UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

With access to more than 4.1 million print and electronic resources, University Libraries, a system of five separate discipline-related libraries, provides both traditional print collections and cutting-edge technology. All library buildings offer a computer-networked environment providing enhanced access to electronic information sources. In addition, a wireless network facilitates student use of laptop and tablet computers and cell phones. As research has become increasingly interdisciplinary in nature, students may find collections of importance in more than one library and in our online resources.

The University Libraries website, lib.ua.edu, available 24/7 from any computer, provides all library users with access to integrated collections, services, and information resources. Currently, the University Libraries system provides access to 199,515 full text print and electronic journals. In addition, more than 591 databases, including indexes, abstracts, and other reference resources, are linked from the Libraries website. The collection of electronic books continues to grow with more than 1.5 million e-books in all disciplines.

The University Libraries discovery interface, Scout, is accessible through the Libraries website and provides access to the full catalog of local holdings, as well as a wide variety of database content – including scholarly and trade journals, popular magazines, current and historic newspapers, microfilm, federal government documents, digital archives, and streaming audio and video. Links to books and electronic materials on reserve, Interlibrary Loan services, and other self-initiated services, such as renewing books and requesting materials from the Libraries Annex, are also available. Faculty and students also have access to research collections encompassing more than 1 million titles from the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) via Interlibrary Loan.

Subject liaisons work closely with students and faculty to assist them in ordering or locating materials and in advising students and faculty who need specialized assistance with research projects. A list of subject liaisons is available on the University Libraries website. Reference services are available in person, over the phone, and online through the Ask-a-Librarian service. University Libraries also provides services for users with disabilities.

The University Libraries system offers academic software to support student assignments and class projects. Software is upgraded and added annually. Students can find locations of the current programs available on library computers by accessing the University Libraries website. The University Libraries provides access to 3D scanning and printing services, 3D stereoscopy, virtual reality, and other technology equipment for student learning and research.

In 2017, the University Libraries launched the Institutional Repository for UA. In this resource one can find electronic theses and dissertations (2009 onward) and faculty publications. The Institutional Repository accepts faculty and student research publications for submission. The University Libraries maintains memberships in the Association of Research Libraries, the Center for Research Libraries, HathiTrust, the Coalition for Networked Information, centerNet, LYRASIS, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, the Digital Preservation Network, and the Alabama Digital Preservation Network. As a U.S. Government Documents Regional Depository, the University Libraries serves Alabama libraries and the public.

Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library

Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library is the main campus library supporting the teaching and research needs of the College of Arts and Sciences’ humanities and social sciences programs, the College of Communication and Information Sciences, the College of Human Environmental Sciences, the Honors College, the School of Social Work, and the College of Continuing Studies.

Located on the first level, the Gorgas Library Learning Commons provides students with computers equipped with the latest productivity and academic software used in classrooms and laboratories. The area provides space for students to study together for group projects or individually. In addition, students, faculty, and staff can ask for personal research assistance at the Information Desk located in the Commons area. Also located on this level is the Digital Humanities Center, a hi-tech environment for faculty and graduate students exploring the digital humanities; the Music Library with two recording booths; and Java City Café, a fun place to relax and meet friends.

The Circulation Desk, located on the second level, serves as the central check-out area for media production equipment, laptops, headphones, books, and other materials. Items requested through InterLibrary Loan can also be picked up at the Circulation Desk.

Gorgas 205 (a large meeting room for University events), the Pearce Foyer (exhibition space), group study spaces, and the Sanford Media Center, a leading-edge facility for digital media production for students, are all located on the second level.

Special features in Gorgas Library include areas with designated noise levels, from silent to quiet talking; several types of seating and study accommodations, including group study rooms for collaborative assignments; designated study carrels for graduate students and faculty; additional computers with academic software on the third level; printers; and 3D printers. University Libraries partners with the University Writing Center, which maintains a satellite center in Java City Café.

Gorgas Library is located on the Quad opposite Denny Chimes.

Angelo Bruno Business Library

Angelo Bruno Business Library serves the business information needs of the campus and in particular the students, faculty, and staff of the Culverhouse College of Business and the Manderson Graduate School of Business. The library also houses the college’s Sloan Y. Bashinsky Sr. Computer Center.

Bruno Library’s resources comprise a wide variety of scholarly and professional business databases, along with a significant collection of print and electronic books and journals. Library faculty and staff offer users specialized information assistance and services, including individual and class instruction in library research and effective use of library databases.

Special features include areas with designated noise levels, from silent to quiet talking; several types of seating and study accommodations, including group study rooms for collaborative assignments; and designated study space for graduate students. A wide range of software is offered on computers throughout the facility and on circulating laptops.

The 64,000-square-foot facility is conveniently located on Stadium Drive within the Culverhouse complex.
McLure Education Library

McLure Education Library serves primarily the students, faculty, and staff of the College of Education and the Graduate School of Education.

McLure Library includes the School Library and Curriculum Materials Center on the lower level; reference and periodical areas and public computer areas on the main level; and study rooms, two presentation practice rooms, and a computer lab on the upper level. Several Promethean Boards and SMART Boards are available throughout the facility for student use. Instruction sessions are offered at all levels, including training for pre-service teachers.

The main collection of the library comprises scholarly and professional books and journals related to education (including sports and physical education). The School Library collection contains over 25,000 trade books for preschool through young adult readers. The Curriculum Materials Center holds approximately 10,000 items, including K-12 textbooks, curriculum guides, supplemental classroom materials, and educational media including DVDs, kits, games, and other items.

McLure Library is located on University Boulevard near Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Eric and Sara Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering

Eric and Sara Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering serves students, faculty, and staff in the sciences, engineering, and nursing programs. Rodgers Library offers a 3D studio and other makerspace resources; seven group study rooms; and equipment and special space for students to prepare, practice, and record presentations.

The library is equipped with a generous number of computer workstations offering a wide range of productivity software, including specialized software for use in science and engineering.

Rodgers Library is open 24 hours daily from Sunday through Thursday during portions of the semesters, giving students more opportunities to learn, study, and do research.

Rodgers Library is located immediately south of Shelby Hall and the Science and Engineering Complex, north of the Biology building, and one building west of the Campus Drive Parking Deck.

Special Collections

Special Collections is comprised of the W.S. Hoole Library and the A.S. Williams III Americana Collection.

Hoole contains rare and unique materials dealing with U.S. history with a focus on Southern history and culture and Alabama history and culture. Areas of concentration include the exploration and settlement of territory in the Gulf of Mexico; the antebellum period; the Civil War and Reconstruction; slavery, abolition, and emancipation; the socio-economic and racial history of the New South; the Civil Rights movement; and Latin America with a particular emphasis on Mexico and Brazil.

Hoole has more than 40,000 volumes of rare books and incunabula, serials, and newspapers; approximately 4,000 manuscript collections; more than 2,000 maps, including several hundred from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries; over 500,000 photographic images; and nearly a million University records. Extensive digital collections comprising several hundred thousand images are accessible through Hoole’s home page.

The Williams Collection includes an additional 20,000 volumes, hundreds of maps, and an extensive collection of manuscripts and historical documents pertaining to the history and culture of the South, particularly the Civil War. The Civil War materials in both Hoole and Williams document the war from the perspectives and observations of participants in the Union and the Confederacy, and include several hundred Confederate imprints.

Hoole Library is located on the second floor of Mary Harmon Bryant Hall, Hackberry Lane, and the Williams Collection is located on the third floor of Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library.

Additional Libraries

Under separate administration are the Health Sciences Library in the University Medical Center, the Bounds Law Library in the Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr. School of Law, and the Map Library, department of geography, in Farrah Hall.