

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
THE JOHN M. OLIN LIBRARY

LIBRARY: n. 1. A considerable collection of books kept for use, and not as merchandise; as, a private library; a public library. **2.** A building or apartment appropriated for holding such a collection of books. **3.** [In computing] A collection of standard programs and subroutines that are stored and available for immediate use.



WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: n. 1. Fourteen libraries on three campuses: twelve on the Hilltop Campus and one each at the Medical School Campus and West Campus. These are the John M. Olin Library (the main library), Art & Architecture Library, Biology Library, Kopolow Business Library, Chemistry Library, Earth & Planetary Sciences Library, East Asian Library, Law Library, Mathematics Library, Gaylord Music Library, Pfeiffer Physics Library, Social Work Library, all on the Hilltop, plus the Bernard Becker Medical Library and West Campus Library. **2.** Libraries without walls: 24/7 online access for the Washington University community, lets users view hundreds of databases, electronic journals, and other digital resources, from anywhere in the world. **3.** Holdings: Print collections of 3.6 million books, periodicals, and government publications; more than 33,000 film and video titles; extensive collections of special and rare books, manuscripts and archives; access to 43,000+ electronic journals and to collections at 57 Missouri academic libraries in the MOBIUS consortium.

JOHN M. OLIN LIBRARY: n. 1. Radiant resource for learning, literally and figuratively at the heart of the Washington University campus. **2.** Facility dedicated in May 1963 by Washington University as a 20th century model for an academic library. **3.** Reconstructed, renovated, and expanded facility dedicated in May 2004 by Washington University as a 21st century model for an academic library. Includes a 17,000-square-foot expansion, a café, a 50% increase in seating, twice the previous number of public access computers, wired or wireless network access throughout the building, and new furnishings and finishes.

ENLIGHTEN

v. tr. *To supply with light; to illuminate. 2. To make clear to the intellect or conscience; to shed the light of truth and knowledge upon; to furnish with increase of knowledge; to instruct; as, to enlighten the mind or understanding.*

Freshly renovated and expanded, the John M. Olin Library is flooded with light, both natural and artificial. On Levels 1 through 3, daylight streams through the “lantern” atop the now-enclosed atrium. Inside the atrium is a café offering extended-hours study, varied seating, and public access computers. Window walls wrap all four sides of these levels, brightening study areas, offering fine views in all directions and imbuing the building with a sense of transparency. Carefully planned artificial light illuminates areas below-ground on Levels A and B.

A striking and practical feature of Level 1 is the expansive Help Center, just inside the library entrance; its placement and commanding sweep convey its centrality and importance to the user. The Help Center brings together high-demand user services that previously were scattered throughout the building. Concentrating these services in one area makes library use easier and more efficient for everyone – from the first-year student to the seasoned scholar.



WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S LIBRARY HISTORY

From Inception to the Present

1853
Washington University founded
in downtown St. Louis.

1889
Stephen Ridgley donates \$66,000
for a “fireproof” library building.

1899
Architects Cope & Stewardson
begin designing Hilltop
buildings, including library.

RENEW

v. 1. To make new again; to restore to freshness, perfection, or vigor; to give new life to; to rejuvenate; to reestablish; to recreate; to rebuild. **2.** To begin again; to recommence. **3.** To make new spiritually; to regenerate.

Student Life, April 1963 *Olin Library has Changed Campus Life in Major Ways ...* To the serious student, Olin has meant much. Providing ideally isolated areas for study and easy access to all materials, genuine in-depth research has been greatly facilitated. Also, it has opened many new doors to knowledge by encouraging the casual examination of many heretofore-concealed editions. Finally, the general physical facilities, including the air-conditioning, comfortable furniture, and interesting art and literary displays create an atmosphere in which studying is "almost" a pleasure ... All it needs now is a food dispensing area ...

Student Life, January 2004 *Worth the Wait ...* Olin is now among the most pleasing buildings on campus ... Most impressive ... is the attention to student needs that is evident in the renovation's results [including] numerous types of seating (tables, individual carrels, [club] chairs and ottomans); group study rooms; seating at computer stations; lights, power outlets and Ethernet connections on tables; copiers in well-planned spaces instead of randomly placed ... The Arc, the new technology center, has numerous thoughtful features, from adjustable computer tables to the booths with swinging monitors that facilitate group work ... the relocation of library services – circulation, the help-desk, ILL, etc. – to one central counter on the first floor makes understanding and navigating library resources easier ... the new Olin was well worth the wait.



Library groundbreaking. — **1902**

Ridgley Library dedicated. — **1907**

University Librarian reports
Ridgley will be full by 1932. — **1927**

University Library owns 460,000
volumes, housed in Ridgley and
14 school and department libraries. — **1946**



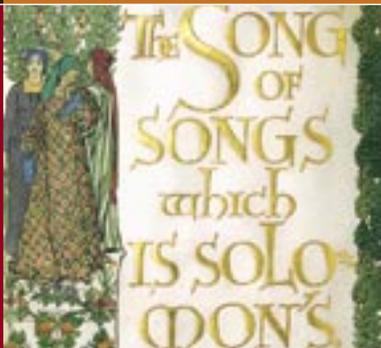
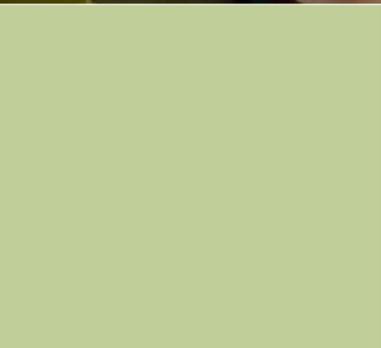
With a library you are free, not confined by temporary political climates. It is the most democratic of institutions because no one – but no one at all – can tell you what to read and when and how.

Doris Lessing, novelist



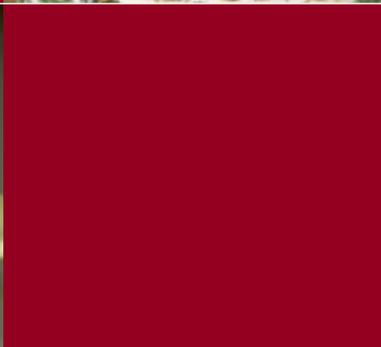
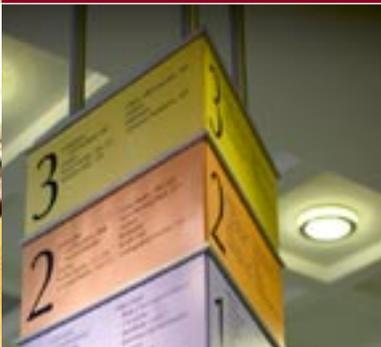
COLLECT

v. tr. 1. To bring together in a group or mass; gather. **2.** To accumulate as a hobby or for study.
v. intr. 1. To come together in a group or mass; gather.



The library's strong collections, including rare and unique special collections, draw the University community and visiting scholars. The library's extensive holdings provide the necessary resources for the many areas of study at the University. The renovated Olin Library attracts more visitors than ever before. While here, they read, write, solicit staff expertise, and collaborate.

Special Collections attracts scholars from around the world, hosts visiting classes, and generates exhibitions and lectures to showcase its holdings. From papyri to film archives, from a Nuremberg Chronicle to Samuel Beckett's notebooks, from Eads Bridge engineering drawings to Arts and Crafts fine press books, this unique set of holdings spans the 1st to the 21st centuries and gives this library its special identity.



Beyond traditional holdings, the library offers extensive online resources available anytime of the day or night. These range from science journals to early English literature to the records of the Dred Scott court case.



John M. Olin's lead gift of — **1953**
\$1 million allows planning for
new library facility.

Architectural firm of — **1956**
Murphy and Mackey, St. Louis,
wins national competition to
design new main library.

Groundbreaking for Olin Library. — **1960**

John M. Olin Library opens. — **1962**
(formally dedicated May 1963)

Libraries take first steps — **1974**
in library automation.

CONNECT

v. tr. 1. To join or fasten together. **2.** To associate or consider as related. **3.** To join by means of a communications circuit. **4.** To plug in (an electrical cord or device) to an outlet. **v. intr. 1.** To become joined or united. **2.** To establish a rapport or relationship; relate.

It is no coincidence that Dean of University Libraries Shirley K. Baker also serves as the University's Vice Chancellor for Information Technology. Today, libraries and technology are natural partners. Technological advances greatly extend the library's ability to serve members of the University community, on campus, at home, or abroad.

In Olin Library's technology center – the Arc – students and faculty digitize and edit photographs, slides, videotape, and text; prepare interactive tutorials and course modules; and develop multimedia products incorporating sound, video, animation, still images, and text, all within a setting designed to accommodate individual or collaborative work.

Olin Library connects past and future, traditional and cutting edge, print and electronic, the physical and the virtual, and makes discovery a 24/7 phenomenon.

1982
Danforth Foundation
earmarks \$4 million gift
for library automation.

1984
Libraries celebrate acquisition
of two millionth volume.

1995
Actress Mary Wickes,
a WU alumna, leaves bequest for
endowment for television and
theater arts materials.

1996
Libraries celebrate acquisition
of three millionth volume.



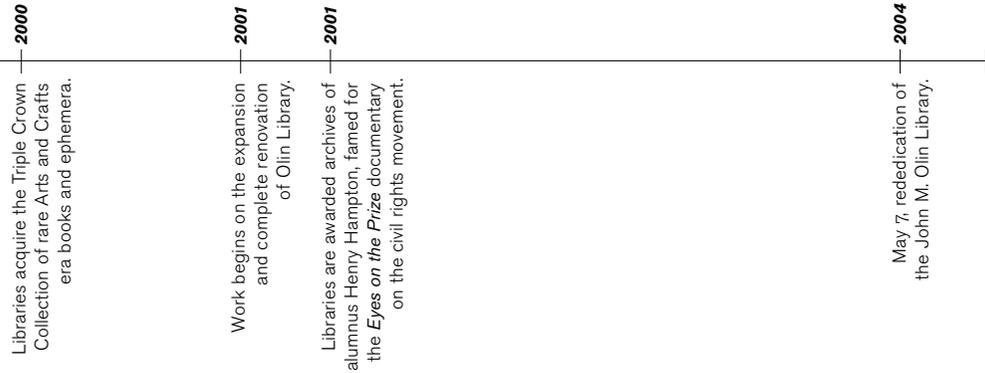
CONTINUE

v. intr. 1. To go on with a particular action or in a particular condition; persist. **2.** To exist over a prolonged period; last. **v. tr. 1.** To carry forward; persist in. **2.** To carry further in time, space, or development; extend. **3.** To carry on after an interruption; resume.

Treasuring the Past, Shaping the Future, the motto of Washington University's Sesquicentennial, applies equally to the John M. Olin Library, now occupying its spectacularly renovated quarters on the Hilltop. While technological advances aid library users in quickly accessing a wide variety of electronic resources, the library will continue to collect traditional print resources for use by students, faculty, scholars, and the broader community. Every day, Olin Library presents its users with an inviting, comfortable, and hard-working environment where today's work will inevitably shape the future.

"This institution and this library ... shall always be a beacon for the development of and dissemination of fact and truth, the keystone of all education."

John M. Olin, businessman, former University Trustee, lead donor for the original building





3

COLLECTIONS: C-F, HISTORY

FACULTY STUDIES (GROUP)
GRAND READING ROOM
LOUNGES
LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION
RESTROOMS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, LOCKERS, PHOTOCOPIERS

2

COLLECTIONS: G-K, SOCIAL SCIENCES

FACULTY STUDIES (GROUP)
GRADUATE STUDIES
SMALL-GROUP STUDIES
LOUNGES
READING ROOMS
RESTROOMS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, LOCKERS, PHOTOCOPIERS

1

COLLECTIONS: NEW BOOKS, CURRENT JOURNALS, NEWSPAPERS, POPLIT, REFERENCE

CAFÉ
HELP CENTER
PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS
READING ROOMS
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
RESTROOMS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, PHOTOCOPIERS

A

COLLECTIONS: L-P, LITERATURE, EDUCATION, MICROFORMS, ISLAMIC & NEAR EASTERN STUDIES, VIDEOS

FACULTY STUDIES (INDIVIDUAL)
GRADUATE STUDY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDY
TECHNOLOGY CENTER (THE ARC)
RESTROOMS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, LOCKERS, PHOTOCOPIERS

B

COLLECTIONS: A-B, Q-Z, SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, FOLIOS & OVERSIZED BOOKS, GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

FACULTY STUDIES (INDIVIDUAL)
GELLHORN LOUNGE
GRADUATE STUDY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDY
RESTROOMS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, LOCKERS, PHOTOCOPIERS

I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT BOOKS. *Thomas Jefferson*

THE JOHN M. OLIN FLOOR PLAN

Ground Level

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Washington University Libraries website
at www.library.wustl.edu, or contact:

Help Center 314.935.5410

Administrative Offices 314.935.5400

Special Collections 314.935.5495

Library Development Officer 314.935.7128