

Subject Level Collection Statement: Philosophy

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1. Purpose of the Statement

The purpose of this statement is to provide a framework to guide the collection development and management activities for Philosophy. The statement supports the teaching, learning and research activities in the Philosophy programme within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

This statement is developed in accordance with the principles outlined in the [Collection Development and Management Policy \(CDMP\)](#).

2. Description of the Academic Subject

Philosophy explores the nature of argument and justification and examines the rational basis of belief in all areas of enquiry. The subject has been taught at Victoria since the establishment of the Victoria College in 1899. The library collection therefore reflects the teaching and research concerns of Victoria's philosophy scholars for over a century.

The [Philosophy programme](#) offers a range of courses, from 100-level to PhD-level. A full list of papers offered may be found on the School's [webpage](#).

3. Focus of the Subject

The Philosophy programme forms part of the School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations. Philosophy jointly teaches several courses in moral and political philosophy with Political Science and International Relations. The programme also has links to disciplines outside the School, including computing and mathematics through logic, science through the philosophy of biology, and ethics and genetics, and art history through the philosophy of art.

The current research and teaching interests of the faculty include: aesthetics, economics, environmental ethics, epistemology, ethics, evolutionary ethics and the evolution of cooperation, feminist philosophy, globalisation and responsibility to alleviate global suffering, history of philosophy, identity, Indian philosophy, language and literature, law, logic, metaphysics, moral problems arising from new biotechnology, philosophy of biology, philosophy of mind and psychology, philosophy of race, and political philosophy.

For research areas and lists of publications see the School's research pages

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/research/staff-interests/philosophy-research>.

Individual staff research profiles are at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/staff#Phil>.

4. Overview of the Current Collection

The Philosophy collection has been strongly developed in accordance with the programme's diverse research and teaching interests. It is housed primarily in the Kelburn library. Other parts of the collection are housed in the Law Library and in the offsite collection. Items of particular special interest are housed in the JC Beaglehole Room in the Central Library.

Books:

Since older material remains relevant to philosophy a solid book collection has been established across the years. The collection is particularly strong in the areas of modern philosophy, logic, ethics, political philosophy, and the philosophy of science. It is weak in the areas of ancient philosophy, early western philosophy, and eastern philosophy although this area has recently been augmented.

Reference:

The philosophy reference collection includes a range of dictionaries, encyclopedias and handbooks. Key recommended resources are listed at

<http://library.vuw.ac.nz/library/resources/guides/philosophy.html>.

Journals:

Largely available through electronic access, the Library has current subscriptions to 29 of the 33 most cited journals in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. There are 420 journal titles in all, 412 of which are available electronically in full text.

Electronic Resources:

The library is well placed for secondary source indexing and abstracting tools, and the pre-eminent database [*Philosopher's Index*](#) also provides some full text content. [*Religion and Philosophy Collection*](#) has over 300 full-text journals. These databases are supplemented by a range of multidisciplinary databases many of which provide full text content including:

- Academic Onefile
<http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/online/redirect/100006.html>
- ACLS Humanities E-book
<http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/online/redirect/100012.html>
- JSTOR <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/online/redirect/100293.html>
- Masterfile Premier
<http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/online/redirect/100324.html>
- Project Muse <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/online/redirect/100402.html>
- Proquest <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/online/redirect/100403.html>

These databases have greatly expanded the library's journal and ebook resources in Philosophy.

AV Resources:

The Library is increasingly engaged with online streaming of audiovisual resources and eTV (on-demand recording from Freeview and subscription TV channels). Philosophy may profit from this development.

5. Collection Development Guidelines:

For general policy refer to the CDMP, [Section 4.3](#):

Primary responsibility for selection lies with the School's academic staff. ([Section 4.5.2](#) in the CDMP).

LC Callmark Range	Subject Area	Current Collection Level	Future Collecting Level
B 1-8	Periodicals	Research	Research
B41-52	General reference works	Research	Research
B53-67	Theory, Method, Scope, Relations	Study	Study
B69-4695	History & Systems	Study	Study
B108-118	Ancient	Study	Study
B121-161	Eastern philosophy	Basic	Study
B165-491	Greece	Study	Study
B505-626	Greco-Roman Philosophy	Minimal	Study
B630-708	Alexandrian and Early Christian Philosophy	Basic	Study
B720-765	Medieval Philosophy	Basic	Study
B770-785	Renaissance Philosophy	Basic	Study
B790-4695	Modern Philosophy	Research	Research
BC	Logic	Research	Research
BD	Speculative Philosophy	Basic	Study
BH	Aesthetics	Study	Research
BJ	Ethics	Research	Research
BL51	Religion – Philosophy	Study	Research
GE42	Environmental Ethics	Research	Research
JA71-84	Genetic Engineering	Basic	Study
JC131-300	Political Philosophy	Research	Research
N61-79	Philosophy of Art	Study	Study
P101-105	Philosophy of Language	Basic	Study
Q173-175	Philosophy of Science	Research	Research
QH331	Philosophy of Biology	Study	Study
QH332	Bioethics	Basic	Study
QH442	Genetic Engineering – social aspects	Basic	Study
R724-725	Medical Research – ethics, moral aspects	Basic	Study
T14	Philosophy of Technology	Basic	Study
TP	Genetic Engineering	Basic	Study

5.1 Languages Collected

English language is preferred. Resources in other languages (e.g. German, Chinese, French, and Russian) may be selected on a case-by-case basis. Translations of relevant works are collected selectively.

5.2 Geographical Areas Collected

Emphasis is on the philosophical traditions of Europe, the United States, India, and, to a lesser extent, East Asia.

5.3 Chronological Periods Collected

Chronological periods collected are necessarily broad, as subjects covered in Philosophy cover a wide span of time. The collection contains works from Ancient Greece to the present day.

5.4 Format Guidelines

Please refer to [sections 4.1](#) and [4.3.2](#) of the CDMP.

Books:

Philosophy staff members have strong preference for books in print because of the close reading required, however where copies are expected to be extensively used (in undergraduate courses or where chapter contents are included in course readings) then eBook is the preferred format. The breadth and depth of the library's monograph collection is increasing significantly through the adoption of a Demand Driven Acquisitions (DDA) model for eBooks. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in the number of philosophy DDA ebooks, but this again will be tempered by the special need for print copies in this subject area. DDA provides access to a large number of relevant eBook titles and their purchase is triggered only when they are actually used by students or academic staff.

Journals:

Electronic journals are the preferred format. Print journals are subscribed to only if electronic access is unavailable.

6. Life-Cycle Management Guidelines

For general policy refer to section [4.4.1 Assessment and Evaluation](#) of the CDMP.

Wherever possible, the potential life-cycle of new materials will be considered at the point of acquisition and accessible notes made as to any continuing historical or research value.

6.1 Preservation Guidelines

For general policy refer to section [4.4.1 Assessment and Evaluation](#) of the CDMP.

Careful attention to older classic well-worn texts is necessary: such titles will be assessed for mending or replacement.

6.2 Relegation Statement

Relegation guidelines for Philosophy print journals material generally follow the [Guidelines for Evaluating Print Journals](#). However, due to the special need for print (as mentioned in 5.4 above) there are some exceptions which are negotiated on a case-by-case basis where it is retained even

where the library has full perpetual online access (e.g Australasian journal of philosophy and Philosophy of the social sciences)

The following criteria will apply as a general rule:

Journals:

- Print journal issues published since 1980 which support current teaching, study or research needs will be retained in the Central Library
- Print journal issues published before 1980 will be held at the Offsite Collection.
- Print journal issues that do not support current teaching, study or research will be relegated to the Offsite Collection.
- Print journals no longer required for teaching, study or research will be cancelled (in consultation with academic staff). Other subject areas will be consulted where there is interdisciplinary content.
- Cancelled print subscriptions will remain at the Offsite Collection until deselection is negotiated with academic staff.
- Print journals may temporarily be recalled from Offsite storage if required for current teaching.

Books:

- books relevant to current teaching, study and research and which have been issued since 2000 will be located at the Kelburn Library
- single copies of different editions of classic or influential works will be located at the Kelburn Library
- multiple copies of editions (including superseded editions) used for study or teaching will be located at the Kelburn Library
- books which are not relevant to current teaching, study or research will be relegated to the Offsite Collection and reviewed for deselection
- books which have not been issued since 2005 will be relegated to the Offsite Collection

6.3 Deselection Statement

For general principles see the Collection Development and Management Policy [section 4.4.3](#)

In all cases the subject librarian oversees this process, consults where appropriate and makes recommendations to relevant academic staff members.

The following criteria will apply as a general rule:

Journals:

- print journals will be deselected where the library has equivalent perpetual electronic access.
- print journals that have been cancelled because they no longer support research or teaching will be reviewed for deselection. If there is interdisciplinary content other subject areas will be consulted.
- Subscriptions to electronic journal titles that no longer support current teaching, study or research will be cancelled

Books:

- duplicate copies will be deselected when usage has fallen or when there is duplication within the collection in other formats, e.g. electronic

- superseded editions will be deselected (however earlier editions will be retained if they provide a useful snapshot of an earlier state of knowledge)
- worn, badly marked or damaged books will be deselected (these will be assessed for replacement as a worn condition may indicate high usage)
- books that contain out-of-date, misleading or inaccurate information will be deselected (unless the inaccuracies shed light on the state of knowledge of a subject at a particular time)
- books not relevant to current or anticipated teaching or research needs will be deselected
- books not used since 1995 will be deselected

Special care will be made to retain items regardless of usage which fall into the following category:

- items authored by academic staff (past or present) and alumni

7. Other Guidelines/Considerations

Philosophy teaching staff and students may request Sky and Free to Air television programmes to be recorded to the permanent eTV collection (www.etv.org.nz). These programmes may be linked to for class or individual class-related viewing. Staff may also download programmes for educational-related use.

8. Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements

The following disciplines are relevant to research interests within Philosophy:

- [Art History](#)
- [Asian Studies](#)
- [Biology](#)
- [Classics](#)
- [Cultural Anthropology](#)
- [Criminology](#)
- [Film](#)
- [History](#)
- [Linguistics & Applied Languages](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Media Studies](#)
- [Politics and International Relations](#)
- [Religious Studies](#)