Overview

Research universities such as the George Washington University increasingly focus interdisciplinary research and collaborative approaches on solving complicated problems. While libraries have been bringing people together for centuries, new academic buildings and laboratories now purposefully house departments of seemingly disparate disciplines to encourage intellectual exchange that will lead to a cross-fertilization of ideas across the boundaries of specialties. The GW Libraries are at the forefront of this collaborative trend, representing an academically neutral ground in which faculty and students cross paths—where academic disciplines routinely bump into each other.

Support for the GW Libraries is strong, as exemplified by the generosity that transformed the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library’s second floor into a cutting-edge, modern learning environment. This project was an important step in making the GW Libraries the state-of-the-art information center our users need to assemble information and create new knowledge.

Campaign Priorities — $35 million goal

- $18-20M Collections and research resources
- $10-12M Library services and technology
- $5-8M Learning environments
The intellectual powerhouse of a great university is its libraries, and the quality and capacity of the GW Libraries are key to fulfilling the ambitions of the university, its students, and its faculty, who come to GW to make a difference. The GW Libraries help students and faculty harness the transformational power of information in the 21st century to advance understanding and address global challenges. They accomplish scholarly achievements by gathering existing information from all over the world, processing and analyzing it, then applying critical thinking to produce new insights and knowledge. Through the GW Libraries’ resources, vast amounts of information are available to students, faculty, and researchers from almost any location, opening the way for streamlined scholarship and providing powerful tools for understanding and solving the complex problems of our time.

The GW Libraries aim to become an unparalleled hub of knowledge and research for the GW community. Providing resources for our collections, our people, and our facilities will benefit each student at this university. A gift to the GW Libraries supports every academic discipline across GW’s multiple campuses. Join us in our journey.

Fast Facts

- **22,600** reference consultations annually
- **Nearly 800** information literacy classes taught annually
- **$24,500** grant to develop software that helps capture data from Twitter
- **21%** of GW’s 2 million+ volumes are electronic
- **2M+** articles accessed electronically each year
- **5K-8K** visitors daily