University Libraries

Western Illinois University Libraries is an integral element of the student’s university and lifelong learning experiences—where student-centered learning takes priority and communities of learners can be created. The University Libraries consists of the Leslie F. Malpass Library and the Music, Physical Sciences, Curriculum and WIU-Quad Cities Libraries and is dedicated to support scholarship and learning through its collections and services. Great universities have great libraries! The challenge the WIU Libraries faces is to reinvigorate its collections, services, and facilities for the 21st century.

TRANSFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WIU Libraries seeks multi-million dollar funding to create an Information Commons, which integrates traditional library reference with Internet resources, to more effectively meet the information needs of the 21st Century student. Key to creating an Information Commons successfully, WIU Libraries needs renovation of its current facilities, personnel trained in both reference services and Internet resources, and state-of-the-art computing technology and software.

Computing power and the Internet have transformed the way information is gathered, organized and distributed and have dramatically changed libraries and library services. The Information Commons creates a welcoming environment to support collaborative student learning and demonstrates the integration of print and internet resources. The Commons includes collaborative learning rooms which are equipped with workstations, projectors, whiteboards, and both wireless and network connections to the university’s high speed network. Although many assume that incoming students are active users of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and technology in general, this has not proven to be true. Regardless of the age there remains to be a sizeable portion of library users who are reluctant to use computers to locate information. Thus, there is also a need for electronic classrooms in the Commons to support instruction of library, computer and internet resources.

State of the art multimedia stations are critical components to Information Commons. Due to the digital nature of information, multimedia stations are needed to manipulate and transform data to complete class assignments whether they are in the form of term papers, posters, multimedia presentations or simply notes for a class oral presentation. The Information Commons includes lounge areas with comfortable seating, quiet zones, and access for food and drink for students to take a break from studying. It maintains extended hours in both the morning and evening for both the early riser and late night students. The Information Commons creates a new climate of information sharing and collaboration that is not limited to time or geographical location.

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The University Libraries has a rich collection of over one million print volumes. It also subscribes to over 100 web-based databases and 20,000 journals that provide access to literally millions of scholarly and general articles that are accessible anytime and from any place in the world with an internet connection. However, there are still many information resources and services available that the University Libraries needs to purchase that require funds beyond its appropriated budget.

Western Illinois University librarians provide exceptional instruction and individual reference consultation to support WIU research, teaching, and learning. Instruction is provided in classrooms, through online tutorials, and one-on-one teaching at the various public service desks. With the world of information dissemination constantly changing, funds for an Endowed Professor of Instruction will provide a library faculty member the support needed to research and implement teaching methods to meet these changes.

Building renovations and equipment upgrades of WIU Libraries are needed to address the changing needs of today’s technology savvy student as well as address physical issues of our 1970’s Leslie F. Malpass building. The first (basement) floor of the Leslie F. Malpass Library is being used for book, periodical, and special collections storage, despite the fact that the basement floor was never intended to house library materials. This storage area needs to be renovated to safely store the existing contents of that floor, as well as to provide additional storage to free up space on upper floors. The freed-up space of the upper floors would then be used to create learning centers that reflect the radical changes in library materials, media, and access to information that have recently taken place. Additionally, current computer labs and group study areas in the Leslie F. Malpass Library are often filled to capacity when classes are in session. Students must constantly be told there are no more computers or group study spaces available.

Higher Values in Higher Education
Building Renovations and Equipment Upgrades

Furniture and Equipment Upgrade for Malpass Library: Phase 1, Student Digital Commons $100,000. Furniture to support wireless connections and small group study.

Technology Upgrades in Student Digital Commons $60,000
Leslie F. Malpass Library Storage: Replace storage shelving for library materials with compact shelving ($640,000) and Cold Room Storage for Archives/Special Collections materials. ($500,000).

Laptops for Checkout within the Library: $47,000. Thirty laptops with two storage/charger units.

Library Collections and Materials
Materials/Kits for Curriculum Library: $20,000 to provide WIU education students with up-to-date multi-media materials and teaching aids to prepare them for the teaching profession.

JSTOR (Journal STORAGE) Archival Online Databases: $22,000 to provide access to additional databases in the Arts and Sciences.


ProQuest Black Studies Center Online Database: $36,630 1st year and $4,850 annually. A resource that reflects every aspect of the Black experience, from ancient Africa through the Diaspora and on to modern life.

Lexis-Nexis Serial Set Online Database: $90,000 1st year and $1,500 annually. All congressional publications from 1789–

Existing Endowment and Foundation Funds
William H. and Eva Little Graham Libraries' Student Assistant Scholarship Fund: A scholarship opportunity for students employed in the University Libraries.

Leslie F. Malpass Endowment: Endowed by former President Leslie F. Malpass, this unrestricted fund supports collections and services of the University Libraries.

Library Fund: This fund supports miscellaneous operation expenditures as well as books and equipment. Gifts not otherwise designated will be placed in this fund.

Lyndal Swofford Endowment: Endowed by the estate of former library director Lyndal Swofford, this unrestricted fund supports the paperback book general reading collection.

Music Library Fund: Contributions to this fund support collections and services in the WIU Music Library.

Legal Acquisitions Fund: Funds the purchase of legal reference materials that support the legal research needs of students, faculty, local lawyers, and West-Central Illinois citizens.

Leibowitz Collection of Holocaust Education Materials: Created in memory of Jeff Leibowitz, the collection includes a variety of materials related to the Holocaust which are suitable for middle and high school teachers and students.

Archives/Special Collections Fund: Assists with the acquisition and preservation of rare and unique books, maps, and manuscripts documenting the history and culture of West Central Illinois.

Endowed Professorship in Icarian and Regional Studies: Supports the Baxter-Snyder Center for Icarian Studies and other research in West Central Illinois history and culture.

Proposed Endowments
University Libraries Speaker Endowment (minimum $50,000): To create an endowment fund for an annual event featuring a well-known author or scholar visit and lecture.

Endowed Professorship of Instruction (minimum $250,000): To provide leadership in information instruction.

Unspecified Equipment Endowment (minimum $50,000): To provide ongoing funds to respond to the rapid changes in technology, i.e., new equipment, computer replacement/rotation, and software purchases.

WIU Libraries
Leslie F. Malpass Library • Music Library • Physical Sciences Library • Curriculum Library • WIU Quad Cities Library

Higher Values in Higher Education