Philosophy Collection Development Policy

Purpose

The collection supports present and anticipated teaching and research in the field of philosophy and its sub disciplines. The central focus of the department and chief interests of the faculty are encompassed in the following areas of teaching and research: logic, evolutionary psychology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, the philosophy of religion, pragmatism, 19th and 19th century German thought, phenomenology, and continental philosophy, the history of philosophy, moral philosophy, and political philosophy. The department offers a B.A. in Philosophy (that can be pursued as an online degree), as well as an undergraduate minor in Philosophy.

In addition to the support for the specific degree programs of the Philosophy department, the collection, especially in view of its broad interdisciplinary nature, also serves as a resource for undergraduate and graduate students in other disciplines. Related colleges, departments, colleges, and programs covering subjects of interest to Philosophy include: English, Foreign Languages, Computer Science, and Political Science.

Language

The language of acquisition is English, with some rare exceptions made for primary sources in the original language (e.g., Greek, Latin, or German).

Chronological Guidelines

Ancient philosophy and twentieth century philosophy are emphasized. The period from the Renaissance through the nineteenth century is considered of lesser importance. With minor exceptions for major works, Medieval philosophy is typically not collected.

Types of Material

Original works of philosophy by the major figures in the history of philosophy are collected, but for the most part we collect analyses by contemporary researchers of those original works of philosophy, or new analyses of philosophical topics by contemporary researchers. Monographs and serial publications form the basis for philosophy acquisitions. Reference materials, such as bibliographies, dictionaries, handbooks, and encyclopedias, are selectively acquired.

Much of the electronic content (books, journals, and databases) that supports the Philosophy Department is not purchased directly through the departmental allocation but is acquired instead as
aggregated content, often in the form of full-text, interdisciplinary databases or electronic journal packages. Many of these resources are purchased through a separate interdisciplinary allocation or statewide consortial buying arrangements.

The general format preference of students and faculty in Philosophy for monographs is print, but electronic books are collected on request, and are encouraged as an option for online courses and Course Reserve purchases.

**Date of Publication**

Emphasis is on materials published within the last five years. Current materials are most important. Retrospective materials may be selectively acquired.

**Related Policy Statements**

Other information related to Philosophy will be found in the following policy statements:

- English: contemporary literary and critical theory.

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