book collections principally serve the teaching requirements of the undergraduate courses, and undergraduates undertaking projects find much of the material they need in the Library, supplemented by Inter-library loans.

Reference materials: provision is good and is maintained as necessary.

The collections support research in some areas eg developmental psychology, language development, psycholinguistics but other research is supported by the inter-library loans service.

Alternative access

Inter-library loans

The inter-library loans service is used by staff, postgraduates, and undergraduates working on projects, although the number of requests is reducing as more journals have become available via the Library eg the PsycArticles e-journals package.

Copyright permission is sought for articles not held by the University in order that they can be added to the University Library Course Collection.

Use of other libraries

Use is made by academics of other libraries and collections. Clinical Language Science students on clinical placements within the NHS also have access to NHS libraries.

Selection, acquisition and stock editing

See the General Collection Development Statement for general principles.

The School makes extensive use of the University Library Course Collection for providing access to items in heavy demand. Stock selection is based on staff recommendations and orders are co-ordinated by the Library Representatives in each Department.

All new textbooks are preferentially acquired as e-books, although key titles are not always available in this format. Items on reading lists are also purchased in print where funds allow. Decisions on research-level books are made on a case-by-case basis.

Superseded editions will generally be withdrawn, though it is sometimes the case that the previous edition is kept in multiple copies to satisfy peak demand.

Stock editing: responsibility lies with the liaison librarian, in consultation with the School. When appropriate, Library representatives in other Schools are consulted.

Policy written by Sally Smith, Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences Liaison Librarian, November 2015.