Philosophy and Religion Collection Development Guide

Programmatic Data

The purpose of the philosophy and religion collection is to support teaching and research in the area of philosophy and religion. The department of Philosophy and Religion offers the Bachelor of Arts and the Master of Arts degrees in philosophy and the Bachelor of Arts degree in religion. The collections in classical philosophy complement the classics collection as do materials in early Christianity and New Testament studies. Teaching in religion emphasizes comparative religion and philosophy of religion. While courses in logic, history of philosophy, and metaphysics are offered, the research emphasis is in the area of ethics and eastern religion and philosophy. Courses in existentialism, philosophy of law, biomedical ethics, environmental ethics, and the critique of war emphasize this concentration.

Collection Description

The philosophy and religion collection includes all periods of western philosophy and is strongest in the areas of ancient thought and eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century Anglo-American and Continental philosophy. Recent efforts have been made to emphasize collection of oriental philosophy and eastern religion materials. These areas have expanded considerably over the last few years. Other new areas of growth for the collection are environmental ethics, science and religion, global Christianity, faith and film, and women in religion.

Call numbers: Principal call numbers in philosophy are: B-BD, BH-BJ; for religion the primary call numbers are: BL-BX.

Languages: English is preferred.

Chronology: Contemporary works are preferred, but standard works and authors from all time periods should be purchased. Major texts and commentaries from the major world religions should be acquired.

Geographical area: Philosophical and religious works of the Anglo-American and Continental traditions are heavily emphasized. Oriental philosophy and religion, as well as comparative religion are becoming increasingly important in the department’s focus.

Format: Trade and university press monographs and journals should meet the majority of the department’s library needs. Commentaries, concordances, and standard text editions are important for religion. Electronic formats will become increasingly important for research tools like the Philosopher’s Index. DVDs have become significant resources for classroom instruction in the last few years.

Acquisitions: Firm order purchases and gifts are the major forms of acquisition.