

WKU Libraries supports the informational, research and curricular needs of WKU students, faculty and staff by selecting, acquiring, organizing and providing access to all print, non-print, and electronic library resources. Reference services in person, by phone or virtually, research instruction and orientation classes on demand or as part of the University Experience courses, and a wireless environment provide an attractive environment for research, collaboration or quiet study.

Connie Foster, Interim Dean

WKU Libraries
Cravens Building
Office 101, 745-2905
www.wku.edu/library

WKU Libraries offers services through the main complex Helm-Cravens Library, the Kentucky Library & Museum, the Educational Resources Center, the Visual & Performing Arts Library, and the regional campus libraries. The Library collection includes more than 800,000 books, 100,000 volumes of periodicals, 1.2 million microforms, and one-quarter million government documents. Each year approximately 12,000 books are added to the collection and over 3,500 subscriptions with online access to nearly 30,000 journals. Primary access to the collections is provided by TOPCAT, the Libraries' online catalog. TOPCAT terminals are located near library service desks and on each floor of Cravens stacks. Remote access is also available.

The main entrance to the Helm-Cravens Library is on the fourth floor of the Cravens building near the Fine Arts Building. Circulation Services occupies this floor, where patrons may charge out library materials or request the use of laptop computers. The Leisure Reading Collection, new books display, photocopiers, and a faculty photocopying service are also located here. The Department of Library Public Services office is located on the fifth floor of the Cravens building. The remainder of the fifth floor, and floors 6 through 9 house the main portion of the circulating book collection, offices, conference rooms, and graduate student study carrels. The Visual & Performing Arts Library (VPAL) is located on the second floor of Cravens and houses collections in music, theatre, dance, art, photography, and costume, including 7,000 films in DVD and VHS; 3,800 CDs and 15,000 vinyl records. It provides a special listening and viewing area, soundproof rooms, a large-scale digital scanner, and the Libraries' main reserve collection. The Department of Library Technical Services, which handles the acquisition, processing of and access to all library resources and student personnel, is located on the third floor of Cravens. The Dean of Libraries office and staff are on the first floor.

The Helm building adjoins the Cravens building through walkways connecting the fourth and fifth floors of Cravens to the first and second floors of Helm, respectively. New in 2011 is the Chinese Learning Center, which is on Helm first floor as one leaves Java City Café and passes through to the Reference Service Desk. The Reference collection is located on the first floor of Helm along with Interlibrary Loan. The Periodicals and Microforms collections are located on the second floor of Helm. Current periodicals and bound volumes of periodicals published since 1980 are located here. The second largest computer lab on campus, the Student Technology Center operated by Academic Technology, is also on the second floor. The ground floor of Helm houses the federal depository documents collection, selected Kentucky state documents, and the law collection. Bound periodicals prior to 1980 are housed in compact shelving on this floor.

The Educational Resources Center (ERC) is located on main floor of Gary Ransdell Hall. The ERC provides information required for academic and enrichment activities and serves as a repository for curriculum and professional materials and resources in support of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

The regional campus libraries (Glasgow, Owensboro, and Elizabethtown) provide reference assistance to students at those campuses and assist them in requesting extended campus library services.

The Department of Library Special Collections and the Kentucky Museum are located in the Kentucky Building. The special collections provide access to Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, University Archives, rare books, manuscripts, microforms, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, scrapbooks, diaries, sheet music, hymnals, maps, photographs, broadsides, and reel-to-reel and cassette tapes. Most of these study and research collections relate to Kentucky history and life. These library collections are non-circulating and must be used in the building. The museum contains thousands of Kentucky and non-Kentucky artifacts, decorative arts, textiles and clothing, an extensive art and quilt collection, silver, Native American tools and textiles, toys, and a wide assortment of everyday artifacts, which are displayed in the exhibits. The museum also offers a year-round program of field trips, workshops, lectures, receptions, and exhibit openings designed for the University community, as well as the general public.

Each service area or branch has printed library guides or check the online site at www.wku.edu/library for additional news and updates.

The library blog announces new programs, acquisitions, and services at <http://blog.wku.edu/library>. Annually, WKU Libraries hosts the Southern Kentucky Book Fest, the Kentucky Writers Conference, and two lecture series, Far Away Places and Kentucky Live.