
University Libraries

WKU Libraries
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WKU Libraries supports the informational, research and curricular needs of students, faculty and staff by selecting, acquiring, organizing and providing access to print, non-print, and electronic library resources. Research assistance is offered in person, by phone or virtually. Research instruction and orientation classes are available on demand or as part of the University Experience courses. A wireless environment enhances research, collaboration or quiet study.

The Helm-Cravens Library houses a research collection of over a million items, is a federal depository for US government documents, and offers an extensive collection of e-books, databases, streaming videos, and one of the region's largest collections of foreign and independent films. The Educational Resources Center (Gary Ransdell Hall), the Visual & Performing Arts Library (VPAL, Cravens 2nd floor) and regional campus libraries in Glasgow, Owensboro and Elizabethtown-Fort Knox have additional collections and access to all electronic resources. Distance learning students are served through Extended Campus Library Services which delivers materials electronically. Primary access to collections for all students on and off-campus is through a single search of most library resources at www.wku.edu/Library.

The main entrance to the Helm-Cravens Library is on the fourth floor of the Cravens building near the Fine Arts Building. The Commons at Cravens has a single service point for research, technology and writing, as well as being adjacent to Circulation Services where patrons may charge out library materials and request laptops. The Commons offers a variety of study spaces and 30 lab computers. The Department of Library Public Services office is located on the fifth floor of Cravens. 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. VPAL has collections in music, theatre, dance, art, photography, and costume, including educational and popular DVDs, CDs and 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 connects to the Cravens building through walkways on the fourth and fifth floors of Cravens to the first and second floors of Helm respectively. The Reference collection and Interlibrary Loan are located on the first floor of Helm. Journals, microforms, and newspapers are located on Helm second floor. Current periodicals and bound volumes of periodicals *published since 1986* are located here. The Student Technology Center is also on the second floor with computers for student use. The ground floor of Helm contains the federal depository documents collection, selected Kentucky state documents, and the law collection, as well as bound periodicals *prior to 1986*.

The Department of Library Special Collections, located in the Kentucky Building, houses a wealth of primary research material in various formats, such as rare books and newspapers, sheet music, photographs, audio recordings, and extensive archives from the University and the community. Most, but not all, of these study and research collections relate to Kentucky history and life. These materials are non-circulating and must be used in the building; however, many examples from the collection are now available online.

Each service area or branch has printed library guides or go to www.wku.edu/library for online guides, news and updates. The library also has a mobile app. The library blog announces new programs, acquisitions, and services at <http://library.blog.wku.edu>. The library also manages TopSCHOLAR, the research and creative activity database at WKU, which provides access to student and faculty work at <http://digitalcommons.wku.edu>.