

Philosophy

Information Access Policy

Clemson University Libraries

Languages Librarian: Edward J. Rock

revised: 6/2022, based on 3/2004, 9/2003, 4/2000, 10/1996 4 by P. Draper

Philosophy is the quest for understanding of the world, including humanity's place in it. With such a broad goal, it relates to every other field of knowledge and there are many domains of philosophical thinking. Some of the major questions that philosophy addresses are: What is the nature of reality? How do we come to know the world around us, and to what extent is our knowledge of it valid? What are the differences between right and wrong, between good and evil? The undergraduate philosophy program is designed to help students acquire knowledge of the basic concepts of philosophical thought, learn about the history of philosophy, and study several specialized topics in depth.

I. Purpose:

To support the teaching and research requirements of Philosophy faculty and students of the [Department of Philosophy and Religion](#) at Clemson University.

Primary Users:

- Philosophy [majors](#) and [minors](#)
- Philosophy [faculty](#)

Secondary Users:

- Students taking philosophy courses as electives
- Students or faculty involved in other courses requiring philosophy information
- students, faculty, staff, or community members seeking philosophy information

II. General Collection Guidelines:

A. Languages:

English is the primary language of collection, with exceptions where appropriate.

B. Chronological Guidelines:

Materials will be purchased on philosophy of all time periods, from the ancient world to the present.

C. Geographical Guidelines:

Materials will be purchased on philosophy of all parts of the world, with greater emphasis on the philosophy of Western Europe and North America.

D. Types of Material Collected:

- **Books** (including e-books, but not limited to dictionaries, encyclopedias, and bibliographies)
- **Journals**
- **Subject indexes:** Both electronic (*Philosopher's Index, Academic Search Complete, Web of Science* and print (*Humanities Index*).
- **DVDs and Videos** (including streaming) are collected where appropriate.
- **Excluded Materials:** Non-academic or popular (for example faddish "pop" philosophy) books will not be collected.
- **Textbooks:** Books which are used as textbooks in Clemson classes will not be purchased solely for that reason, but use as a textbook will not exclude the purchase if useful.

E. Date of Publication:

Generally, books published in the last three to five years will be selected, with exceptions where appropriate.

F. Other General Considerations:

Because of the broad range of subjects that a student of Philosophy may find relevant, acquisition policy for materials covered by many [Information Access Policies](#) may also be of interest.

III. Access to Information Not Owned by Clemson:

Pascal Delivers and Interlibrary Loan are the primary means of access to books and journals not owned or accessible by the Libraries. This service is available free to Clemson University students, faculty, and staff.

IV. Selection Tools

- Faculty, student recommendations
- Review sources such as *Choice*
- Publishers' catalogs
- Vendor's databases (GOBI)
- Indexes, bibliographies, and series lists
- Faculty teaching, research interests
- Circulation activity

V. Deselection (Weeding) Guidelines

Books will be weeded from the collection if they are in such bad condition that they cannot be repaired (a replacement copy will be purchased if available for important titles). Duplicate copies of books which have not circulated will also be candidates for weeding.

VI. Evaluation, Assessment, and Planning Tools

- A. Circulation statistics
- B. *Books for College Libraries, Magazines for Libraries*
- C. Bibliographic and series lists
- D. Benchmarking projects
- E. Interlibrary Loan activity

