The Libraries of the University of Connecticut

The Libraries of the University of Connecticut serve as gateways for the delivery of information resources to the local academic community and to the citizenry of the State of Connecticut. These include the *University Libraries*, which serve all the undergraduate and graduate programs on the main campus and the five regional campuses; and two professional school libraries: the *Health Center Library* in Farmington and the *School of Law Library* in Hartford. While the libraries serving the two professional schools are administered separately from the Storrs and regional campus libraries, they maintain a strong affiliation, particularly in the areas of collection development and access. With 3.9 million print volumes and well over 110,000 electronic and print journals, the Libraries of the University of Connecticut form the most comprehensive public research collection in the state.

The *University Libraries* maintain nine physical locations: four on the Storrs campus and one at each of the five regional campuses. The Homer Babbidge Library, the flagship of the University Libraries, is located in the center of the Storrs campus and has seven levels, each about an acre in size. The Babbidge Library houses extensive research collections as well as study and learning space with seating capacity for 3,300 visitors. Homer Commons, featured on Level 1, offers 100+ workstations; electronic classrooms; digital-media creation stations; printing, digitizing and scanning services; IT help; Writing and Quantitative tutoring; and a center for Languages and Cultures. Other notable features of the Babbidge Library include a Scholars Collaborative; a graduate student commons; the Connecticut State Data Center; two public exhibit galleries; two video theaters; three hands-on training rooms; and a popular dining café. The Homer Babbidge Library is open one hundred and fourteen hours per week during academic terms and provides quiet research and study space twenty-four hours per day during finals weeks.

The Storrs campus also houses the Music & Dramatic Arts Library in the Fine Arts complex, the Pharmacy Library in the Pharmacy/Biology building, and the University Archives & Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. Each of the University's five regional campuses — Avery Point, Hartford, Stamford, Torrington, and Waterbury — maintains a library dedicated to serving the programs at those sites. Regional campus libraries hold undergraduate-focused core collections as well as specialized research collections tailored to the needs of graduate programs located at those campuses: Marine Biology at Avery Point; Business, Public Policy, Education, and Social Work at Hartford; Business at Stamford; and Education, Nursing, and Engineering at Waterbury. Although the University Libraries collection is housed at nine locations, the Storrs and Regional Campus libraries share a single catalog and each library serves as a gateway to the collection as a whole.

The UConn Health Center's *Lyman Maynard Stowe Library* is located on the University of Connecticut's Health Center campus in Farmington and serves the needs of the faculty, staff, students, residents, and postdoctoral fellows of the UConn School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, the Graduate Health Programs, the John Dempsey Hospital, and the Health Center's Research Departments. The mission of this library is to identify, investigate, define and meet the informational needs of the educational, research, clinical and service programs of the University of Connecticut Health Center. The library is open and staffed ninety-five hours per week during academic terms and has extended hours during exam periods.

This library places a high priority on the utilization of new technologies when these may be used to enhance traditional methods and to develop new procedures of information services and delivery. Students, faculty and staff are eligible for remote proxy access to all electronic resources

from off-campus. The Shafer 24/7 study rooms are an important component of the library's space and are available to students via controlled card access and average 850 off-hours visits per month. The Computer Education Center, located in the Health Center Library, is managed by Information Technology and provides computer and mobile device support, high speed printing, computer workstations, collaborative teaching spaces, as well as dedicated computer-facilitated instructional and training rooms with smartboards and other technologies. The Director of this library reports to the Senior Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs and the Dean of the School of Dental Medicine. The Health Center Library is included in the accreditation process of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the Association of American Medical Colleges. It submits statistics to both the Association of Research Libraries and to the American Association of Health Sciences Libraries.

The University of Connecticut School of Law's *Thomas J. Meskill Law Library* is one of the largest law libraries in the country and one of the most attractive. Located on the School of Law campus in Hartford, it serves the needs of the faculty, staff, and students of the School, the broader University community, and is the largest public law library in the state of Connecticut, serving attorneys, judges, legislators and the general public. The Law Library's mission is to connect members of the law school community to people, places, information, ideas and resources; to support the curriculum and research needs of its primary patrons. The library holds over 300,000 print volumes and over 90,000 unique titles. The library is open fifty-one weeks a year - 89 hours per week during the academic terms and 112 hours per week during exam periods. The Associate Dean for Library and Technology reports to the Dean of the School of Law. The School of Law and the Law Library are accredited by the American Bar Association. During the accreditation process (which occurs every seven years), the Law Library produces a thorough self-study document. The School of Law was last accredited in 2011.

Staffing and Financial Support

University Libraries: Storrs and Regional Campus Libraries

The University Libraries permanent staff at the University Libraries (Storrs and Regional Campuses) is now 93 FTE, down from 113 in 2006. Approximately 51 FTE student staff work in the University Libraries on a temporary part-time basis.

The University Libraries use its collections allocations to purchase, lease or borrow materials; subscribe to resources; support resource access; and participate in consortial partnerships. The allocation for library materials at the University Libraries (Storrs and Regional Campuses) has remained relatively constant for the past five years from $6,699,741in 2010 to $6,727,799 in 2014.

Health Center and Law Libraries:

The number of permanent staff at the Health Center Library is 23 (13.5 professional, 9 support), down from 29 FTE in 2006. Approximately 4 FTE student staff work in the Health Center Library on a temporary part-time basis. The allocation for library materials at the Health Center Library has remained constant over the past four years from $2,229,541 in 2011, to $2,358,570 in 2014. The number of permanent staff at the Law Library is 14.5 FTE (9.5 professional, 5 support), down from the 2006 figure of 24, partially due to declining student enrollment in the law school. Approximately 13 FTE student staff work in the Law School Library on a temporary part-time basis.The allocation for library materials at the Law School Library has declined slightly over the past four years, from $1,613,399 in 2011 to $1,492,325 in 2014.

Resources for Academic and Research Programs

Until 2015, the University Libraries, the Health Center Library, and the School of Law Library, each maintained a separate catalog. In the summer of 2015 the University Libraries and the Health Center Library will jointly launch a library management system using *Alma* software provided by ExLibris. The School of Law Library will transition to this same system in January 2016. *Alma* is considered one of the premier next generation library management systems, capable of supporting the entire suite of library operations from resource acquisition to metadata management, from financial accounting to item circulation.

The University Libraries continues to improve resource discovery and search options for the community. Since 2011, webscale discovery has enabled users to connect with materials of all types—books, journal articles, videos, archives—via a single search. A webscale search retrieves not only items held within the library, but pulls records and links from the million plus digital resources available through the HathiTrust, the Center for Research Libraries, and repositories around the globe. Direct linking to HathiTrust and Center for Research Library online collections, for example, opens up a host of full-text resources not directly accessible even five years ago. As part of the *Alma* migration, the libraries are transitioning to a new discovery layer, *Primo*, also by ExLibris. *Primo* will enable, for the first time, searching across University Libraries, the Health Center Library, and the School of Law Library.

The campus library also serves as a principal learning space outside the classroom. Gate counts at the Babbidge Library over the past three years show an increasing demand for library space. On a typical day during academic terms, the gate count will range between 7,000 and 10,000. The library provides seating for 3,300 in a variety of individual study and group collaboration spaces; to accommodate overflow, the library opens its technology training rooms as additional study space when they are not otherwise reserved. To further support student learning, the Babbidge Library devotes significant space to a Learning Commons, known as the Homer Commons, developed in partnership with the university centers that support the University's General Education skill requirements: computer technology, information literacy, quantitative competency, second language competency, and writing competency. Homer Commons provides students with a variety of group and individual study spaces and also provides math, writing, language tutoring, library orientation and technology assistance. A private Graduate Study Commons has been set aside for the exclusive use of the graduate student population, accessible only by swipe card. A Scholars' Collaborative was launched in the library in 2014 for the purpose of offering faculty and graduate students the space, expertise, and project management assistance they need to develop innovative projects using digital tools.

Library services have moved aggressively into the online environment. The development of online user services has greatly enhanced the library's ability to provide help where clients are. No longer do they need to come to a specific location (desk, office, or building) to receive essential services. The Libraries' electronic course reserves are now fully incorporated into HuskyCT (Blackboard), the University's courseware management system; online streaming enables classes to view videos when and wherever needed. The delivery of interlibrary loan articles and chapters has long been handled online and a popular scan-on-demand service delivers locally held print articles and chapters to the requester's desktop. The Babbidge Library closed its general reference desk in 2012 and the regional campus libraries soon followed suit. General reference is now handled almost exclusively online via chat and email. Chat reference not only provides immediate assistance to users at point of need, it enables the library to deliver this service from multiple campus locations across the state. Walk-in reference questions are handled via an on-call service, while in-depth research assistance is handled by appointment with subject specialists. Other services finding a new home in the online environment include SkyBox, a virtual computer lab,

which permits access to university licensed software from any authenticated account across the globe.

One of the challenges for the University Libraries has been to reclaim space in order to accommodate the growing demand for learning and collaboration. In response, the University Libraries have engaged in an aggressive program of format transition – removing print copies in favor of digital versions. Reference resources, federal and state documents, journals, and microforms have been primary targets to date. A 2008-2010 review of the federal documents collection reduced that collection by half, and yielding 3,125 square feet. A 2014 - 2015 project to remove print journals for which perpetual online access had been secured, yielded 6,250 square feet.

A further challenge has been accommodating library users' ever growing demand for technology and electrical power. Since 2012 the library has been a beneficiary of the student technology fee, which has enabled the addition of hundreds of power outlets throughout the library. The fee has also enabled the introduction of new technologies such as touch screen scanners for student use, and the development of a popular technology lending program. Run from the library circulation desks at all campuses, this program provides students with temporary use of laptops, iPads, digital cameras, graphing calculators, and other devices that enable them to effectively complete their assignments.

Special Collections

Archives & Special Collections, housed in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center adjacent to the Homer Babbidge Library, is the University of Connecticut's public repository for manuscripts, rare books, photographs, maps, drawings, illustrations, newspapers, periodicals, sound recordings, film and born-digital materials. The collections afford ample opportunities for interdisciplinary research and instruction in such fields as art history, 20th century American studies, music and literature, book arts and the history of printing, children's literature and illustration, natural history, nursing history, and human rights. In setting collecting priorities, Archives & Special Collections seeks materials that build regionally, nationally and internationally recognized collections, add depth or rare and unique materials to its holdings, and support academic programs. Archives & Special Collections also preserves the institutional memory of the University of Connecticut.

Digital Programs

The University's institutional repository has been in operation since 2006. Powered by Berkeley Electronic Press, the *Digital Commons* provides a permanent home for the intellectual output of the University of Connecticut's faculty, staff, and students. As of March 2015, the repository holds 11,173 unique items and has experienced 2, 347,424 downloads. Documents in the Commons include journal articles, theses and dissertations, audio and video files, and conference proceedings by University of Connecticut faculty, staff and students, as well as official University documents such as Board of Trustees minutes. The Digital Commons serves a variety of functions in the scholarly communication process including the ability to e-publish journals. The first Digital Commons e-journal, *The Quiet Corner Interdisciplinary Journal*, was launched in April 2015.

In 2013 the University Libraries established the *Connecticut Digital Archive* (CTDA), which provides a digital home for archives and research data from state of Connecticut agencies, libraries, museums, and other non-profits. The CTDA also serves as the corner stone of the University's data management service, now required by all major federal grant funding bodies. And of particular

significance, the CTDA acts as the service hub in Connecticut for integrating local resources into the Digital Public Library of America. As of April 2015 there were 215,413 digital objects from 27 participating institutions in this open repository.

The University of Connecticut Libraries' *MAGIC* (Map and Geographic Information Center), collaborates with state agencies, organizations, and centers to provide digital access to maps, atlases, gazetteers, aerial photographs, and geospatial data pertaining to the state of Connecticut. This past year (2014) the MAGIC GeoServer received 2,435,592 hits. In 2010, MAGIC was designated the home of the *Connecticut State Data Center*, which serves as the U.S. Census Bureau's State Data hub for Connecticut. The Center provides assistance with Census data and provides a portal for U.S. Census data sets for the State of Connecticut and its municipalities. The Center develops the official population projections for the State of Connecticut, which enable informed planning, analysis and decision making by state officials. The Center's online datasets and resources were visited over 43,291 times in 2014 and the center assisted with 2,451 inquiries from users via phone, email, and in-person.

Collaborations and Partnerships

The University Libraries engages in critical collection sharing partnerships, including the Boston Library Consortium (BLC), a consortium of academic research libraries in New England who share monographic resources via two day delivery services; and the RapidILL Consortium, a national resource sharing system, which provides a fast and cost-effective delivery of journal articles, book chapters, and books. Membership in the Center for Research Libraries secures access to one of the largest primary research collections in the country, including the vast STEM journal collections of the Linda Hall Library in Kansas City. Our partnership with the members of the NorthEast Research Libraries Consortium (NERL), a consortium of major academic and research libraries that now extends across the continent, enables us to attain the most favorable terms for licensing or purchasing electronic resources for the community.

The University Libraries is a founding member of the Eastern Academic Scholars Trust (EAST). The Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust is a newly formed print retention partnership of college and university libraries across the Northeast. The mission of EAST is to ensure that faculty and students in the Northeast of the United States have access to the collective scholarly record of print monographs, journals, and serials housed in the participating libraries. Through multi-library collaborative arrangements, EAST ensures that the region's collective heritage will be preserved and that physical copies of these materials, no matter how obscure, will always be available for consultation. While electronic copies of these materials are increasingly accessible and can meet most scholarly needs, EAST guarantees that the print originals will always be available as well.