Library Report: Political Science

Cyclical Program Review 2020

- Criminal Justice and Public Policy (BA)
- Political Science (BA, MA, PhD)
- Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy (MA)

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Summary

The library provides **<u>strong</u>** support for the following University of Guelph programs:

- Criminal Justice and Public Policy (BA)
- Political Science (BA, MA, PhD)
- Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy (MA)

Part 1: Collections

Journals

The library invests heavily in providing access to online journals. Currently, the library subscribes to approximately 55,000 online journals, most of which are discoverable at the article level through the Omni search interface, and through many discipline-specific abstracting and indexing databases. The library subscribes to nearly complete collections of journals from all major scholarly publishers, including SAGE, Taylor & Francis, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, the American Psychological Association, Wiley, Springer, and Elsevier.

The university has access to most of the relevant high impact factor journals, according to Clarivate's *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* database (2018).

Table 1. # journal titles to which U of G has access	
JCR Subject Category	**Guelph Access**
Behavioral sciences	25/25
Criminology / Penology	25/25
Law	24/25
Political Science	20/20
Public Administration	25/25

Books and E-Books

Based on a review of political science coverage across our automated book purchasing tools, the library has undertaken improvements to expand collections in the areas of Latin American politics and international relations, to provide more comprehensive book coverage in these core subject areas. Wherever possible, the library preferences e-books that are free from digital locks (Digital Rights Management technology) to ensure unfettered access and use.

Many new titles were purchased in support of recent course proposals from the political science department, and the library maintains close communication with faculty to ensure that individual title requests are received and purchased as needed.

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 publishers provide the Library with thousands of relevant titles:

- American Psychiatric Association (including the DSM-V)
- American Psychological Association
- Association of Canadian University Presses
- Cambridge University Press
- EBSCO E-Books
- Edward Elgar
- JSTOR

- MIT Press
- Oxford University Press
- Project Muse
- Sage
- Springer/Palgrave Law & Criminology
- Taylor & Francis
- University Press Scholarship Online

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 databases including

Journal Articles
- Criminal Justice Abstracts
- PAIS International
- Worldwide Political Science Abstracts
- Criminal Justice Abstracts
- EconLit
- PsycINFO
- Sociological Abstracts
- Women's Studies International
- LGBT Life
- Philosopher's Index
- America: History and Life
- GeoBASE

Law and Legal Resources
- HeinOnline
- Legislative Pulse

- QuickLaw Plus (includes Lawyer's Daily)
- WestlawNext Canada (includes LawSource and CriminalSource
- Canadian Human Rights Reporter (includes the Human Rights Digest)
- Canadian Legislative Pulse

News & Current Events
- Canadian Business & Current Affairs
- Canadian Newsstream
- Globe and Mail archive
- Maclean's Magazine Archives
- Factiva
- Ethnic NewsWatch
- Alt-PressWatch

Social Sciences Research Methods
- SAGE Research Methods
- LinkedIn Learning

Government Publications / Data Resources

The University of Guelph collects many types of governmental and non-governmental information and data, and licenses tools to make those resources accessible to our users. Collections span local, national and international jurisdictions.

The Library's Data Resource Centre (DRC) provides comprehensive access to statistical data resources provided by various levels of government, NGOs, and commercial publishers, as well as links to other data centres. Skilled support for the use of data, statistical software, and survey software, is provided to users through the DRC. The Library also has a Branch Research Data

Centre which allows researchers to access Statistics Canada master files in a secure environment.

Some key resources include:

- CHASS/Canadian Census Analyzer
- Canadian Public Documents Collection
- Odesi
- Conference Board of Canada e-Library
- PolicyFile

- U. K. Parliamentary Papers
- Oxford Constitutions of the World
- OECD iLibrary
- UN Comtrade
- Statista
- EIU.com City Data

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:

- Audio Ciné Films
- Criterion on Demand
- Curio (CBC)
- Films on Demand
- Kanopy
- New World Cinema

- NFB.ca
- News in Review (CBC)
- PBS Films
- Sage Research Methods Video,
- Sage Video
- TVO Documentaries and Programs

Course Reserves / Textbooks

To support curriculum integration of library collections, 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 political science 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 2. Information Literacy (IL) Workshops – Political Science (2018-19)			
Course	# Sessions	# Students	Research Topics
CCJP*6300	1	18	Statistical Support
POLS*1500	1	200	Primary sources, Research skills
POLS*2300	1	200	Research Skill
POLS*3250	1	6	Research skills, Policy Resources
POLS*3670	1	15	Research skills
SOC*1500	1	300	Research skills + critical reading of newspapers
SOC*1500	1	600	Research skills
SOC*1500	2	250	Developing a research question, research skills

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 3. Writing Workshops (Political Science) 2018-19			
Course	Type of Session	# sessions	# students
CCJP 6300	Annotated Bibliography & Lit Reviews	1	18
POLS 1500	Essay writing	1	100
POLS 2100	Thesis Development, Essay Organization, & Writing Strategies	1	200

Table 3. Writing Workshops (Political Science) 2018-19			
Course	Type of Session	# sessions	# students
SOC 2280	Research & Writing Strategies for Film Critiques	1	100

Learning Services

Learning Specialists support students' academic skill development through:

- working with faculty to develop assignments, assessment and in-class workshops (critical reading, working in groups, presentation skills, poster presentations, and exam preparation), customized student resources (such as an error analysis worksheet for midterms)
- co-curricular programming, including workshops - Graduate programming, including Brain Food (thesis management), Presentation Boot Camp, and Graduate on Time (time and project management)

In 2013, at the request of a Political Science faculty member, Learning Services staff developed a workshop on critical and strategic reading strategies for graduate students. This workshop has now run in that course every fall semester. In addition, this partnership helped Learning Services expand its support for students by providing reading-related workshops (years have varied) in POLS*1500, POLS*4300, POLS*4710, POLS*4930, and courses in other colleges.

Table 4. Learning Services Workshops (Political Science) 2018-19			
Course Name/#	Type of Session	# sessions	# students
CJPP*6200	Critical Reading	1	15
CJPP*6200	Presentation Skills	2	17
POLS*1500	Critical reading	1	100
POLS*6900	Critical reading	1	12

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 Political Science students)

Topic Guides
- Cite Your Sources: APA, 40,502 views
- 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):