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 15,500 students, including over 4,500 graduate students
- incoming freshmen with average composite SAT scores of 1336
- 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 5th overall and 4th in graduate programs; the Cooperative Education Program ranks 3rd nationally
- top 10 graduate programs in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Information and Technology Management, and Materials Science and Engineering. Chemical Engineering is close behind
- top 20 graduate programs in the College of Architecture and the College of Computing

To meet the demands of such a prestigious community, the Library currently employs over 120 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
- 115 library classes and tours offered reaching 3,115 students
- 9,967 items loaned to other libraries; 3,907 items borrowed from other libraries; 7,206 items supplied by LENDS, 49 fee-based searches
- 112,997 charges circulated; 472,951 (8-month period only) electronic reserves transactions annually
To successfully enrich the academic lives of students and faculty, the Library must maintain ever-expanding collections, which currently include:

- over 4.1 million books, bound periodicals and serials, including 1.5 million government documents
- over 250 online databases
- over 39,000 cataloged electronic resources, including full-text e-journals and e-books
- approximately 2.7 million technical reports
- approximately 196,000 maps

In maintaining these extensive collections, the Library’s expenditures reach nearly $11 million annually. Expenditures on collections were approximately $4.3 million for the 2002/03 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.

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 the transition to electronic full text journal and conference literature. The GT Faculty Senate endorses an acquisitions policy that drops print journal subscriptions in favor of e-journals. By the start of 2005, the Library’s goal is to receive the majority of our journals electronically. We participate in several consortia to license electronic resources and leverage our buying power so that titles ordered by one member are available to all in the consortium. This has greatly increased our access to electronic journals. As we expand the scope and quantity of full-text electronic resources, consumers can be confused by the proliferation of access points and interfaces to navigate. At the beginning of the fall semester 2003, the Library implemented SFX, 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. The Library has also replaced locally-loaded databases with enhanced commercial databases to take full advantage of SFX functionality.

**Library West Commons**
The Library has captured the attention of the Institute’s students, faculty, staff and administration with its popular **Library West Commons (LWC)**. 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. Beginning fall semester 2003, both Library buildings (East and West) are open overnight to handle the steadily increasing numbers of students, and to provide access to all collections and circulation / reserve services. In 2002-03, the Library door count increased 56% over the previous year, from 530,000 entries to 830,000, the highest attendance in 15 years.

**Digital Initiatives**
In January 2003, the Library’s **Digital Initiatives Department**, a component of the **Digital and Technical Services Division (DTS)**, was formally created. The major thrust of this department is to implement an institutional digital repository for the intellectual content of the campus. Digital repositories are important to scholarly communities in that they serve as tangible indicators of an institution’s quality, thus increasing visibility, prestige, and public value. The Digital Initiatives Department gathers faculty research content, and, in partnership with these individuals and units, creates workflows and establishes technology standards to conserve this valuable knowledge store. Other DTS units provide metadata services directly to campus units so that the organization and description of digital content is improved at points of campus origin. Furthermore, they participate with campus units to manage rights to Georgia Tech digital objects generated by the campus, interface with campus units to implement electronic records management, and increasingly collaborate with OIT, GT portal designers, and instructional technologists on emerging, mutually beneficial opportunities. Two current digital initiatives are: the **ETD (Electronic Theses and Dissertations repository)** which provides easy access electronically to Georgia Tech dissertations and theses, and the **Sponsored Research Digital Archive** which provides access and control for the final results of Georgia Tech sponsored research.

**Library Assessment**
The Library is making unprecedented progress in the measurement and assessment of its services. In this important cultural shift, we consider customer feedback and assessment as integral to understanding the relative merit of existing and emerging services. Insight is now continuously provided by quick surveys, comprehensive questionnaires, LibQUAL+, and unsolicited customer feedback. As we continue to assess and measure, the Library applies critical thinking and exacting standards to our tools and techniques. In spring 2003, the Library participated in the **LibQUAL+ Survey** (an international initiative of the Association of Research Libraries). The LibQUAL+ project used a survey tool to gauge library users’ perceptions of services and to measure their satisfaction with services and resources so that libraries can identify areas for improvement. The Library has developed a website, [http://www.library.gatech.edu/about_us/libqual/index.html](http://www.library.gatech.edu/about_us/libqual/index.html) to report on the survey results and Library responses to the invaluable customer input received.

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)