

## Collection Development Policy Statement for Philosophy

**Subject Specialist responsible:** Chuck Howell, 301-314-0401, [chuckh@umd.edu](mailto:chuckh@umd.edu)

**Purpose:** Resources in the field of philosophy are primarily selected in an effort to support the Department of Philosophy at the University of Maryland. The Department offers instruction in most traditional areas of philosophy, often in interaction with other disciplines. Most doctoral students work in the fields that represent the distinctive strengths of the program: aesthetics, moral and political philosophy, the philosophy of language and linguistics, philosophical logic, the philosophy of mind and cognitive science, and the philosophy of science. Consequently, the philosophy collection seeks to support the general study of philosophy with special attention to the specific needs of research done in the Department of Philosophy.

**Coordination and Cooperative Information:** Due to the diverse emphases in the Philosophy Department, selection of resources is done in coordination with numerous other disciplines, especially, linguistics, psychology, sociology, political science, all of the arts and natural sciences. Additional resources are available via CRL, BTAA, CIRLA and other consortia.

**Diversity:** Recognizing that philosophy is of interest to and an expression of individuals of a variety of ages who represent a multiplicity of racial and ethnic backgrounds, economic and educational levels and physical and mental abilities, the subject specialist/s build collections that mirror and support this diversity. The philosophy collections include materials and resources that reflect a variety of political, economic, religious, social, minority and sexual issues and support intellectual freedom by providing free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored. (Text adapted from: <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/about/policies/collection-development-and-management/>)

### I. Summary of Collection Scope at Current Collecting Levels

The philosophy collection resides mainly in McKeldin Library, but relevant holdings are also found in every library branch. Less requested titles have been transferred to off-site storage, but an effort has been made to preserve ownership of a wide variety of resources that may not be of current interest, but have shown themselves to be of enduring philosophical interest.

### Developing the Philosophy Collection

1. **Languages:** The emphasis is on English language materials in the collection. Major works covering the subject outside the U.S. in the vernacular may be selected, particularly works in French and German. Translations are preferred when available. Materials in the vernacular are generally the purview of the librarians responsible for that particular language.
2. **Geographical areas:** The great majority of items in the collection were written by authors from North America, Western Europe, and to a lesser extent Latin America. Due to the interests of the Department of Philosophy, this will continue to be the case; however, there is a growing interest in global philosophical perspective. Consequently, the geographical diversity of the collection will be expanding.

3. Chronological periods/Imprint dates: Selection will emphasize current publications, with the exception of reprints and classic works when required for replacement purposes.
4. Materials selected
  1. Included materials: The primary formats to be selected will include books, professional journals, and to a lesser extent audio/visual materials. Until mobile access to electronic resources is improved, print books will be preferred over ebooks; however, the conversion of print journals to ejournals has become nearly complete. Selection of new print journals will be made only in extraordinary circumstances.
  2. Excluded materials: Textbooks, reprints, and dissertations will generally be excluded from selection.
  3. Levels of Collection Intensity: The collection will strive to provide Study or Instruction Level support for all of the main fields of philosophy. This means the collections will seek to provide information about each subject in a systematic way and support the needs of general library users through college and beginning graduate instruction. For areas of concentration in the Department of Philosophy the collection will strive to provide Research Level support, meaning the collection will seek to contain the major published source materials required for doctoral study and independent research including (a) an extensive collection of general and specialized monographs and reference works, (b) an extensive collection of general and specialized periodicals, (c) an extensive collection of appropriate foreign language materials, (d) an extensive collection of the works of well-known authors as well as lesser-known authors, and (e) defined access to an extensive collection of owned or remotely accessed electronic resources.

## II. Additional Collection Information

The philosophy collection adheres to the University of Maryland Libraries' policies for duplication, gifts, deselection and preservation available at <http://www.lib.umd.edu/collections/collection-development-policy>.

**Implementation and Revision Schedule:** This policy has been reviewed by the Collection Development Council ([lib-cdc@umd.edu](mailto:lib-cdc@umd.edu)) and is considered effective on the date indicated below. It will be reexamined regularly by the subject specialist and will be revised as needed to reflect new collection needs and identify new areas of study, as well as those areas that may be excluded.

**Date:** 2/23/2015 AM, Rev. 9/7/16; 8/21/18 CH

CDC 9/25/18