

“Some of the extras that make the Lied Library special wouldn’t be possible without the generosity of donors... In my view, a fine library is a cultural anchor for a city. This is especially needed for a young city such as Las Vegas. As the heart of a university, the library is perhaps the only rallying point for a very diverse community. As such, the library and the city have the reciprocal responsibility to support each other.”

– *David Emerson, Emeritus Dean of Science,
Member, Libraries Advisory Board*

“The University of Nevada, Las Vegas is entering a new era of learning — an era in which librarians and faculty are working side by side to explore new methods of scholarly research and teaching. The University Libraries are a driving force for this change. Through partnerships like this, UNLV will emerge as one of the region’s top research universities.”

– *David B. Ashley, President, University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

At UNLV, the University Libraries are dynamic laboratories. These centers of learning and research are built on the traditional role of a library augmented by the benefits of today's online technology.

Some of the highlights of the Libraries include:

- The new librarian, an information-management expert.
- Collections that enable research and exploration.
- Special Collections, which documents the unique contributions of the region.
- Librarians as partners in education, teaming with teaching faculty in innovative ways.
- Lied and the specialized branch libraries as community partners.
- Using Technology to transcend perceptions.

– *Patricia Iannuzzi, Dean, University Libraries*



Web Services Librarian Darcy Del Bosque with patron.





A photograph of Steve Fitt, an instruction librarian, standing in a classroom or library setting. He is wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, a patterned tie, and glasses. He is pointing towards a computer monitor. In the background, a large screen displays a Windows desktop with various icons and a landscape image. The text "Instruction Librarian Steve Fitt teaches a class at Lied Library." is overlaid in the top right corner.

Instruction Librarian Steve Fitt teaches a class at Lied Library.

“As more of the world gets its information in overly simplified and often dangerously misleading sound bites, the ability to identify, acquire, and analyze more in-depth knowledge from more specialized sources of information is far and away the most valuable part of a college education.”

– *Gregory S. Brown, Associate Professor of History*

THE NEW LIBRARIAN

Experts in information access and evaluation

Information today expands beyond the walls of a building or the pages of a book. Technology connects us to the real world in real time. This universe without boundaries unleashes the potential of our imagination.

University librarians serve as guides to this expanding world of knowledge by teaching others how to access and evaluate information.

ACCESS

The university librarian is an information-management expert whose sources of data have expanded from books and manuscripts to include video, digital, and multimedia resources.

Staff members are available to answer questions 100 hours a week. And, subject liaisons — information experts in particular areas such as business, marketing, and nursing — are available almost any time.

In addition, the Libraries' website is a discovery portal available all day every day. And just a click away, online tutorials, created by library specialists, provide assistance with every aspect of research from databases, media research, class assignments, and technology applications.

As partners in exploration, librarians recognize their patrons' diversity. Their broad user base includes full- and part-time students, teaching faculty and researchers — both seasoned and new — and members of the Las Vegas community. Cultural and generational diversity generate very different learning styles — and communication with users can range from in-person meetings to e-mail to instant messages.



EVALUATE

University librarians help students distinguish between real gold and fool's gold. They teach them to identify credible information sources by evaluating results from popular search engines. And they introduce students to the more sophisticated, scholarly resources necessary for research.



Librarians fulfill their educational mission by working with faculty and students to teach information-literacy skills, helping students become self-sufficient explorers, miners of information.



Today's university librarian must also exceed the expectations of patrons who grew up accustomed to instant and global access to information. They teach these patrons how to refine their information searches and become more discerning.




COLLECTIONS SUPPORT RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION

Knowledge changes our perception of the world

The Libraries' collections — both print and electronic — enable scholars to conduct deeper, richer, and more comprehensive research. By connecting students and researchers to e-texts, e-journals, data sets, and digitized images, the Libraries significantly enhance access to their collections. The results of this new research can change the world — or how history is defined. For example, students researching the American Civil War — who once had to rely on others' interpretations of history — now can access a variety of newspapers actually published during the war. More importantly, they can conduct this research online in a matter of minutes from anywhere at any time.

Electronic texts, newspapers, and journals from the 1600s to today, licensed specifically for our community, are just a sampling of the Libraries' enhanced collections.

Strengthening collections using technology: It took the Libraries 46 years to acquire 1 million print volumes — it took only three years to obtain half a million electronic volumes.

A photograph of Peter Michel, Director of Special Collections, showing a patron the 1 millionth volume added to the Libraries collection. Peter Michel, a man with grey hair and a mustache, is pointing towards a book on a table. The patron, a woman with dark hair, is looking at the book. The setting is a library with wooden tables and chairs.

Peter Michel, Director of Special Collections, shows a patron the 1 millionth volume added to the Libraries collection.

“ I use Lied Library’s electronic, print, and media resources to enhance both my research and my teaching. Interlibrary borrowing and online archival indexes in particular have allowed me to access source materials from all over the world — an invaluable resource for a British historian writing and teaching in Las Vegas. ”

– Michelle Tusan, Assistant Professor of History

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS — A RESOURCE FOR EVERYONE

UNLV's Special Collections Department preserves the rich and unique history of Southern Nevada and offers researchers — locally and around the world — an opportunity to see the cultural, societal, and environmental elements that shaped its history. Three subject areas — Las Vegas, gaming and its history, and the exploration of the American West — form the department's core.

In addition to books and periodicals, Special Collections connects researchers to a dazzling array of unique materials, including manuscripts, maps, photographs, posters, scrapbooks, corporate archives, architectural drawings, ephemera, oral histories, and video footage.

Special Collections is also home to the Center for Gaming Research, which holds the world's finest and most complete collection of gaming-related research materials, and the Oral History Research Center at UNLV, which conducts and collects audio interviews of first-person observations of the history of Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. Many of the collections are increasingly available online.



Research and Information Librarian Sidney Lowe provides one-on-one help to a student.

“ The staff at Lied Library has done a remarkable job helping students in my Mass Media History class with their research projects over the past three years. They have organized tours, customized lists of research resources specifically for the class, and provided me updated accounts of various media-related archives. UNLV is fortunate to have this state-of-the-art library and an exceptional staff. ”

– *Gregory Borchard, Ph.D., Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies*

LIBRARIANS ARE TEACHERS, PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

University librarians team with faculty to create courses and develop programs

University librarians are creating a legacy of confident thinkers capable of sifting through an overwhelming flood of daily information and making well-informed, sound decisions. They teach the members of the campus community the skills to be self-sufficient, lifelong learners.

University librarians and teaching faculty develop courses such as SCI 101x, “Introduction to Scientific Study,” that help students acquire critical-thinking skills and learn how to find, evaluate, and use information effectively and ethically. These information literacy skills are crucial in the age of the Internet.

Librarians also develop innovative programs to encourage student retention. One initiative, the Undergraduate Peer Research Coaches Program, recruits at-risk undergraduates and trains them to serve as front-line research mentors to their peers. Another, the Libraries Award for Undergraduate Research, a partnership with UNLV’s Division of Research and Graduate Studies, recognizes excellence in undergraduate research projects that incorporate University Libraries’ collections and demonstrate sophisticated information literacy skills.

Instruction Librarian Priscilla Finley assists a patron.



LIBRARIES ARE PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Libraries touch the lives of everyone who uses them, shaping the future of students and preserving valuable links to the past

The Libraries serve as a resource for the community at large. Whether community members want to look up a recent government publication or use Special Collections to learn about the history of the region, there is a pathway to knowledge in the University Libraries. The Libraries are also a resource for many professionals in our community.

UNLV's three branch libraries support the specific needs of those professionals. The Architecture Studies Library, dedicated in August 1997, is an important resource for local architecture professionals and the general public. Its collections include the archives of the Las Vegas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and it is a place where students and professional architects meet and share ideas.

The Curriculum Materials Library, renovated in January 2005, supports the teacher-education programs within the College of Education and serves as a resource for teachers in the Clark County School District. The Teacher Prep Room, containing equipment for the fabrication of instructional materials, is a welcome complement to the collections of juvenile literature and pedagogy.

The Music Library, dedicated in September 2001, supports the curriculum of the music department and the teaching and research needs of faculty and students. Its collections are highlighted by sheet music, scores, and recordings available to local musicians as well as the UNLV community.



“Working at the library gives me the opportunity to interact with the students, faculty, and members of the community. You can really tell how many resources the library has when you see the wide variety of people who use it. The library is a great place to study, research — even socialize — between classes!”

– *Laura Bott, UNLV Class of '07*

PUSHING BOUNDARIES

The Lied Library transcends perceptions to inform, inspire, and motivate

The Libraries are designed to facilitate learning and enhance students' educational experience. By combining the knowledge and expertise of library faculty with new technology, Lied Library has broadened the definition of a traditional library and changed the perception of what a learning environment should be. Whether at computer workstations, in individual or group study areas, or in the coffee shop, students have made Lied Library their place to study, learn, and connect.

Today's libraries must provide easy and instant access to information, and Lied Library is using innovative technology to achieve this. For example, instant messaging with a librarian makes it simple for students to get their questions answered. The Lied Automated Storage and Retrieval (LASR) has doubled the library's on-site collection capacity. The Libraries' utilization of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) to manage collection inventory allows students to find what they need when they need it.

Coupling 21st-century technology with expert staff is Lied Library's formula for success — a formula that has moved it from the center of campus to the center of student learning.



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