EMPOWER.ENRICH.ADVANCE.

Library and Information Center
Georgia Institute of Technology

Creating a Better-Educated Graduate for Georgia...

Well into the 21st century, the Georgia Tech Library will be the intellectual center of the campus and the learning community, providing optimum access to and delivery of lifelong learning for professional and personal growth.

Today, the Georgia Tech Library and Information Center is a creative partner and essential force in the learning community and in the Institute’s instructional, learning and research programs. The Library plans, develops and implements programs to provide expert staff, information, learning resources and information competency training to students, faculty, and staff in any location and to selected off campus clients. Using cutting-edge technology, the Library delivers resources to satisfy information needs, promote lifelong learning and create productive connections for the scholarly community.

The Library strives to empower the elite academic community at Georgia Tech, which boasts:

- approximately 16,600 students, including over 5,300 graduate students
- incoming freshmen with average composite SAT scores of 1336
- number one U.S. institution granting degrees to black engineers
- over 800 teaching faculty
- over $341 million in institutional research awards, grants, and contracts
- Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI): non-profit applied research arm, $115 million in research
- ranks 10th among all U.S. public universities and 41st overall; the College of Engineering ranks 5th in graduate programs; the Cooperative Education Program ranks in the top 10 and is the largest optional co-op program nationally.
- top 10 graduate programs in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Public Policy.
- top 20 graduate programs in the College of Architecture and the College of Computing; top 50 in Business.
- top ranking in the generosity of alumni donations; the percentage of Tech alums contributing to the Institute is the highest among any top 50 public university.

To meet the demands of such a prestigious community, the Library currently employs over 115 highly trained staff members, including subject specialists in 33 disciplines, who assist with services such as:

- access to an extensive collection of books, journals, electronic resources, and databases
- virtual and in-person research assistance, current awareness services, electronic reserves, information consulting, interlibrary loan/document delivery, library instruction, acquisitions and assistance with software, hardware, wireless, and network port connections
- 165 library classes and tours offered reaching 4,881 students
- 9,560 items loaned to other libraries; 5,242 items borrowed from other libraries; 9,034 items supplied by LENDS, 49 fee-based searches
- 118,227 circulation charges; over 460,000 reserves transactions
The Georgia Tech Library is constantly looking toward the future, in search of ways to advance the academic community and enterprise. Some of the Library’s current initiatives include:

**Electronic Desktop Delivery**
A mission-critical activity of the Library is to provide digital content to the desktop. We are aggressively pursuing transition to electronic full text journal and conference literature. By the beginning of 2005, the Library’s goal is to receive the majority of our journals electronically. Our participation in several consortia leverages our buying power so that titles ordered by one member are available to all in the consortium. To facilitate easy access to full-text electronic resources, the Library has implemented SFX software, an application that creates dynamic links to fully integrate the majority of our information resources. The end-user is linked to full-text when available, to the catalog for referral to available print formats, to Interlibrary Loan, and to other relevant resources as appropriate.

**Library West Commons**
The Library continues to capture the attention of the Institute’s students, faculty, staff and administration with its popular Library West Commons (LWC). In the fall of 2003, LWC was voted as the “best computer lab” and the Library was deemed the “best place to study” on campus. The LWC provides students with basic productivity and multimedia workstations, enhanced with skilled information and technology assistance. The LWC has become an important destination for students who then remain in the Library to do research and study. Both Library buildings (East and West) are open overnight to handle the steadily increasing numbers of students, and to provide access to all library resources and services. Since 2002, the Library door count has nearly doubled from 530,000 to 908,000 entries.

**Institutional Repository**
In August 2004, in collaboration with campus partners, the Library's Digital Initiatives Department launched SMARTech, or Scholarly Materials And Research @ Georgia Tech, SMARTech is an institutional repository for the capture of the intellectual output of the Institute in support of its teaching and research missions. SMARTech connects stockpiles of digital materials currently in existence throughout campus to create a cohesive, useful, sustainable repository accessible to Georgia Tech and the world. This initiative uses DSpace software, a digital library system to capture, store, index, preserve, and redistribute the intellectual output of a university’s faculty and researchers in digital form. Another Library digital initiative is the ETD (Electronic Thesis and Dissertation) Collection which provides easy access electronically to Georgia Tech dissertations and theses.

**Library Assessment Initiatives**
The Libraries practice continuous assessment and improvement of resources, facilities, staffing, and services. Evaluation of the Libraries and other learning/information resources occurs regularly to ensure that these resources are meeting the needs of its users and supporting the programs and purposes of Georgia Tech. Assessment activities are documented in the Library Effectiveness 1995-2004 report which is updated annually. Best practices derived in part from the Libraries’ assessment efforts are the consolidation of Library services, the collaborative synergy in the Library West Commons, a transition to electronic desktop information delivery, the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) Collection, and the development of an Institutional Repository (SMARTech) for capturing the Institute’s intellectual output. In spring 2003 and spring 2004, the Library & Information Center participated in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL)-sponsored LibQUAL+ Survey, a major international assessment initiative. This project defines and measures library service quality across institutions. The LibQUAL+ Survey results provide benchmark data and create beneficial quality assessment tools for local planning. The feedback and responses to the survey have facilitated continuing assessment and updates to the Libraries’ Strategic Plan: [http://intranel.library.gatech.edu/info/documents/stratplan03.pdf](http://intranel.library.gatech.edu/info/documents/stratplan03.pdf) in order to keep the Libraries’ services and resources in line with customer expectations. We continue to use assessment results from the two LibQUAL+ Surveys and other measurement and evaluative tools to make changes in Libraries’ services and facilities and to improve the Libraries’ effectiveness.

**ENRICH**
To successfully enrich the academic lives of students and faculty, the Library must maintain ever-expanding collections, which currently include:

- over 4.2 million books, bound periodicals and serials, including over 1.4 million government documents; approximately 2.75 million technical reports; and over 197,000 cartographic materials
- over 250 online databases
- over 30,000 electronic books and 13,000 e-journals

In maintaining these extensive collections, the Library’s expenditures reach nearly $11.6 million annually. Expenditures on collections were approximately $5.2 million for the 2003/04 fiscal year.

In addition to the main library, students and faculty have access to:

- **Architecture Library**: houses 42,000 books, journals and videotapes in the fields of architecture and art, building construction, urban planning, industrial design, and landscape architecture as well as 79,000 slides.

- **Archives and Records Management**: collects, preserves, and provides access to the history of Georgia Tech, its faculty, students and alumni, including a 4,332-volume Rare Book Collection, a 10,000-volume Science Fiction Collection, 300 Artifacts, 436 items in the Manuscript, Photograph, and University Archives Collections.

Parties interested in more information about the resources and services of the Library and Information Center, should consult the Library's web site at [http://www.library.gatech.edu](http://www.library.gatech.edu)