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 17,000 students, including over 5,300 graduate students
- nearly 900 academic faculty
- incoming freshmen with average composite SAT scores of 1340
- number one U.S. institution granting degrees to black engineers
- over $341 million total in institutional research awards, grants, and contracts
- Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI): non-profit applied research arm; over $134 million in research
- rankings as follows: 9th among all U.S. public universities and 37th overall
- the College of Engineering ranks 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, and Computer Engineering; top 15 graduate program in the College of Architecture and #1 in the South according to “America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools;” top 20 graduate program in College of Computing; and a top 40 program in Business
- a Cooperative Education Program ranked as a top 10 program for three consecutive years according to U.S. News and World Report and is the largest optional co-op program nationally
- 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 120 highly trained staff members, including subject specialists in 35 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
- 144 library classes and tours offered reaching 3,011 students
- 9,269 items loaned to other libraries; 5,045 items borrowed from other libraries; 8,321 items supplied by LENDS,
- 49 fee-based searches
- 189,685 circulation charges; over 653,589 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:

**Library East Commons**

The provision of new, experimental spaces for groups is a welcome initiative with the renovation of first floor East. Library and OIT representatives have conducted focus groups that have consistently revealed the desire for a Library facility that would: refresh the mind as well as the body; accommodate groups of students working at computers; showcase the “best and brightest” output of Georgia Tech; and accommodate both students and faculty in a common setting for mutually beneficial enterprise, conversation and acquaintance. The most unusual space to emerge from the visioning exercises has come to be known as an “instant theater.” We expect the renovated floor to open in June 2006. The Library East Commons will break new ground on what an academic library can and must be for Georgia Tech and accommodate our primary mission to provide great learning spaces.

**Public Relations/Marketing**

The Information Services Departments Public Relations / Marketing Group promotes the department's services and resources. In February 2005, the Group debuted a monthly restroom newsletter, TPaper, which has gained the attention of students through its colorful, catchy “articles” and advertisements. A successful faculty lecture series, Tuesday Talks, was also launched at that time. Subtitled, “research for all of us,” the series aims to raise the profile of the Library by inviting Georgia Tech researchers to the Library to present their research in layman's terms. In addition, the Group has also developed posters featuring student athletes to promote the Library as place.

**OIT/Library Resource Center (Ground Floor West, Library)**

The ground floor west of the library is being renovated to provide much needed multiple resources for students. The facility will be used to address computer support (OIT), tutoring (Success Programs) and advising (Undergraduate Advising) for students. The goals are to provide student-centric, centrally-supported, one-stop services in a flexible space. This facility is a collaborative experiment and arrangement enabling us to gather information about programming for the new undergraduate learning center. By proposing the co-location of three student-centric programs, we will be able to leverage one space to offer appointment scheduling, walk-in support, extended hours and overflow space for the first floor of the Library. As more and more students bring laptops to campus, we will be able to offer on-site diagnosis and just-in-time training to assist students in developing good practices in managing their resources.

**Distance Learning**

The Library endeavors to enhance support for the distance learning community by piloting document delivery and web-based instruction/orientations for distance students in Savannah, Georgia and Lorraine, France. In 2005, the Georgia Tech Library, in collaboration with several campus departments, provided support for a pilot project using Tegrity software. The Tegrity software system provides a solution that allows for faculty to easily deliver classroom materials, classroom audio, and classroom video to students while allowing students to take digital notes that are synced to the classroom activities. The pilot project will continue throughout 2006. For more information, please visit: tegrity1.gatech.edu

**Library Website**

The Library website is the primary information gateway for accessing hundreds of online databases and the thousands of online journals provided by the library. In addition, it offers access to digital collections, research guides, staff information, building information, library policies, etc. In an attempt to improve the web experience for our users, the Library underwent an extensive usability study of the Library website in 2005 and is currently working on a website redesign to be launched in early 2006. The Library will establish a usability lab that will run routine testing on Library-developed websites and products.

**MetaArchive/LOCKSS/NDIPP**

The GT Library and Information Center is a founding member of the LOCKSS Alliance. LOCKSS, an initiative of Stanford University, produces a pioneering open source software solution for digital resources preservation. GT Library has aggressively developed and implemented the LOCKSS digital preservation software through four current projects: the MetaArchive Cooperative Preservation Network, involving Emory University, Florida State, Auburn, Virginia Tech, and Louisville; the LOCKSS/U.S. Government Public Office (GPO) project with thirty other universities to preserve the current electronic publications of the U.S. GPO, electronic theses and dissertations preservation with Association of Southeastern Research Libraries Office (GPO) project with thirty other universities to preserve the current electronic publications of the U.S. GPO, electronic theses and dissertations preservation with Association of Southeastern Research Libraries; and the LOCKSS Alliance: lockss.org for more information.

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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

January 2006