THE CAMPAIGN FOR WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

THE LIBRARIES: CROSSROADS OF LEARNING

With formats for recording and sharing information continually changing, today’s students and faculty need a fully equipped, updated, and reliable academic library more than ever. In this dynamic and competitive environment, institutions of higher education cannot build the quality and the excellence expected of them without a strong library system. After all, a world-class academic research university requires a world-class library system.

Within this dynamic environment, The Libraries at Washington State University have become a place of convergence—supporting research and teaching across all majors on all four campuses, and driven by changing needs from both the local learning community and around the world. The WSU Libraries are quite literally the University’s crossroads of learning.

Nevertheless, the crossroads need upgrading to remain competitive. Our growing digital library requires skilled maintenance and updating as more materials, including rare books, are scanned and made available online. Students require advanced training in information literacy to best prepare for a rapidly shifting workplace. Even our learning spaces call for physical upgrades to accommodate changing learning styles.

Through the Campaign for Washington State University, the WSU Libraries seek private funding to create a vibrant intellectual climate that enhances academic and personal achievement one learner at a time. With your help, we will provide the kind of setting where every student will find the resources to succeed—and a place where tomorrow’s “big ideas” are inspired.
Most students today are digitally literate. They have used computers since childhood and wade easily into Facebook, Twitter, blogging, and the latest online tools. Relying on Google and Wikipedia as primary information sources is not a problem in their minds, and they do it all while on the move with smart phones and laptops.

Digital literacy, however, does not necessarily translate to information literacy. The flood of information available electronically tends to create as many challenges as it solves. In fact, finding appropriate and meaningful information and then using it correctly to high academic standards may actually be harder today than ever before.

Even so, studies show that professors often overestimate a student’s ability to locate, assess, and legally use resources, simply because the student appears digitally literate. At the same time, students inflate their own research and information evaluation skills. The result can be a poorly developed paper or a bibliography packed with open web sources that are neither authoritative nor appropriate to the assignment.

These issues formed the impetus behind the development of a robust information literacy program, an area in which WSU Libraries are recognized as a national leader.
In response to growing library instruction needs, WSU Libraries created an innovative online learning environment called Information Literacy Education (ILE). Featuring customizable collections of online tutorials and assessment tools, ILE is used to develop research skills not necessarily taught in the classroom but required of students to successfully complete research assignments.

The ILE online learning space is already off to an impressive start. In its first three years, it served more than 7,600 undergraduates and reported a returning instructor participation rate of 98 percent. Building upon this foundation, additional private funding will allow us to:

- Upgrade to more productive tutorial development software, purchase software licenses, and upgrade student computing equipment.
- Hire additional academic librarians to serve growing needs.
- Employ students to help create additional ile component tutorials.

While the potential for success is great, work has only just begun. Private funding for the growing challenge of information literacy helps us prepare a new generation of scholars as they make their way through today’s digital landscape to become better learners and communicators in all of their endeavors.
During the past several years, WSU Libraries have made great progress in collecting and developing digital materials. Each month we average more than 1,800 unique online visitors from 47 countries. As demand increases, so does our need to supply higher levels of technical expertise.

Key digital collections at WSU Libraries include: Early Washington Maps, City of Pullman and the Palouse Image Collection, the Wallis and Marilyn Kimble Northwest History Database, the Lucullus V. McWhorter Collection of Native American images, and the Palouse Digital Project. These unique images are sought and downloaded by researchers, reporters, and learners worldwide. Properly maintaining our collections is costly, and expanding our content is even more so.

Much-needed private gifts allow us to:

- Hire technical and subject experts to support the quickly expanding digital program.
- Fund equipment to support digital collections.
- Upgrade technologies for an effective web presence.

BUILDING A DIGITAL LIBRARY
Increasingly what distinguishes major academic libraries from each other are their rare books and unique collections. WSU already owns many impressive special collections, but hundreds of gift collections still await processing.

Current collections include nearly 10,000 volumes that belonged to the famous British author Virginia Woolf, and more than 500 different copies of The Compleat Angler by Izaak Walton (including all the 17th-century editions). Patrons at the WSU Libraries also enjoy extensive collections of Northwest Americana, 17th-century English imprints, and historical veterinary medicine books and pamphlets.

Rare and unusual books are housed in Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections (MASC) at the Terrell Library on the Pullman campus. These volumes provide a sort of time portal through which we experience an extraordinary opportunity to connect with the past and put the future in perspective.

When students examine an early text such as John Milton’s Paradise Lost, they touch the very artifact English readers would have pulled from their shelves in the 17th century. Through this unique link we discover subtle clues to the aesthetic and cultural values of another age.

Many invaluable treasures remain unprocessed and unavailable for public viewing, so an ongoing plan has been developed to process, protect, and grow the collections. Your generous participation will help MASC to:

- Hire technical and subject experts to work with specialty materials and to advise faculty and students in their use.
- Acquire new materials and process current collections.
- Repair and conserve rare books and maps.
- Upgrade our exhibit area and reading room facilities.

UNVEILING HISTORY THROUGH RARE BOOKS
Library services are increasing in demand as more and more members of the WSU community visit The Libraries in person, even with a growing number of library collections available electronically.

Part of the reason is that the Holland and Terrell Libraries (HaT) are now physically connected to the Compton Union Building (CUB). All WSU Libraries now allow food and drink, making them even more attractive places to conduct research, study, or work on group projects. HaT’s late weeknight closing times are also very popular.

Improved access alone is not enough. Corporations, universities, agencies, and other businesses seek employees who work efficiently and effectively in teams, so we have begun upgrading our group study and public spaces to provide better opportunities for group work. The second floors of Owen Library and the Animal Health Library are being reconfigured as student study and collaboration areas.

Our key funding priorities will continue to focus on developing and upgrading the changing library environment, making it a place for students to gather and learn—a place that is integral to their academic experience and essential to their daily lives. In the process, we seek private funding partners for:

- UPGRADED COMPUTERS, SCANNERS, AND PRINTERS.
- WHITEBOARDS AND ELECTRONIC SCREENS.
- COMFORTABLE SEATING AND WORK TABLES.

CREATING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
As one of WSU’s largest student employers, The Libraries on the Pullman campus employ about 150 undergraduate and graduate students each year. Working here does more for students than just provide a paycheck. We provide on-campus training with flexible hours to accommodate their studies. Even more, we add to their total educational experience. Student workers use what they learn about library resources to improve their homework assignments and research projects.

Student workers fill a variety of responsible positions that require them to input crucial data, design user-friendly web pages, provide excellent customer service, and digitize or describe important historical collections.

For many students, their library job is their first real job. They learn about expectations and demands, about the importance of showing up on time, and about applying themselves diligently to their assigned tasks. They will take these valuable skills with them into the job market when they leave WSU.

In this vital area, private funding will help us to:

- **HIRE MORE UNDERGRADUATES, GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION.**
- **AWARD MORE INTERNSHIPS TO GRADUATE STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM PROVIDE SKILLED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BASED ON THEIR AREAS OF GRADUATE RESEARCH.**
- **DELIVER A HIGHER QUALITY OF SERVICE TO ALL PATRONS.**

DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS
AN INVITATION TO GIVE

Nowhere else is the heartbeat of the University more evident than at the WSU Libraries. Along with exceptional facilities at the Vancouver, Spokane, and Tri-Cities campuses, the six libraries on the Pullman campus help define our scholarly ambitions and our place in the learning universe. They are our centers of activity, discovery, debate, conversation, and collaboration.

Support for The Libraries is support for WSU. Through your partnership with the Campaign for Washington State University, we’re working to ensure that every student who seeks a place to learn will find it at the WSU Libraries. By achieving our goal of $4 million in private gifts, together we are furnishing a rich environment where students can connect with our shared past, build a bridge of understanding to the present, and pursue their path to the future—through the open doors of The Libraries at Washington State University.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Scholarly Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building a Digital Library</td>
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<td>Unveiling History Through Rare Books</td>
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<td>Creating Learning Environments</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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