**UNIVERSITY Libraries**

**About**

The primary mission of the George Mason University Libraries is to participate in, contribute to and support the teaching, learning, research and scholarship, service and outreach, and cultural endeavors of the University community. Innovative library programs and services provide support for the overall mission in addition to anticipating changes and trends in educational practice, research, scholarly communication, publishing, and information technology.

The Mason Libraries are a distributed library system comprising four libraries on three campuses:

* Arlington Campus Library;
* Fenwick Library and Gateway Library (Fairfax campus); and
* Mercer Library (Science and Technology campus).

Mason Libraries' programs, resources, and services are promoted and facilitated by:

* providing facilities, technologies, and customer-oriented services that contribute to and foster an environment conducive to learning, research and scholarship, and cultural activities.
* pursuing and adopting information technologies for managing and providing access to scholarly resources, as well as enabling interaction with our users
* identifying and selecting, acquiring, organizing, disseminating, and interpreting scholarly information resources in various forms and formats
* offering instructional programs focusing on information literacy and related technology skills for life-long learning

**General Overview**

Print and digital research resources currently include:

* More than 3.2 million print and electronic books;
* Over 750 databases of scholarly research information;
* 2.72 million microforms, 55,000 multimedia titles and 13,000 musical scores and recordings;
* Over 175,000 full-text journals and conference proceedings online as well as more than 1000 current print journals and serials; and
* Special and archival collections as well as government documents and maps.

**Collection Access, Spaces, and Technology.**

***Collection Access***

The vast majority of the Mason libraries’ physical collection is located in Fenwick Library (Fairfax) which is the main research library. The Libraries’ main reference collection and research services are also located in Fenwick Library; all print periodicals, and microfilm and microfiche viewers/printers are also located there. Course reserves of print materials are located in the Gateway Library (Fairfax) and Arlington Campus and Mercer Libraries. Students can access electronic course reserves through Blackboard.

The bulk of the circulating Engineering collection is located in Fenwick Library but as programs expand on the Science and Technology campus, the Engineering collections on that campus will also expand. Mercer Library on the Science and Technology campus currently has a small print collection of engineering books that is supplemented by access to the robust electronic Engineering book collections at Mason. Media collections for all subject areas are housed in the Gateway Library. These collections provide educational programs and resources in various media formats. Streaming media in all subject areas are also available. Remote access to library resources for current faculty, students and staff is provided through a secure proxy server.

***Spaces***

Fenwick Library opened a new addition in Spring 2016, more than doubling the size of the library. This addition is LEED certified (silver) and features a Research Commons area on the second floor that is designed to bring together the research activity in the Libraries in a collaborative and multi-disciplinary environment. The Research Commons includes:

* A large open area for group study and collaboration;
* The Digital Scholarship Center (DiSC) which includes data services, specialized computing and software resources, GIS and other digital scholarship resources,
* Subject specialist librarians’ offices (including the engineering librarian);
* Scholarly Production at the Research Commons (SP@RC) which offers workshops and services for research sharing e.g. presentations, posters;
* The Special Collections Research Center which houses collections of unique primary resources;
* Tutoring space for the Writing Center; and
* University Dissertation and Thesis Services.

The renovated Fenwick also includes:

* An 80-seat classroom that can be divided into two rooms both with recording capabilities;
* A technology sandbox classroom for faculty to test out new instructional technologies;
* Group study and seminar rooms equipped with white boards and monitors;
* Several mediascape collaboration study rooms allowing users to share their laptop screens simultaneously.
* Compact shelving on three floors that increases the storage capacity for the collections thereby freeing up space for student use.

Fenwick Library provides study overnight study space to students five days a week during the Fall and Spring semesters and 24/7 during the last week of classes and finals. Gateway and Mercer Libraries are open daily and both offer extended hours during finals.

The Gateway Library provides students and faculty access to the One Button Recording Studio. This self-serve studio can be used for practicing and recording presentations for classes or professional meetings.

***Technology***

The University Libraries provide general use computers for student and faculty research in all libraries. These public stations provide access to the library’s collections, as well as full Internet access and the Microsoft Office suite. Computers with specialized software including ArcGIS, SPSS, SAS and other statistical analysis software are available in the Digital Scholarship Center (DiSC) in Fenwick Library. SPSS software and scientific calculators are also available at the Mercer Library on the Science and Technology Campus.

A small number of laptops may be borrowed by students and faculty at Fenwick Library for in-library use. In all libraries, photocopying, printing and scanning are integrated into one unit that is networked campus wide allowing users to retrieve their materials in the Library or in another building. Assistive technology for Mason researchers with disabilities is provided in all libraries.

The University upgraded the campus-wide Wi-Fi network during the summer of 2017. This upgrade has made the wireless networks in all libraries stronger and better able to handle the demands on the network. The wireless networks in the Libraries are more reliable, allowing students to use their own laptops and mobile devices to access online resources easily while in the Library.