3.8.1 Learning/information resources

3.8.1 The institution provides facilities and learning/information resources that are appropriate to support its teaching, research, and service mission.

Judgment of Compliance

In Compliance

Narrative

The University of Alabama (UA) Libraries provides and houses many of the resources utilized by students, faculty, staff, and community “to advance the intellectual and social condition of the people of the State, the nation, and the world through the creation, translation, and dissemination of knowledge with an emphasis on quality programs of teaching, research, and service.” [1] However, other University units also provide learning/information resources that support the University’s mission by enhancing educational environments and opportunities beyond the classroom. For example, the University provides computer labs, curriculum labs, and tutorial centers that are administered by other entities such as Student Affairs, the Colleges, and the Center for Instructional Technology. These assorted resources provide tools and information that assist in the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge.

UA Libraries

Specifically, UA Libraries [2] supports the University’s mission, vision, and goals by anticipating library information, technology, and service requirements; by providing timely access to needed resources; by responding to changing user needs; and by promoting effective use of information by students, faculty, and staff. UA Libraries: [3]

- Supports the academic mission through strong collections and services.
- Provides 24/7 access to digital resources.
- Provides access to unique collections through special collections and digital collections.
- Provides instruction for research and use of resources.
- Demonstrates excellent stewardship of financial resources to provide access to information resources.
- Provides a variety of spaces for individual and group study.
- Provides 24/5 access to Rodgers Library during the academic year and 24/7 access to Rodgers and Gorgas Libraries during study week and final exams.
- Collaborates with other units on campus to promote research skills and strategies.
- Provides access to academic software and technology to support the academic mission.
UA Libraries provide facilities and information/learning resources that are appropriate to support the University’s teaching, research and service missions. The Libraries are responsive to student requests for improving space and services. Recent changes include longer hours on Friday and Saturday evenings in Gorgas Library, adding academic software throughout the libraries, adding books and materials to the collection and placing vending machines for supplies in the libraries. The University Libraries are proactive in planning and executing renovations to facilities to maximize space, increase functionality of space, and improve learning/information resources. Increased enrollment, advances in technology, and changes in the delivery of instruction have encouraged renovations to better provide added seating and study space, particularly for undergraduates who value both quiet study areas and collaborative workspace.

UA Libraries operate under the direction of the Dean of Libraries, who reports to the Provost. Five branch libraries provide access to collections and services for students, faculty, staff and the public. An Annex provides storage space for archived publications. The branches are:

- Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library; [5]
- Angelo Bruno Business Library; [6]
- Special Collections
  - W.S. Hoole Library, [7]
  - A.S. Williams III Americana Collection, [8]
  - University Archives
- McLure Education Library; [9] and
- Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering. [10]

The School of Law administers the Bounds Law Library and the College of Community and Health Sciences administers the Health Sciences Library. The Tuscaloosa campus also houses four discipline-specific reading rooms that are administered separately from UA Libraries branches. They are:

- William E. Winter Reading Room and Learning Commons (College of Communication and Information Sciences);
- Map Library and Place Names Research Center (Department of Geography, College of Arts and Sciences);
- Social Work Reading Room (School of Social Work); and,
- Frances S. Summersell Library, Women’s Resource Center (Division of Student Affairs).

**The Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library.** The largest library on campus, Gorgas Library houses collections and services supporting the humanities, social sciences, and arts, as well as the regional depository collection of government publications. Space in the building, constructed in 1940 with an addition in 1969, is shared by Gorgas Library (eight floors) and the School of Library and Information Studies (one floor). Gorgas Library occupies 133,455 square feet that are devoted to library collections and services. Housed within Gorgas Library are the:

- Alabama Digital Humanities Center, [11] which opened in 2010 and allows faculty, staff, and advanced students to explore digital resources, consult with experts about project development and digital research, and collaborate on innovative research and teaching projects;
- Music Library, [12] which supports the curriculum and research of the School of Music and also provides resources and instructions for faculty and students from other academic departments, including the Department of Theatre and Dance;
- Sanford Media Center, [13] which opened in 2004 and serves as a multimedia production center for students in all degree programs.
In 2007 and 2010, Gorgas Library underwent renovation projects, moving much of its print reference collection to the circulating stacks and to the Annex, thus making room for many more computer workstations and other student study areas, including two new Learning Commons on the first and third floors. Here students benefit from computers equipped with the latest productivity and academic software, and space to study in groups or individually. In addition to core services such as reference, instruction, and in-depth consultations, Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library offers:

- Study rooms with dry erase and smart boards.
- Study carrels that can be reserved by faculty and graduate students.
- PC and Macintosh laptops for loan to faculty and students.
- Macintosh and PC computers, many with academic software.
- Sanford Media Center which includes high end computers, video editing studio, and a wide variety of equipment that can be used in the SMC and checked out.
- Copying and printing services.
- Research Rescue: evening reference services offered in person by librarians during the fall and spring semesters.
- Charging stations for cell phones and other electronic equipment.
- Vending machine for commonly used supplies.

**The Angelo Bruno Business Library.** Bruno Library opened in 1994 and serves the business information needs of UA, in particular the students and faculty of the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration (C&BA), Culverhouse School of Accountancy, and Manderson Graduate School of Business. The Bruno Library shares one floor of the three-floor building with the Sloan Y. Bashinsky, Sr. Computer Center and occupies 43,500 net square feet. In 2011, space was re-purposed in Bruno to add additional seating. Combining business library service and business computer laboratory services in the same facility provides seamless access to information services for business students. Bruno Library also includes an electronic library instruction classroom as well as group study rooms.

**W.S. Hoole Special Collection Library.** Created in 1993, the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library occupies one floor (19,465 square feet) of Mary Harmon Bryant Hall. The mission of the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library is to acquire, preserve, and make available permanent collections of rare and unique research resources for the use of UA faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students as well as researchers worldwide. Topics include poetry, race relations, civil rights, collegiate athletics, folk music, gender studies, naval history, book arts, biographical research, genealogy, and printing history. [14] Hoole also houses the UA Libraries’ digitization facilities.

**A.S. Williams III Americana Collection.** Housed on the third floor of Gorgas Library, the Williams Collection was formally presented to the University in 2010 by Steve Williams. The Williams Collection is maintained as a separate, non-circulating research collection, large parts of which are rare and not yet studied by scholars.

**McLure Education Library.** McLure Education Library serves the College of Education and is located in its own three-story building, occupying 23,387 square feet. The Curriculum Materials Center in McLure Library provides supplemental materials for students and faculty in the College of Education and includes textbooks, teacher activity and lesson-planning books, games, learning kits and other manipulative materials. In 2007 and 2008, the McLure Library underwent several renovations projects that expanded study space and updated facilities. Monographs published prior to 1980 were moved to the Annex during the renovation in order to create space for collections and users. A learning commons was created on the first floor of McLure. In 2013–14 additional renovations have been completed, including renovating a restroom and renovating the lower level to create more space for computers and study.
Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science & Engineering. Built in 1990, the Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering consists of two floors and occupies 30,761 square feet. The library supports teaching, learning, and research in the College of Engineering, the Capstone College of Nursing, and in the sciences and mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences. In 2012, a major renovation of the first floor of Rodgers Library was completed to add more computer workstations, new furnishings, new group study rooms, and a 3D printer. Rodgers Library remains open 24/5 during the academic year to provide study space for students.

Annex. The Annex [15] was constructed in 2003. Located near campus, the 22,100-square-foot, climate-controlled facility has approximately 18,000 square feet of high-density shelving. Annex items requested by users are brought to campus by van twice daily for circulation and are returned to the Annex at the end of the circulation period. Additional shelving has been added to the Annex to accommodate moving collections from the physical libraries on campus to the Annex.

Bounds Law Library. The Bounds Law Library [16] is located on the first and second floors of the UA Law Center and occupies 55,833 square feet. The collection has 664,226 volumes in multiple formats and provides access to a wide range of online legal information. Nearly all items are available via Atticus, the Law Library’s online catalog. [17] The library provides students, faculty, attorneys, and other users with a substantial research collection focusing on American, British Commonwealth, and international legal materials. Bounds Law Library offers a range of services to the Law School community and other users, including:

- Reference service by a staff holding master of library sciences and law degrees;
- Interlibrary loan;
- Library tours;
- Bibliographies and research guides for use by faculty;
- Classroom instruction in legal techniques; and
- A library occasional publication series focusing on special collections. [18]

The Health Sciences Library. The Health Sciences Library (HSL) [19] opened in 1978 and is a unit of the College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS), a division of The UA School of Medicine-Tuscaloosa. In 2004, a new building for the School of Medicine was constructed, and the library moved to the lower level of that building, occupying 5,371 square feet and containing 22,341 volumes. HSL serves to assist CCHS in its mission and goals in health-related education, research, service, and rural health. The library recognizes and gives priority to the information needs of the School of Medicine, as well as UA related health-care programs.

The Map Library and Place Names Research Center. The Map Library (Department of Geological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences) [20] is located in Room 300 of Farrah Hall and occupies approximately 8,000 square feet on two floors and has 1,054 volumes. It is a full regional depository for selected government agencies and is one of two official Place names Research Centers of the United States.

William E. Winter Reading Room and Learning Commons. Located in Rooms 234 and 224 of Reese Phifer Hall, the mission of the William E. Winter Reading Room and Learning Commons [21] is to meet the information needs of the College of Communication and Information Sciences students, faculty, and staff. The goals include contributing to teaching, research, and outreach; acquiring, organizing, and archiving information; and providing expert staff, access to information sources in all formats, and instruction in the retrieval and use of information.

The Reading Room contains 12,044 volumes and includes a variety of collections, including monographs, journals, and other materials in both print and digital formats. A local online catalog is available for material discovery. [22] Both individual and group study spaces are available and in 2012, driven by student need for collaborative study and additional computers, the Reading Room was renovated to include a Learning Commons.

The Social Work Reading Room. The Social Work Reading Room [23] is located in Room 200 Little Hall. Its mission is to meet the needs of the School of Social Work through its collections (461 volumes, 500 VHS/DVDs) and its instruction and reference services. Meeting space is available for students and faculty to consult with the social work librarian.
**Frances S. Summersell Library.** The Frances S. Summersell Library [24] is located within the Women’s Resource Center (Division of Student Affairs) in the South Lawn Office Building. Its mission is to serve as a resource for UA and the community. The library has a growing collection of books, videos, magazines, journals and resource files on a variety of topics, including women’s history, women’s studies, gender studies, women’s health, race/class/culture, relationship violence, sexual assault and more. Individual seating areas are available.

**Library Access and Library as Place**

Access to the physical libraries varies throughout the year. Responding to student and researcher needs, the Libraries increased the number of hours they are open. Rodgers Library for the Science and Engineering is open 24 hours a day, five days a week, while Gorgas Library is open 24/7 during study week and the final exam period for Fall and Spring semesters. [25] The Libraries are open a total of 159 hours per week. [26]

<table>
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<th>Table 1 Seating in UA Libraries</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>University Libraries</strong></td>
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<td>Gorgas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rodgers</td>
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<td>McLure</td>
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<td>Bruno</td>
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<td>Hoole</td>
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<td><strong>Other Libraries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
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UA Libraries offer access to 550 computers and a growing list of academic software. [27] All affiliated UA faculty, staff and students can access these 550 computers and accompanying software any time the UA Libraries are open, which greatly expands the computer lab options available elsewhere on campus. Additionally, library users can check real-time computer availability on their mobile devices. [28]

Access to the Libraries’ digital resources via its electronic subscriptions and other digitized materials, including digitized special collections, is available at any time, from any location, for currently affiliated UA faculty, staff, and students. Such access is particularly critical in service to off-campus and distance education users. All digital resources are available from the Libraries’ websites via login.

**Learning/Information Resources Appropriate to Support Teaching, Research and Service**

UA Libraries acquires, organizes, and preserves relevant information resources that support the academic, research and service mission of the University. Print collections are housed in the 11 facilities on campus and the Annex (storage). The Libraries provide electronic resources and instructional opportunities through core services, including reference, instruction, in-depth consultations, and assistance at service points located throughout the libraries. Both technology and student and faculty expectations changed the delivery of services and information offered. Electronic versions that can be accessed 24/7 from computers replaced physical reference collections. Librarians answer questions via an online Ask a Librarian [29] service as well as social media sites, [30] such as Facebook and Twitter. Mobile access [31] on smart phones is available for the Library website and for reference assistance. Learning resources available system-wide both on and off campus include:

- University Libraries catalog and discovery service (includes materials housed in the Health Sciences Library and the Frances S. Summersell Library) and the Law Library online catalog and discovery service.

- Course reserves available electronically via Voyager, Blackboard Learn as well as in traditional formats housed in the appropriate library available for students enrolled in the courses.
Embedding resources and services in Blackboard Learn

Facts and figures

UA Libraries ranks 37th among libraries at public universities in the United States, according to the 2012 Association of Research Libraries statistics, which represents an increase from the 2007 ranking of 55th. UA Libraries resources include:

- 4.1 million volumes, including 1.2 million + electronic books
  - 40% increase in print since 2007
  - 266% increase in electronic books since 2007
- 400+ electronic databases offering indexing to print and electronic collections as well as full-text journals and books.
  - Average of 71 full text article retrievals per student
  - Up 36% from 2007
- 120,000 unique electronic journal titles
- 503 library user guides, available 24/7 on and off campus, have been created by librarians (LibGuides, http://guides.lib.ua.edu/home).
  - Access 2012–2013 was 154,655 an increase of 67% over 2011–2012 access
  - Access 2013–2014 (through 4/16/14) equaled 103,584
- 124,145 print and electronic subscriptions, up 208% from 2007

The Libraries as a whole continue to invest in electronic materials that are available on and off campus for traditional and distance students as well as faculty. In 2011–2012, the Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering conducted a survey of its faculty and found that e-resources and journals received the top two overall scores of the entire survey with 8.21 and 7.53 out of 10 respectively. Also in 2011–2012, McLure Education Library conducted a survey of its faculty and determined that 90% agreed that the library’s databases and e-journals were useful to them.

In 2010, the Libraries acquired one of the most extensive collections of Americana and Southern history in private hands: the A.S. Williams III Collection of History and Culture of the South. The collection, highlighted by more than 20,000 books and 15,000 photographs, represents a lifetime’s efforts by Williams, former executive vice president and treasurer of Protective Life Corp. in Birmingham. For more than 40 years, Williams, a Eufaula native and UA alumnus, amassed rare examples of Americana – primarily books, manuscripts and photographs relating to the history of the United States, Alabama and the South.

In 2013, the Libraries joined HathiTrust, a partnership of major research institutions around the world. By participating in HathiTrust, the Libraries now have access to over 5.7 million digitized titles and 11 million volumes as well as a research center available to UA scholars.

The Libraries have a robust digitization program. Acumen, the digital repository of unique materials from Hoole Special Collections and the Williams Collection, among other sources, continues to grow. Providing digital access to rare materials helps meet the needs of researchers and students wherever they may be.

Services Appropriate to Support Teaching, Research and Service Mission

UA Libraries offers a variety of services that support the University’s teaching, research and service mission. The eight libraries and three reading rooms are open over 150 hours per week to serve students and faculty. Print resources as well as user space are available all hours that the libraries are open. Service points are staffed during open hours as well. Appointments can be made with subject and reference librarians for in-depth consultations and for instruction. A popular series of brown bags and lectures on special topics is offered in both Gorgas and Bruno Libraries.
The Voyager system and the Ebsco Discovery System allow access to the UA Libraries research collections while Innovative Interfaces allows access to the Law School collections. The Law School implemented a new system in the 2013–2014 academic year. The systems allow users to search for items in all formats, place holds and recalls on-line and request books from the Annex to be delivered to a library service desk. KUDZU, [34] the shared catalog for the research libraries in ASERL, allows users to search all libraries in the system for materials and to request an item via InterLibrary Loan (ILL) from participating libraries. Google Scholar [35] links to articles that UA Libraries own in electronic format. Users must login with their UA credentials from off campus to access full text or to request an ILL if full text is not available. Annex deliveries are completed through the Voyager catalog. Deliveries are made twice a day, Monday – Friday for physical items. Journal articles are scanned and sent electronically.

Despite the changing nature of how libraries deliver collections, from primarily print to increasingly electronic formats, the UA Libraries have continued to see the number of visits to physical locations rise.

**Table 2 Visits to all UA Libraries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Number of patrons</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY11</td>
<td>1,542,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY12</td>
<td>1,721,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY13</td>
<td>1,788,852</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Among users of the physical and/or electronic services, the following list offers a glimpse of essential services and usage.

- Open our doors for general library usage and study: Over 1.7 million people annually
- Face to face and virtual reference (chat and email) reference service sessions: 34,080
- Circulation of library materials: 118,199 items
- Borrow books and articles for UA patrons: 10,143
- Loan books and articles to colleagues around the country: 17,207
- Discovery tool for searches across databases: 411,276 sessions with 174,033,796 searches
- Number of full text articles retrieved: 2,210,691
- Presentations to groups for library orientation/instruction: 971: 19,705 attendees
- Digitized library content for increased access: 352,665 pages total

**InterLibrary Loan (ILL)**

Collections and materials not owned by UA Libraries may be requested via interlibrary loan using the ILLIAD System, [36] which allows users to store their personal information. Users may also check the system for status of requests and view historical requests from the system.

In addition to the ILLIAD System, the Libraries use RapidILL which requires 24 hour or less turn around for delivery of journal articles and book chapters. These requests are sent directly to the user. RapidILL is available via an agreement with Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) and other institutions within the Southeastern Conference (SEC). An average of 94% of the requests submitted via RapidILL were filled in the allotted time frame.

The Health Sciences Library and Bounds Law Library have their own ILL systems and procedures. The Bounds Law Library uses the OCLC World Share ILL system. During the 2012–2013 academic year, the Law Library sent out 142 requests, of which 132 were filled.
Access Services for non-UA Library Users

In addition to UA students, faculty, and staff, borrowing privileges are extended to other users who are not affiliated with the University. These groups include:

- Community borrowers – May purchase a borrower’s card on an annual basis.
- Reciprocal borrowers – Enrolled/employed faculty, staff, students at an approved reciprocal university or college.
- Medical Community – The Health Sciences Library serves members of the medical community.
- Visiting Scholars – Visiting faculty who meet the requirements outlined by the university are granted borrowing privileges.

Additional information about borrowing status and privileges can be found on the UA Libraries website: [37]

Off Campus and Distance Education Library Services

Services comparable to those offered on campus are offered to distance education students. [38] A distance education liaison librarian is a primary point of contact, but all subject and reference librarians are expected to serve distance education populations in their areas. Services are offered online, via the phone, via e-mail, and occasionally by visiting an off-site campus. Distance education students have the same access to electronic resources, research guides, tutorials, Ask a Librarian, and other online services that students who are enrolled on campus have. ILL requests and requests for materials held by the library are submitted through the Circulation Department and are mailed to the student either through the U.S. mail or UPS. In 2012–13 InterLibrary Loan processed 584 requests for distance education students.

Social Networking, Social Media, and Mobile Website

UA Libraries maintain Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, WordPress blogs and other platforms on social media to reach out to faculty and students. These venues are used to promote services, provide information about events, and give tips about research. A feed located on the right hand side of the current website provides links to social media sites and the current posts. A separate page lists current accounts that can be accessed.

The University Libraries’ mobile website added new functionality and services in 2012–2013 to accommodate the more than 200% increase in traffic from 2011–2012. The new mobile website capabilities include a computer availability application/service that allows users to located open workstations in real-time throughout the UA Libraries’ five branches.

Other Learning/Information Resources

UA Libraries partners with other units on campus to offer enhanced services to the students.

- The Writing Center [39] offers evening tutoring hours in Gorgas Library throughout the academic year.
- The Center for Academic Success [40] has dedicated space in Gorgas and Rodgers Libraries to offer tutoring in a variety of subjects throughout the year.
- Librarians from the Gorgas Information Services Department offer reference assistance in Residence Halls on Sunday evenings throughout the academic year.
- The Libraries also partner with programs such as Alabama Reach and the First Generation Student programs in order to provide space and personnel to offer additional instruction and support for students.
1. UA Mission Statement ([PDF](#))
   Full Document ([Website](#))

2. UA Libraries ([PDF](#))
   Full Document ([Website](#))

3. UA Libraries Mission Statement ([PDF](#))
   Full Document ([Website](#))

4. Library Student Survey, 2011 ([PDF](#))

5. Amelia Gorgas Library ([PDF](#))
   Full Document ([Website](#))

6. Angelo Bruno Business Library ([PDF](#))
   Full Document ([Website](#))

7. W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library ([PDF](#))
   Full Document ([Website](#))

8. A.S. Williams III Americana Collection ([PDF](#))
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    Full Document ([Website](#))

12. Music Library ([PDF](#))
    Full Document ([Website](#))

13. Samford Media Center ([PDF](#))
    Full Document ([Website](#))

14. Hoole Book Collection ([PDF](#))

15. Library Annex ([PDF](#))
    Full Document ([Website](#))

16. Bounds Law Library ([PDF](#))
    Full Document ([Website](#))

17. Law Library Online Catalog ([PDF](#))
    Full Document ([Website](#))

18. Law Library Occasional Publications ([PDF](#))

19. UA Health Sciences Library ([PDF](#))
    Full Document ([Website](#))

20. UA Map Library ([PDF](#))
    Full Document ([Website](#))

21. William E. Winter Reading Room and Learning Commons ([PDF](#))
    Full Document ([Website](#))
22. Reading Room Catalog (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

23. Social Work Reading Room (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

24. Frances S. Summersell Library (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

25. Library Extended Hours (PDF)

26. Library Hours Chart (PDF)

27. Libraries Software List (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

28. Library Available Computers (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

29. Ask a Librarian (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

30. Library Social Media Sites (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

31. Libraries Mobile Site (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

32. Faculty Survey (PDF)

33. Library Digitization Program (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

34. KUDZU (PDF)

35. Google Scholar (PDF)

36. Inter Library Loan System (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

37. Borrowing Policies (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

38. Library Distance Ed Services (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

39. UA Writing Center (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)

40. Center for Academic Success (PDF)
   Full Document (Website)