

Volunteer & Giving Opportunities

2019-20



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS[®]

University Libraries

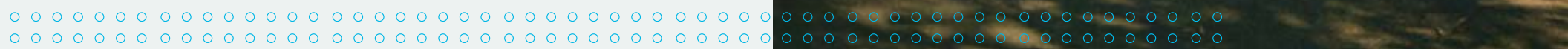
libraries.memphis.edu

HISTORY OF THE NED MCWHERTER LIBRARY

The McWherter Library opened to the University of Memphis campus on Sept. 1, 1994. The dedication with the then Gov. Ned R. McWherter was on Oct. 14. These events, however grand, could not do justice to the thousands of hours contributed by hundreds of individuals at the University who stocked the building from the ground up. Known for the next 25 years as the “new library,” McWherter replaced the outdated library structure in existence since 1969, located in Brister Hall.

Planning authorization for what was to become McWherter Library was granted in 1987 with the final plan completed in 1989. The building program languished in Nashville until 1992 when funding was approved by the legislature. Completed in 1994 under budget and ahead of schedule, McWherter Library became the six-acre centerpiece of the University Libraries and its five branches, including seating for 2,200, 76 assigned carrels, group study rooms, 136 staff – including 32 faculty librarians – and well over 1 million items on its shelves. Also included were 725 data points for computer network access to accommodate the newest technology: the internet.

The only major renovation to occur since the library’s opening was the 2006-08 creation of the Learning Commons on the first floor with satellite locations throughout the upper floors. Though serviceable and durable, McWherter Library is prime for a makeover after 25 years.





FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Friends of the University Libraries is an organization of volunteers from the UofM campus and Memphis-area community who strive to assist the University Libraries in fulfilling its mission. The Friends are a key element of the Libraries' development program through membership remittances and gifts, which provide essential support to the educational mission and programs of the Libraries.

The purpose of The Friends of the University Libraries is to:

- Assist in fundraising both on campus and beyond, so that the resources and facilities of the Libraries may be maintained and expanded
- Develop public awareness and appreciation for the contribution the Libraries make to the University and its communities
- Assist in the development of the Libraries' collections of books and materials
- Promote an increased use of the Libraries' facilities by students, faculty and other qualified individuals to enrich the cultural and intellectual life of the area
- Serve in an advisory capacity when requested by the Executive Director of Libraries



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The University Libraries offers wonderful opportunities for every volunteer's strengths and interests!

Most requested volunteer tasks:

- Reshelving materials
- Translating materials into various languages
- Marketing street team
- Processing donated materials

Join our volunteer team by visiting

memphis.edu/libraries/about/support.php

DONOR GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

As the component of the University that reaches each student and faculty and staff member, as well as countless others across our communities, there is no more critical element to the University and its scholarship than the University Libraries. In order to acquire, preserve and sustain access to materials and resources for all users, external funding to the Libraries is essential. Gifts to the University Libraries are investments, not only in the future of the Libraries, but in the future of our entire University. Such gifts can come in many forms, including annual contributions, gifts of endowment, gifts of personal holdings and planned gifts. In addition, numerous naming opportunities are available within McWherter Library.

Librarians have identified the following current, vital needs to foster faculty and student success.

McWherter Library

- New student study and lounge furniture
- New laptops for student check-out and use

Music Library

- Collected works editions
- New artwork for public display

UofM Lambuth Library

- New student study area furniture
- Incentive donations (gift cards, movie tickets, etc.)

the sandbox. Technology & Services

- Purchase equipment for all libraries
- Sponsor events and workshops
- Contribute to the creatorspace's sustainability fund for materials

Database Purchases

- American Civil Liberties Union Papers, 1912-90 (GALE)
- Archives of Sexuality & Gender, parts 2 & 3 (GALE)
- Associated Press Collections Online: U.S. City Bureaus Collection (GALE)
- Food and Drink in History (Adam Matthew)
- Jewish Life in America, c1654-1954 (Adam Matthew)
- Political Extremism & Radicalism in the Twentieth Century (GALE)
- Race Relations in America (Adam Matthew)

TWO NEW FUNDS

Research Sustainability Fund

Support ongoing research by Libraries faculty and staff with internal funding to more richly develop research projects.

View faculty profiles at memphis.edu/libraries/profiles. Recent research projects by faculty and staff include:

- Search box usability study
- Student-parent focus groups to identify needed library services
- Open Access survey to study nationwide librarian behaviors and attitudes

Libraries Event Fund

Support recurring and new Libraries events. Recent events include:

- NEDtalks - a biannual research forum for students and faculty
- Pop-Up Library at the Marcus W. Orr Lecture Series - a small collection of circulating books for the community
- Open Mic Night - an annual event for students to showcase talent
- MLK50 Speech - programming and events surrounding historical Memphis event

Learn more and donate today!!
memphis.edu/libraries/about/support.php.

