

# Western Libraries Collections Management Policy For Philosophy

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**Subject librarian:** Fran Gray, fgray@uwo.ca, ext. 89219

## **Purpose of the collection:**

The Philosophy collection of Western Libraries is intended to support the research activities of faculty, students, and staff and the instructional requirements of undergraduate and graduate programs. Since Philosophy is a discipline that is fundamental to all branches of knowledge, the collection also is used for teaching and research in a wide variety of related fields such as Classical Studies, Political Science, History, Women's Studies and Feminist Research, Theory and Criticism, Law, and Education.

The D.B. Weldon Library is the primary location for material supporting the research and instructional needs of the Philosophy Department.

## **Program information:**

The Department of Philosophy, which is part of Western University's Faculty of Arts and Humanities, offers a broad general education in philosophy and beyond. The department has particular strengths in the areas of history of philosophy, feminist philosophy, ethics, and the philosophy of mind. They maintain strong ties with the departments of law, pure and applied mathematics, biology, physics and astronomy, medicine and epidemiology, women's studies, psychology, and the Brain and Mind Institute at Western and with the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo. In 2008, a generous donation from Joseph Rotman led to the creation of the Rotman Institute of Philosophy. This institute brings together philosophers and scientists to focus on theoretical issues and their practical and ethical implications in various areas of science, from cosmology to conservation ecology, evolutionary biology, and medicine.

Western's Philosophy Department offers introductory and historical courses, courses in the core areas of epistemology, metaphysics, logic, and ethics, as well as courses in more recent and specialized areas such as the philosophy of biology, decision theory, and biomedical ethics, to name only a few. Students can work toward any of six undergraduate degrees (Major, Minor, Specialization or Honours Specialization in Philosophy, Minor in Ethics, or Minor in Philosophy of Science) and enrol in one of two Masters degree programs (Philosophy and Ancient Philosophy) or a Ph.D. program in Philosophy.

**Subject areas covered:**

Western Libraries provides resources to support all areas of study related to Philosophy. Areas of focus for our collection reflect areas of focus within the department. In a recent survey of faculty and graduate students, the following areas of study were most frequently identified as areas on which Western Libraries should place emphasis:

- History of Philosophy - Modern
- History of Philosophy - Ancient
- History of Philosophy - Medieval
- History and Philosophy of Science
- Ethics
- Applied Ethics
- Philosophy of Mind
- Philosophy of Neuroscience
- Feminist Philosophy

A more comprehensive list of relevant subject areas can be found in Appendix A.

**Physical format**

Acquisitions will include resources in all types of formats with a preference for digital format when suitable. Examples of frequently acquired materials include, but are not limited to, books, journals, databases and other digital resources.

**Accessibility:**

Western Libraries is committed to providing an environment for all library users to engage in research and scholarship. Accordingly, preference will be given to e-resources with interfaces that are accessible via screen readers and those which offer accessible format download options (i.e., versions that are machine-readable). Further information about research support through Western Libraries' Accessibility Services is available at: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/accessibility>.

**Language:**

English is the primary language of the collection. Materials in other Western European languages may be acquired to support the research and teaching in the department. English translations of major works in other languages are also acquired.

## **Source of publication:**

Sources of publication are primarily Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Western Europe. Material published in other regions may be considered on request.

## **Date of publication**

Materials with a recent imprint date are preferred. Older material will be considered upon request.

## **Geographic Coverage**

Primary emphasis is on the work of philosophers in Europe and North America. Material originating in other countries will be acquired selectively.

## **Exclusions**

With the exception of individual requests and some selective acquisitions, the following types of material are not acquired: popular works and theses and dissertations from other institutions\*.

(\*Access to theses and dissertations from other institutions are often available in digital format using the ProQuest Dissertations database.)

## **Related collections and cooperation**

The Western Libraries collection for Philosophy is supplemented by collections in related fields, such as History, Classical Studies, Political Science, Law, History of Science, and Medicine. Strong collections in Religious Studies and Theology at both Huron and King's University Colleges also supplement the material available to students and researchers in the Philosophy Department.

## **Gifts**

The library gratefully accepts gifts of materials in good condition which are within the scope of coverage for its collection and which the library either does not already own or does not own in sufficient depth to support teaching and research needs.

Receipts for tax purposes are issued in accordance with the Western Libraries policy for gifts. Those wishing to make donations should contact the Subject Librarian for Philosophy.

## **Managing the collection**

In order to ensure that collections remain optimally useful for our patrons, it is necessary to analyze collection usage and available space regularly. Items will need to be selectively removed from the active collection from time to time.

Serial subscriptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis and the active collection is based on a number of criteria that include, but are not limited to, a review of usage data and the level to which the title supports research and/or teaching. Requests for new journal subscriptions, subject specific databases or digital collections are subject to approval by the library and are contingent on available funds.

Duplicate items that are no longer required to support the curriculum, and damaged items that can no longer be replaced, may be removed from the active collection at the discretion of the Subject Librarian. Items that are unique to Western may be transferred to a storage facility based on the criteria listed below:

- 1) Outdated or previous editions of titles
- 2) Medium- to low-use items
- 3) Material that is available in alternate formats, i.e., online
- 4) Materials that would benefit from storage in a more controlled environment.

Material housed in storage facilities is available on request through the Library Catalogue.

### **Resources to aid in acquisition of material**

The majority of material for Philosophy is received as a result of the implementation of a vendor approval profile that is regularly reviewed by the Philosophy Librarian. The Philosophy Librarian makes discretionary purchases for material requested by faculty and students and for items identified through regular review of publications such as *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, *The Philosophical Review*, *Choice* and *Library Journal*. Because of the breadth of the subject matter, material is often also selected by librarians for other departments such as Political Science, Women's Studies, Theory and Criticism, Law and History. Collaboration among subject librarians ensures the maintenance of our strong collection.

In addition, patrons have two avenues for becoming involved with the acquisition of materials: they are encouraged make recommendations for the collection through the online form available at <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/acquire.html> and they may also select books through the Demand Driven Acquisition process, by making use of e-books accessible through the Library Catalogue that have not yet been purchased.

## **Appendix A**

### **Subject Areas Covered**

As noted above, Philosophy is a discipline that is fundamental to all branches of knowledge. The list below includes major subject areas that reflect the research and teaching in the Department of Philosophy. It should be noted that material related to the philosophical aspects of all disciplines permeates the entire Western Libraries collection.

#### **Part One: General Philosophy: History and Systems**

B108-B708	History/Systems of Philosophy - Ancient
B720-B765	History/Systems of Philosophy - Medieval
B770-B785	History/Systems of Philosophy - Renaissance
B800-B804	History/Systems of Philosophy - Modern
B804-B5739	Special topics and schools of Philosophy (included here are works of specific philosophers and works on topics such as analytic philosophy, empiricism, existentialism, phenomenology, pragmatism, and rationalism)

#### **Part Two: Traditional Philosophical Fields**

BC1-BC199	Logic
BD10-BD41	Speculative Philosophy - General
BD95-BD131	Metaphysics
BD143-BD236	Epistemology. Theory of Knowledge
BD240-BD260	Methodology
BD300-BD450	Ontology
BD493-BD701	Cosmology
BH1-BH301	Aesthetics
BJ1-BJ1725	Ethics and Value Theory

#### **Part Three: Philosophy Related to Selected Disciplines**

B840; P101-120	Philosophy of Language. Semantics
BF38-64	Philosophy of Psychology
BL1-BL2790	Philosophy of Religion
HB71-72	Philosophy of Economics
HF5387	Business Ethics
HQ1190	Feminist Philosophy
JC11-JC628	Political Theory. Theory of the State
KF305-KF310	Legal Ethics
LB5-LB885	Philosophy of Education
Q1-Q385	History of Science
R131-R784	History of Medicine
R723-R726	Medical Ethics. Bioethics
TA157	Engineering Ethics

#### **Part Four: Bibliography**

Z7125-Z7130	Bibliography of Philosophy
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