

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The primary mission of the **George Mason University Libraries** is to participate in and contribute to the teaching, learning, research and scholarship, service and outreach, and cultural endeavors of the university community. A further mission is to serve as a resource for the Northern Virginia region supplementing individual, educational, business, professional, governmental, and/or cultural information requirements. Where appropriate and feasible, the libraries' mission expands to share resources with the state, national, and international higher education and cultural communities.

Fenwick Library was originally dedicated with a total area of 31,000 square feet, intended to hold 64,000 volumes and serve 460 readers. Today, the George Mason's Libraries exceed 250,000 square feet and the holdings include more than 1.2 million volumes, 26,000 e-journals, 400,000 government documents, 215,000 maps, 87,000 e-books, 8 million microforms, 39,000 multimedia materials, 10,000 print serials, and 500 databases.

The libraries' holdings are substantially supplemented through memberships in a number of consortia, including the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA), the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC), the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL), and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL). The university's library system comprises six distinct libraries, four of which constitute the University Libraries. The Law Library and the Harper Library—Institute of Humane Studies are administered separately from the University Libraries. Each of the libraries in University Libraries is a full-service library (<http://library.gmu.edu>).

ARLINGTON CAMPUS LIBRARY

The Arlington Campus Library utilizes a 23,000 square-foot facility and serves the academic programs at the Arlington Campus in the areas of business, conflict analysis and resolution, economics, nonprofit management, public policy, and social work. The Arlington Campus Library has been a European Union document depository since the early 1990s. It holds the University Libraries' pre-1987 journal collection.

FENWICK LIBRARY

Fenwick Library is the university's largest library, encompassing 115,000 square feet and holds the core of the libraries' total holdings—nearly 900,000 volumes. Fenwick holds extensive microform and cartographic collections, and has served as a Commonwealth of Virginia and federal government document depository since 1960. Special Collections and Archives is also housed in Fenwick Library.

JOHNSON CENTER LIBRARY

The Johnson Center Library is housed in the Johnson Center, which was the first building of its kind on an American campus. The library utilizes a 75,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art, open-space facility, and has innovative open stacks and a relaxed and accessible environment for study and learning. Also housed in the library are course reserves and media services.

MERCER LIBRARY, PRINCE WILLIAM CAMPUS

The Prince William Campus Library utilizes approximately 10,000 square feet to serve the academic programs and university partnerships based at the campus. The campus has research emphases in biosciences, bioinformatics, biotechnology, and computer and information networking, as well as campus programs in the areas of administration of justice, engineering, business, education, and health, fitness, and recreation.

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COLLECTIONS, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The libraries' strengths have paralleled the university's explosive growth since the 1990s. The holdings reflect the libraries' role in supporting the academic life of the university and include extensive materials in public policy, public and international affairs, law, economics, psychology, international commerce, biological sciences, environmental science, computational sciences, information technology, systems and computer engineering, educational technology, conflict analysis and resolution, fine and performing arts, and cultural studies.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

Special Collections and Archives preserves and makes available many kinds of original, scholarly materials for research. Subject areas include the Northern Virginia Planned Community Archives, congressional papers, performing arts, maps, the Civil War, and the history of George Mason University. Formats include manuscripts, rare books, playbills, musical scores, audiotapes, videotapes, architectural drawings, photographs, and slides.

LIAISON LIBRARIANS

Liaison librarians work with faculty and students in specific academic programs and departments to promote new resources such as full-text electronic journals; consult with faculty about acquiring specific scholarly resources; assist graduate students with thesis or dissertation research; and conduct informational and training sessions for all levels of library users—students, faculty, and staff. These may include library tours and orientations; course-related, subject-specific instruction; and research consultations with individual students.

LIBRARY SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

The libraries' catalog is available via the web for off-campus users. Additionally, Special Collections and Archives has initiated a digitizing program whereby several collections are searchable and images retrievable. Special Collections staff also scan images and texts, as permitted by copyright laws, for off-site patrons. The libraries' electronic media include nearly 200 networked workstations; CD, laser disk, DVD, and VCR players; and microform readers, iMacs, audiotape players, and data/video projectors and printers.

The libraries are committed to providing enhanced services and accommodations to those who require access services. TTY/TDD service and assistive technology labs are available at each campus library. The assistive technology labs provide ADA compliant workstations equipped with voice recognition software, text magnification screens, print enlargement monitors, screen reading software, and scanning software with speech output and magnification.

UNIVERSITY COPYRIGHT OFFICE

The University Copyright Office provides guidance and assistance to the university community on copyright and fair use issues. The office provides copyright information for classroom teaching and technology, online course and distance education, university publications and Web sites, and electronic course reserves and database licensing.

UNIVERSITY DISSERTATION AND THESIS SERVICE

Library staff members assist students and academic units with the dissertation, thesis, and graduate-level project process. Library staff members work with students to meet deadlines and requirements for submission.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Records Management at George Mason University is a division of Special Collections and Archives. The records manager is available to assist university departments with the retention and disposition of all of their temporary and permanent university records. To this end, Records Management provides online resources to assist university staff in preparing their records for storage.

STATISTICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Expert consultation services are available for students and faculty who need help with statistical software packages for qualitative and quantitative research analysis.