

Welcome to the University Libraries, University of Memphis



The University Libraries is a leader in managing and providing access to information services and resources that support teaching, learning, and research for the University of Memphis (UofM) community. The University Libraries' faculty and staff are committed to the following values: Service, Quality, Integrity, Diversity, Collaboration, and Innovation.

The University Libraries consists of the McWherter Library and three branch libraries: Music Branch Library located on the Main Campus in the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music; Lambuth Campus Branch Library located in Jackson, TN; and the Health Sciences Branch Library located on the Park Avenue Campus in the Community Health Building. Onsite use of the University Libraries' facilities is available not only to the

students/faculty/staff of the UofM, but also to the general public from the local community and surrounding Mid-South area. In cooperation with the UofM Office of Disability Resources for Students, the University Libraries houses the Assistive Technology Lab in the McWherter Library first floor Learning Commons.

The collections held by the University Libraries as of June 30, 2013, include 1.3 million bound volumes; 3.7 million pieces of microformat materials; 10+ million manuscript pieces; 814,000+ photographs; and a wide variety of audio-visual materials. The University Libraries' electronic resources are made available via the University Libraries' website www.memphis.edu/libraries. Faculty and students have access to 76,000+ full-text electronic books, 17,000+ full-text journals and over 350 electronic databases that, in turn, provide access to additional journals, books, newspapers, etc. Items not available locally may be obtained by faculty and students from other libraries through the University Libraries' Interlibrary Loan Office.

Two collections of note within the McWherter Library are the Government Publications Collection and the Special Collections. As the Regional Federal Depository for the State of Tennessee, the University Libraries provides leadership and coordination for the 23 libraries throughout the State that participate in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). This Regional designation also means that the University Libraries receives and/or has access to all U. S. Government Printing Office publications in print, microform, and electronic formats. The Government Publications Collection presently holds 625,000 print documents; 1,727 rolls of microfilm; and 1,119,875 microfiche that are available not only to the students, faculty, and staff of the UofM, but also, by law, to the public.

The Special Collections house personal and organizational papers, manuscripts, rare books, photographs, oral histories, and the UofM archives. The largest portion of these materials form the Mississippi Valley Collection (MVC), which focuses on the history and culture of the region surrounding Memphis, particularly West Tennessee, North Mississippi, East Arkansas, and the Missouri bootheel. Topical areas with strong holdings include African American history, the Civil War, and American popular entertainment with special emphasis on the early 20th Century circus.[11] In May 2013 the documentary film, *MLK: The Assassination Tapes*, directed by Tom Jennings (1895 Films for the Smithsonian Channel) was awarded the prestigious Peabody Award. The citation on the Peabody Award website states: "Painstakingly configured from rare footage collected at the University of Memphis in 1968, the documentary relives the events leading up to the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and its aftermath." The production made significant use of the various formats of materials from the Sanitation Workers Strike Collection in the University Libraries' Special Collections. In 2010 the University Libraries' Digital Repository (ULDR) was launched to preserve and promulgate more widely the unique archival materials from the University Libraries' Special Collections. Currently the ULDR contains 22 collections containing more than 20,000 digital files in a variety of formats, including text, image, audio, and video. Notable collections include the Robert R. Church Family and the Sanitation Workers Strike. With the generous support of Ampro Industries, Inc., the University Libraries has become the locus for the National African American Photographic Archive (NAAPA) which was begun by the owners of Ampro Industries, Inc. The NAAPA incorporates relevant material from the University Libraries' collections with the active solicitation of community resources which enlarge the understanding of the African American experience.

For more information visit our website at <http://www.memphis.edu/libraries> or call the Research and Information Services Desk at 901-678-2208.