Library Resources

UNC Library System. The library collections and services of UNC are contemporary, extensive and accessible. The Health Sciences Library is one of over a dozen libraries located on campus that support the University’s academic and professional programs. Campus libraries broadly cover the fine arts, the biomedical, health, and physical sciences, humanities, law, and social sciences. The combined book and serial volumes held exceeds 8,200,000 (including 1.5 million e-books); 5.2 million microforms; 1.6 million government publications; 496,684 audiovisuals; 287,600 maps; and 2.4 million graphic items. In addition to providing users with an array of informational, instructional, and research resources, the libraries offer a wide range of reference and referral services. In support of the University’s mission of service to the people of the state and the nation, every campus library is open to all users.

The University Library consists of the Walter Royal Davis Library, the main library that principally serves the humanities, social sciences, and business; the Robert B. House Undergraduate Library that includes the major reserve reading materials and the Media Resources Center; the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, with five distinct collections of rare and unique materials, including the official archive of the university; and branch libraries for art, music, science, information and library science, and Black culture and history. The Health Sciences Library, the Kathrine R. Everett Law Library, and several independent libraries, including the Carolina Population Center Library, the School of Government Library, and Park Library of Journalism and Mass Communication, complete the campus network.

The UNC Library system is a member of the Association for Research Libraries, a non-profit organization operated and maintained by its participating institutions for the sole purpose of increasing the library research materials available to its readers. The system also participates in the Triangle Research Libraries Network, a library consortium involving UNC, North Carolina State University, Duke University, and North Carolina Central University, allowing UNC faculty, staff, and students to borrow materials from the other university libraries.

The Health Sciences Library (HSL) is the primary library for the UNC schools of Dentistry, Medicine (including Allied Health Sciences), Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health, and for UNC Hospitals and the North Carolina Area Health Education Center, the statewide program for health professions’ education. The HSL is ranked among the top academic health sciences libraries in the nation, and it is one of the largest of its type in the U.S. as measured by square footage, number of staff, and expenditures. It is well known for digital library development and for providing unique access to electronic services to special clientele including off campus students. HSL connects people everywhere with knowledge to help them teach and learn effectively, ensure quality health care, conduct vital research and make informed decisions.
HSL provides health information services to almost 9,000 Health Affairs faculty, staff, medical residents, and preceptors both on and off campus. It also serves over 5,000 graduate, professional, and undergraduate Health Affairs students and 8,980 attending physicians, staff, and residents based at UNC Medical Center. HSL librarians offer a variety of customized services, including extensive literature searches, online and face-to-face education, online self-help guides, on-site office hours, support for web-based and instructional technology projects, and connections to campus resources and expertise. Librarians participate on committees and teams in schools and units, for example, curriculum committees, accreditation review teams, and research grant teams. In addition, librarians orient faculty, clinical instructors, and students to the latest in library technology and databases.

The HSL contains more than 293,000 print and non-print titles and access to over 200 electronic databases. There is an exceptional collection of over 8,500 electronic serial publications, over 18,000 electronic books, over 4,600 streaming video titles, and over 457,000 total print volumes. The library is a Resource Library for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, meaning that it participates in national and international interlibrary loan consortia. This participation allows the library to borrow materials quickly from other libraries around the nation and the world.

The library employs 54 full-time staff. It is nationally recognized for leadership in outreach to its primary clientele and the general public, locally and globally. Liaison librarians work closely with allied health sciences, bioinformatics, clinical and translational science, dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, several clinical departments at UNC Medical Center, UNC Health Care administration, cancer clinicians and researchers, as well as patient safety, patient education, quality improvement, and patient resource centers committees.

The library continues to consistently lead in curricular integration of information management competencies instruction. It was the first academic health sciences library in the country (1983) to have a separate department of information management education. Students in all five Health Affairs schools receive information skills instruction from HSL librarians. Librarians work with faculty to incorporate information skills learning in modules at appropriate points throughout the students' multi-year academic experience. Library staff have also demonstrated their commitment to the education and training of health information professionals by hosting post-graduate fellows and serving as mentors, preceptors and employers of information and library science graduate students, as well as entry-level and mid-career professionals.

HSL partners in the research process by providing informationist and data management support, guidance, and referrals. The library also provides in-person consultations, instruction or training for teams and classes, and consultation in research-related workshops or events.
Opened in 2015, the Research Hub @ HSL connects UNC researchers at every stage of the research process with the experts and tools they need to help make their research more efficient, connected and collaborative. Researchers and research teams can take advantage of technology-enabled spaces that foster collaboration, expert referrals, and training provided by Hub librarians and campus partners. The Hub offers a suite of researcher-focused services and programs and provides assistance with finding funding, background literature, data, and collaborators, as well as with data management, systematic reviews, publishing, measuring research impact, and NIH public access compliance. The Hub also provides instruction on equipment and software use so teams can apply new digital research methods to their work. The Research Hub @ HSL offers a variety of software in the following categories: data visualization and molecular & chemical modeling tools, data cleaning tools, GIS mapping tools, programing applications, and statistical applications. The Research Hub’s Collaboration Center space offers large screen displays paired with these software, and video and web conferencing software including PolyCom Real Presence, Skype, and Google Hangouts.

Additionally, since 2009, HSL has partnered closely with NC TraCS, UNC’s Clinical and Translational Science Award. HSL has helped NC TraCS set up and improve its information management processes and continues to help identify major funding opportunities and help collect and report impact measures of NC TraCS’ programs.

In 2003, the Health Sciences Library launched NC Health Info, providing access to local health services, providers, programs, and reliable health information, as well as information tailored to help North Carolina residents become informed patients and manage their health care. Librarians also provide instruction to the public about online health information resources. Health professionals across the state have access to state-of-the-art information through the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Information and Library System. The AHEC Digital Library is a unique portal for these professionals to use current medical literature and other quality health information resources through electronic full-text journals, books and databases as well as continuing education. The Library’s Global Engagement @ HSL provides support to faculty, students and staff who work internationally and with global partners. HSL librarians collaborate with the UNC Department of Family Medicine on YOUR HEALTH®, a weekly radio show that features health experts, patient experiences, and recent health topics in the news. Librarians created and help maintain the show’s website and also provide links to consumer health information about the topics covered each week.

The Carolina Digital Health Research Initiative (CaDHRI) is a partnership among HSL, the UNC School of Medicine, and UNC Health Care’s Center for Innovation. CaDHRI promotes innovative use of digital health solutions to solve pressing patient-centered health problems. Digital health includes mHealth (mobile health applications), wearable devices, wireless health, sensors, digital medical devices, connected health solutions,
and self-tracking systems. Digital health is closely connected to personalized medicine, e-patients (electronically engaged patients), the use of personal health records, electronic medical records, big data in healthcare, and gamification. CaDHRI provides UNC researchers with digital health devices, consults on the use of digital health in health care research, and hosts workshops and seminars to promote a deeper understanding of digital health among faculty, students, and health providers on campus. CaDHRI also builds exposure to digital health, galvanizes a network of digital health expertise on campus, and sparks new innovations in healthcare by serving as the foundation for exploration in digital health research.

Renovation of the library building was completed in early 2005. The Library is fully wireless, with guest wireless access, and equipped with 64 public computer workstations, 20 small group study rooms, 2 teaching labs with a total of 45 workstations, 3 video conferencing facilities, 2 well-equipped public conference rooms, and a coffee shop. The Research Hub @ HSL offers video/web conferencing technologies, large-screen displays paired with a variety of data analysis and visualization software, and an event space with web streaming capability. The library seats 578 people (401 open seats, 35 café seats, 50 classroom seats, 65 conference room seats, and 27 Research Hub Collaboration Center seats). Some spaces, including Research Hub Open Study and Event Space, can be reconfigured to seat large groups of 50 or more.

HSL includes the UNC Site for Telemedicine Video-Conferencing. Room 328 seats a maximum of 12 and has a complete, state-of-the-art integrated video system with a superior video quality. The Tandberg 3000 MXP allows connection to 4 video and 3 audio sites, with embedded multi-site functionality, powerful live presentations with one-step PC and LAN connection, and the ability to view presentations and presenters simultaneously with DuoVideo and H.239 dual stream.

Equipment features include:

- A TANDBERG PrecisionHD Camera that zooms and rotates,
- A 16:9 flat screen monitor with 42" plasma, and
- CD-quality, stereo audio with Digital Natural Audio Module (DNAM) provided through 2 integrated speakers (60 W).

Performance features include:

- Choice of Network: up to 512 kbps ISDN (H.320)/ 2 Mbps IP (H.323 or SIP),
- Superior video quality incorporating the H.264 standard,
- Highest level of embedded encryption as well as IEEE 802.1x and H.235 authentication for security,
- True CD-quality, stereo audio, and
- Protection against network interruptions in point-to-point and multipoint calls with automatic downspeeding and IPLR.
The School of Media and Journalism is served by the Park Library. Located in Carroll Hall, this 5,000-square-foot facility offers specialized resources and assistance to faculty, students and scholars in the school. The library has a full-time library director and a collection of more than 10,000 books, in addition to newspapers and serials, current and historic, in print, online, or multimedia formats. The facility also offers complete access to all materials in the broader UNC Library system. The Park Library supports the school’s educational, research, and professional outreach mission by teaching journalism and mass communication students, selecting appropriate materials for courses taught in the school, and providing space for study and research. The entire facility offers wireless access and patrons may also access various databases on 11 personal computers and one Bloomberg terminal.

The School of Information and Library Science Library collection contains 102,435 volumes with comprehensive resources in library and information science. As the enrollment numbers increase at SILS, students are especially glad to have convenient access to our substantial collection of print and electronic books.

The rate of collection growth remains steady; the average number of books purchased annually is 2,000 titles. Our collection of juvenile books is growing and includes a core collection of graphic novels for children and adults. SILS Library has 988 journal titles that support the school’s curriculum, especially in computer science and library science. Additionally, this library, which is centrally located near Lenoir Dining Hall and UNC’s main Davis Library, has the only full-service children’s collection, including significant holdings of pop-up books, on the UNC campus.

The SILS Library Reading Room is the venue for a variety of outreach events and activities throughout the academic year. The room is also well-utilized by SILS students, especially for team meetings and group works on projects, and adjunct faculty use the space for meeting with their students. During the previous academic year, 66,267 people walked into our library space with a weekly average of 1,325 people, and approximately 65,000 people will walk through the library doors during the current academic year. The SILS Library continues to be at the heart of the SILS community.

The Carolina Population Center Library provides access to a wealth of resources to facilitate population-related research. Available resources include access to online catalogs and databases, links to Internet resources and full-text journals, CD-ROMs, books, journals, technical reports, government documents and area files. The library offers a courier service to obtain materials from other campus libraries and to borrow materials that are not on campus.

The Center Head Librarian provides reference assistance, identifies sources of statistical information, conducts literature searches and orders and obtains research materials. She also provides training and technical assistance on conducting literature searches and developing proper search strategies, searching a variety of literature databases, using bibliographic management databases, and guidance on a range of
copyright and scholarly communications issues. In addition, she assists faculty and staff with the process of publication in scientific journals, including compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy.

The Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research Library is overseen by two full-time librarians who conduct bibliographic searches from electronic sources and consult with researchers about information retrieval, storage and dissemination. The librarians provide basic searches to inform planning for projects and papers, and work with staff to build project databases. Medline, the National Library of Medicine’s on-line indexing and abstracting service, has a current additions file that is searched monthly for the newest articles in designated areas of interest. These abstracts are distributed to requesting staff members. The National Library of Medicine also houses HSRProj, a health services research-focused database compiled at the Sheps Center. The center also has access to the comprehensive biomedical and public health database repository service offered by the Health Sciences Library and the electronic database access service offered by Davis Library on the main campus. Using a computer in the Sheps Center, users can search business and government databases at no cost. Search results can be captured and made available to requesting clients in a matter of minutes. Utilization of these resources permits real-time access to databases and libraries worldwide. Sheps Center librarians assist and instruct in the use of three bibliographic management tools in use at the Sheps Center: EndNote, RefWorks, and ProCite.

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