



**McLAUGHLIN
LIBRARY**

Library Report: Philosophy (BA, MA, PhD)

Cyclical Program Review 2020

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Summary

The library provides **strong** support for University of Guelph's Philosophy programs.

Recommendation

Consider embedding information literacy instruction in the philosophy program (rather than individual courses on an ad-hoc basis):

BA (PHIL*4820), MA (PHIL*6950), and PhD (PHIL*6960)

In our experience, building it in at the program level is more effective for students. It ensures that students gradually improve their proficiency in engaging with the philosophical primary and secondary literature.

Part 1: Collections

Access to the philosophy literature is very strong, with excellent e-journal, monograph, and index coverage. Library participation in national and provincial purchasing consortia results in better collections than would be expected at comparable, less well-connected institutions. Many resources are acquired in electronic format, facilitating convenient and ubiquitous access. Because of the comprehensive curriculum coverage of the Philosophy department, the library takes a wide-ranging approach to collections in this discipline. This is further enhanced by the university's historic interdisciplinary strengths in the humanities and social sciences.

Journals

The library invests heavily in providing access to online journals that support the University of Guelph curriculum. Currently, the library subscribes to approximately 55,000 online journals, most of which are discoverable at the article level through the library's Omni catalogue. The library subscribes to nearly-complete collections of journals from major scholarly publishers, including *Cambridge University Press*, *Duke University*, *Gale Cengage (18th and 19th Century Collections Online)*, *Johns Hopkins UP*, *JSTOR*, *Periodical Archives Online*, *Project Muse*, *Oxford University Press*, *Sage*, *Springer*, *Taylor & Francis*, and *Wiley-Blackwell*.

Where gaps exist, it is generally for publishers to which the library subscribes to select titles rather than complete 'bundles.' Notable publishers in this category include *University of Chicago Press* titles, and the *Royal Institute of Philosophy*. The library adds new subscriptions in response to evolving demand (often in response to faculty requests) and as budgets permit. The number of open access titles in the humanities has increased greatly over the past decade, and the Library links to all titles on the Directory of Open Access Journals list, especially those relevant to the College of Arts curriculum (including Philosophy).

The Library provides access to an impressive collection of academic journal titles in philosophy. A search of current years in the core philosophy databases (e.g. PhilPapers, Philosopher's Index) demonstrates that the library provides access to 92% of relevant citations. If print

journal titles (easily available via Interlibrary Loan) are included, this figure rises to 96% coverage.

In addition to journals directly relevant to Philosophy the collection of academic journals in related or supporting disciplines such as cultural studies, classical studies, environmental studies, history, languages and literature, mathematics, life sciences, political science, sociology, and women's and gender studies are also strong.

Books and E-Books

The Library acquires books via:

- an approval plan with a third party vendor to ensure that relevant titles in philosophy (as taught at Guelph) are automatically added to our collections as they are published
- title-by-title ("firm ordering") as identified by the humanities collections librarian
- when requested by faculty and students

Many books that are purchased on behalf of other programs and courses at Guelph (in classical studies, cultural studies, English literature, feminist studies, history, languages, political science, sociology, and the sciences) also support students enrolled in the Philosophy programs.

While the Library continues to purchase many print books, the acquisition of e-books is increasing. E-books facilitate point-of-need and remote access to books. E-book chapters are also used in the campus learning management system.

The following e-book scholarly publisher sources provide the Library with thousands of relevant titles:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) Humanities E-book Collection• Association of Canadian University Presses (all imprints from 2009 -)• Brill Publishing• Cambridge University Press e-books• Cambridge Companions Online• Cambridge Histories Online• Canadiana Héritage (digitized versions of early Canadian titles and documents)• Duke University Press• Early English Books Online• Eighteenth Century Collections Online | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harvard University Press• JSTOR• Loeb Classical Library• Manchester Medieval Sources Online• MIT Press• Oxford Handbooks Online• Oxford Reference Online• Oxford University Press• Palgrave• Princeton University Press• Project Muse• Routledge Handbooks Online• Taylor & Francis• University Press Scholarship Online• Wiley-Blackwell |
|--|---|

Comparison with Ontario peer institutions (Queen's University, Western University) indicates that, in recent years, the Library has been acquiring a high proportion (80%) of the titles being published in the subject areas pertinent to the curriculum of the Philosophy programs at the University of Guelph.

Search Tools to Access the Literature

- Omni is an academic search tool (catalogue) which provides access to resources from 14 Ontario university libraries. It permits searching a shared collection, including books, databases, journal articles, videos, music, and more. Omni facilitates access to full-text by linking to library-subscribed and Open Access scholarly works.
- Access to the literature is available by searching library journal databases including:
 - *Academic OneFile*
 - *Academic Search Premier*
 - *Année Philologique*
 - *Bibliography of British and Irish History*
 - *Cairn.Info*
 - *Pascal and Francis*
 - *International Medieval Bibliography*
 - *Iter*
 - *JSTOR*
 - *Nineteenth Century Index (C19)*
 - *Nineteenth Century Masterfile*
 - *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*
 - *Periodicals Archive Online*
 - *Philosopher's Index*
 - *PhilPapers*
 - *Project MUSE*
 - *ProQuest Dissertations & Theses*
 - *PsycInfo*
 - *Sociological Abstracts*
 - *Theses Canada*
 - *Waterloo Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals: 1800-1900*
 - *Web of Science*
 - *Women's Studies International*

Primary Sources

The Library has purchased or subscribed to a number of important collections including:

- *17th-18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers*
- *British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries: 1500-1900*
- *British Library Newspapers*
- *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers: 1789-1925*
- *Defining Gender: 1450-1910*
- *Eighteenth Century Collections Online and Eighteenth Century Journals*
- *Historical Periodicals, 1684-1912*
- *Medici Archive Project*
- *Medieval Sources Online*
- *New York Times*
- *Past Masters*
- *Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913*
- *Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice*
- *Times Digital Archive, 1785-2011*
- *U.K. Parliamentary Papers, 1679 – 2019*
- *Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*

Reference Sources

Some important online reference titles include:

- *Brill's New Pauly*
- *Cambridge Companions (Philosophy)*
- *Encyclopedia of Islam*
- *Homer Encyclopedia*

- *Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism*
- *Loeb Classical Library*
- *OED: Oxford English Dictionary*
- *Oxford Bibliographies - Medieval Studies*
- *Oxford Bibliographies - Renaissance and Reformation Studies*
- *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*
- *Oxford Scholarship Online*
- *Oxford Reference*: Provides full-text from Oxford's Dictionaries, Companions and Encyclopedias
- *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- *Routledge Handbooks Online*
- *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Multimedia resources

In support of a trend across higher education to integrate multimedia (audio, video) resources into the curriculum, the library has developed a robust streaming media collection, which includes access to documentaries, instructional videos, feature-length films, and news clips.

The library purchases individual films and subscribes to a number of streaming media online collections including:

- *American historic in Video*
- *Audio Ciné Films*
- *Criterion on Demand*
- *Curio (CBC)*
- *Dokuseek*
- *Films on Demand*
- *Kanopy*
- *New World Cinema*
- *NFB.ca*
- *News in Review (CBC)*
- *PBS Films*
- *Sage Research Methods Video*,
- *Sage Video (Media, Communication & Cultural Studies Collection)*
- *TVO Documentaries and Progra*

Archival & Special Collections

The Library holds 40,000 rare books and special subject collections. The Scottish Studies collection, the largest of its kind outside the UK, is of particular interest for Philosophy, as it has many historical and rare works as well as works on philosophical topics or written by eminent Scottish philosophers and theologians.

Course Reserves / Textbooks

To support courses, the library provides:

- Textbooks – since 2017 library has purchased at least 1 print copy of every required textbook for each undergraduate course (and online where possible) with the goal of mitigating high costs for students
- Course reserves - accessible, copyright-compliant links to readings

Part 2: Academic and Professional Skills

Student Consultations (aggregate; not limited to philosophy students)

Library staff provided more than 8,000 individual consultations to students in 2018-19. Students receive expert support on a range of academic and professional skills in research, learning, studying and writing.

Research and Information Literacy (IL) Skills

Information Literacy (IL) librarians prioritize support to large, required, and core courses that have research skills or digital media literacy assignments or components. IL librarians aim to scaffold their information literacy instruction throughout the required curriculum, providing students with the opportunity to build on their skills year over year. Options for supporting students include:

- guest lectures
- customized digital learning objects, such as online course guides
- one-on-one or small group consultations with librarians
- literature review support

Table 1. Information Literacy (IL) Workshops (Philosophy)				
Year	Level	# Sessions	Associated Course(s)	Notes
2018-19	Undergrad	1	PHIL*4820	Required course.
	Grad	1	PHIL*6950/6960	Required courses. Single combined session for both courses.
2019-20	Undergrad	2	PHIL*4820	Required course. 1 session for each semester's offering of the course.
	Grad	0		

While few in number, the Library's information literacy sessions for Philosophy have occurred in core courses that require the students to engage in secondary research. When offered consistently, it means that all students in the program benefit. However, our connection with the required courses has not been consistent from semester to semester and year to year. Our experience working with other programs (in the College of Arts and elsewhere) is that it is far more effective for students where we've worked with the department (rather than solely on an instructor-by-instructor basis) to ensure a consistent presence as a standing part of key required courses in a program.

Writing Services

Writing Specialists support students and instructors by providing the following:

- Co-curricular programming (e.g., Dissertation Boot Camp; Brain Food (thesis management); Writing Tune-Up (grammar))
- Curricular support and resources to instructors and graduate student supervisors

Writing Services also offers Academic Integrity Support in-person and online, including:

- Academic Integrity at the University of Guelph [tutorial](#)

- Academic misconduct support for students

Table 2. Writing Workshops 2018-19 (Philosophy)			
Course	Type of Session	# sessions	# students
PHIL 2180	Essay writing	1	50
PHIL 6950/6060	Writing Strategies	1	7

Online Learning Resources

The learning, research, and writing staff in the library have developed more than 200 guides tailored to students' needs.

Most Used (aggregate use; not limited to Philosophy students)

Topic Guides

- Write a Literature Review, 18,797 views
- Write a Close Reading, 10,722 views
- Find Video Collections, 8,534 views
- Cite Your Sources: Chicago Notes & Bibliography, 8,126 views
- Cite Your Sources: MLA, 8,107 views
- Study Effectively, 7,011 views
- Succeed at Exams, 6,345 views
- Edit Video: Shotcut, 5,150 views
- Find Mental Health Resources, 5,305 views

Videos

- How to Create a Concept Map, 120,217 views
- What is a t-test?, 20,034 views
- Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism: Types of Plagiarism, 7,763 views
- How to Read an Article, 7,324 views
- Cite Your Sources: When / Why Cite, 5,002 views

Handouts

- Study Smarter Not Harder, 771 views
- Template for Writing Thesis Statements, 244 views
- 5 Types of Thesis Statements, 243 views
- Presentation Planning 101, 133 views
- Dealing with Group Conflict, 130 views

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD)

Added to the Atrium, University of Guelph's repository (2018-2019):

Philosophy: MA = 6; PhD = 3