

English language & applied linguistics

Collecting policy

User profile

This collection statement covers provision for the subject of English Language and refers to the relevant collections at the University Library.

Collections at Reading support English Language and Applied Linguistics. In addition to the specialised material for this area, the Library maintains a core collection of materials on general and theoretical linguistics.

Research interests

The Department focuses on the following areas of research:

- academic writing
- applied linguistics
- bilingualism
- child language development
- cognitive linguistics
- corpus linguistics
- discourse analysis
- English language teaching
- general and digital literacy
- intercultural communication
- language and gender
- language and new media
- phonetics and phonology
- psycholinguistics
- second language acquisition
- semantics and pragmatics
- syntax and morphology
- sociolinguistics
- speech therapy
- testing and assessment

Areas of interdisciplinary interest include education, philology, psychology and neurosciences.

Taught Courses

The department offers one single honours course in English Language, and five joint programmes with French, German, Italian or Spanish studies, or English Literature

There are two MA courses in Applied Linguistics, English Language Teaching, and an MRes programme in Applied Linguistics. There is also the PhD programme in Applied Linguistics (Taught-Track & Thesis), the first year of which is PGT.

A list of courses is available at: www.reading.ac.uk/english-language-and-applied-linguistics

The linguistics collection is also used by staff and students from other departments within the School of Languages and European Studies, and by the Institute of Education and Clinical Language Sciences. External users include visiting researchers and students.

Current holdings

Most material is classified in the 400 section of the classification, but there are also holdings at 150 (general psychology, including cognition, emotion, learning and memory).

For more detail see the English language and applied linguistics subject guide at libguides.reading.ac.uk/english-language.

Books and multimedia

The Library has an extensive collection of books on all aspects of English language and applied linguistics and especially second language learning and teaching. There is also a substantial collection of psychology material in the Library and useful collections of educational material (e.g. language teaching, developmental disorders, language disorders.) This is supported by a core collection in general and theoretical linguistics. These collections satisfy the needs of undergraduate and postgraduate students in English Language and Applied Linguistics.

Some linguistics books are available online via packages such as Taylor and Francis E-books, Cambridge Companions and Oxford Scholarship. Increasing numbers of e-book versions of high demand titles are purchased where available. Single title purchases are made through other suppliers, such as MyiLibrary.

Periodicals

The relevant periodicals collection covers not only specialised titles for both English language & applied linguistics, but also a large number of psychology, education, literature and multidisciplinary journals.

There is also access to a number of online journals via services such as ScienceDirect, JSTOR, Cambridge Journals Online, Project Muse and others. Recent Library subscriptions to large journal packages, especially those offered by Cambridge University Press and Taylor & Francis, have resulted in many more potentially relevant titles becoming available online.

Reference/bibliographic

Relevant reference works, including the major titles in the field, are kept in the 3rd Floor reference area. The reference collections are being kept up to date as far as budgets allow; most titles are purchased from the dedicated reference funds.

The Library subscribes to the LLBA (Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts), the major electronic indexing system for linguistics.

Back runs of *Bibliographie linguistique* (1939-1993) and a current file of the review journal *Language Teaching* (online 1968-) are also kept in printed format in the Abstracts section.

Use is also made of electronic indexes in related disciplines: PsycINFO (psychology), Medline/PubMed (medical sciences), ERIC (Educational Resources Information Centre), British Education Index and MLA (Modern Languages Association International Bibliography); as well as general indexes such as the citation indexes via Web of Science.

The Oxford English Dictionary is available online.

Strengths and exclusions

The Library covers all areas of English language & applied linguistics as required by undergraduate, taught postgraduate and doctoral programmes. A particular strength is the applied linguistics collection, following the acquisition of the specialist departmental collection. The current strengths at research level are: pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and first and second language acquisition.

Areas for development within English Language & Applied Linguistics include:

- first and second language literacy, with a focus on academic writing and digital literacy;
- corpus linguistics;
- testing and assessment;
- semiotics and stylistics;
- bilingualism.

Collecting level

The collections mainly support teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Provision of reference material is adequate and is regularly updated.

Where possible the collections also support research in the areas listed above.

Alternative access

Other information resources in the University

The International Study and Language Institute (ISLI) supports English language development by international students and runs courses for pre-sessional language students.

Inter-library loans

The Department makes light use of the inter-library loan service. Requests are restricted: 10 per PhD student per annum; 3 per MA student; and 2 for BA students.

Use of external libraries

The library of the University of London, Institute of Education has been used.

Selection, acquisition and stock editing

Selection & acquisition

See the General Collection Development Statement for general principles.

Stock selection is based on staff recommendations, and orders are co-ordinated by the Library Representative. Texts in English are mainly acquired although occasionally research level materials in other languages have also been purchased.

The Department usually follows the Library's general guidelines on number of copies purchased, although may purchase more than 1 copy per 10 students for key texts if the demand is likely to be intense. E-book versions of reading list materials are purchased, usually in addition to multiple print copies. The Course Collection will be used where e-versions are not available.

Reference works are normally selected by the Library, often based on recommendations by the academic staff, and are purchased from internal reference funds.

Stock editing

Multiple copies of old editions are weeded by the Liaison Librarian without consultation. Older/little used monographs are selected for relegation to closed access collections by the Liaison Librarian without consultation (access can actually be improved in such cases by ensuring the item is catalogued on the catalogue).

Policy written by Jackie Skinner, English Language and Applied Linguistics Liaison Librarian, August 2015