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 16,500 students, including almost 5,000 graduate students
- incoming freshmen with average composite SAT scores of 1337
- number one U. S. institution granting degrees to black engineers
- over 700 teaching faculty
- Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI): non-profit applied research arm, $100 million in research
- over $278 million in institutional research awards, grants, and contracts
- ranks 9th among all U.S. public universities; the College of Engineering ranks 6th overall and 4th in graduate programs
- top 10 graduate programs in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Engineering, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, and Information and Technology Management. Chemical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering are not far behind.

To meet the demands of such a prestigious community, the Library currently employs over 110 highly trained staff members, including subject specialists in 36 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 walkup port network connections
- 196 library classes and tours offered reaching 4,227 students
- 10,942 items loaned to other libraries; 3,146 items borrowed from other libraries
- 112,275 charges circulated; 807,532 electronic reserves transactions annually
Service Point Consolidation

The Library’s Public Services components have been reorganized and relocated to facilitate customer service and use. Public Services are comprised of three service points with three distinct roles. The services are Circulation/Reserves (1 East), Special Formats and Maps (2 East), and Information Services (1 West).

GT Universe

GT Universe is a digital repository program intended to implement and promote the use of open standards among Georgia Tech faculty and students. The desired result will be the creation of durable, highly functional digital works and collections that can be shared with colleagues and digital publishing and collection initiatives worldwide. Digital repositories are important to the scholarly community in that they serve as tangible indicators of an institution’s quality, thus increasing its visibility, prestige, and public value. A position of coordinator of digital initiatives has been created to better position the Library in its digital repository initiatives. The first two digital initiatives components being developed are: the ETD (Electronic Theses and Dissertations repository) to provide easy access electronically to Georgia Tech dissertations and theses and the Sponsored Research Digital Archive, a powerful way to provide access and better control of the final results of Georgia Tech sponsored research. Library task forces with campus partners (the Graduate Office and the Office of Sponsored Research respectively) are underway to develop and implement these initiatives.

Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC)

The ILRC, a $46 million undergraduate teaching and learning center, to be connected to the Library’s West building has been approved for construction in the next 4 years. With the Information Commons at its center, the ILRC will support student learning through the convergence of library and instructional resources, with the Library providing expert assistance with digital and print information and OIT providing technical assistance and software support. Other undergraduate services planned for the ILRC are science laboratories, advising, tutoring, instructional technology, and learning enablement programs, and so forth.

Library West Commons

In August 2002, the Library, the Office of Information Technology (OIT), and CETL opened the Library West Commons (LWC) on the 1st floor of the Library. In the LWC, students can find up to 100 high-end personal computers and multi-media stations, staffed around-the-clock by both technical experts and information specialists. Library and OIT staff work together to provide software support, technical trouble-shooting and information assistance. Experience gained from the Commons will influence the design of the Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC). In its on-going effort to enhance services to meet student needs, LWC offers its services 135 hours per week, including 24 / 5, Sunday through Friday. In addition, the entire West Building serves as a 24 / 5 study hall.

ENRICH

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

- over 1.5 million books, bound periodicals and serials
- over 225 online databases
- over 27,000 cataloged electronic resources, including full-text e-journals and e-books
- approximately 2.6 million technical reports
- more than 750,000 government documents
- approximately 190,000 maps

In maintaining these extensive collections, the Library’s expenditures reach nearly $11 million annually. Expenditures on collections for 2001/02:

- Books: $545,740
- Serials, including print and electronic journals: $3,115,883
- Databases: $789,673

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

- **Architecture Library**: houses 41,000 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 750-volume Rare Book Collection, a 9000-volume Science Fiction Collection, 146 Manuscript Collections, 51 University Archives Collections, and 300 artifacts.

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

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:

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