

Mary Idema Pew Library Self-Tour

Visit the MIP Library on your own or in a small group during [open hours](#). Below are some stops to check out on the trip.

Remember: Masks and social distancing are required in the building

We hope you'll utilize our virtual services as much as possible this year, but we are still here for you! Here are some stops on a typical library tour—some things are different than they've been in past years.

Atrium (bottom level)

IT Help Desk

The [IT Help Desk](#) is staffed by knowledgeable students who are here to help with technology questions. You can call or chat with them.

Library Labs 001 & 002

This semester, both labs will be utilized for regular classroom space. When not occupied by a class, Lab 001 has computers available for student use.

Atomic Object Showcase

The Atomic Object Showcase has tech-based and electronic learning objects and is staffed by knowledgeable students. The showcase is still deciding how best to serve the campus community for fall, so check their [website](#) for more information.

First Floor

Service Desk

Staffed by friendly library workers, the service desk is where you go when you've got a question about pretty much anything. When they don't know the answer, they know where to look.

Self-Check out

If you picked up a book, you can handle the check-out process yourself. Scan your GVSU ID, then place the book(s) on the check-out pad. The titles will show up on the screen with a green check-mark next to them. Choose how you would like your receipt delivered, and then you're good to go.

Popular Reading

The shelves of books next to the self-checkout are popular reading titles—novels and non-fiction that are fun to read rather than something you'd pick up for an assignment. Reading for pleasure is fun and relaxing. We highly recommend it!

Knowledge Market

In other semesters, this is where the Knowledge Market consultants were available for in-person writing, research, speech, and digital projects consultations. For the foreseeable future, Knowledge Market consultants will be available online by [appointment or drop-in](#).

Café

GV Brew serves coffee, tea, bakery items, and sandwiches if you need a boost.

Print stations

There are printing rooms on every floor. To socially distance, only one person should print at a time. Bring your ID to scan so that your documents can be released. When you print, documents are released into the cloud and held until you scan your ID at a print station, which allows you to print from any location on campus. Visit IT for [more information about printing](#).

ASRS

You may have heard we have robots in the library. Most of our books are kept in a secure, climate-controlled area underneath the library, and these robots, called the “automated storage retrieval system” (ASRS) find the books when a patron requests them and deliver them to our workers. You can [watch the ASRS live](#) to see how it works.

Second Floor

Librarian offices

To the right of the stairs is the suite of offices for liaison librarians. This semester, the door won’t be open, and most librarians will be working off-campus. You can [contact a librarian](#) by email any time.

OURS

The [Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship](#) supports curious students as they complete research in their discipline. Contact OURS to talk about your interests!

Computers

The library has public terminals—Mac and PC—available on three floors. These computers have access to the vast majority of electronic library resources.

Stacks

There are books in the library! The stacks—shelves of books—are available on floors two, three, and four. To keep everyone distanced, only one person should be in each row at one time. If you pick up a book, but decide you don’t want it, leave it on a cart at the end of the row. We’ll re-shelve it for you.

Study spaces

The library is built to have spaces for people who like a little noise and people who like it quiet—the “quiet” area is by the stacks. Check out all the different kinds of seating and environments!

Third Floor

Collaboration Zone

Floor-to-ceiling whiteboards and seating built for a group is featured here—a great place to go when you need to be able to talk and plan with others.

Outdoor space

Fresh air! Take advantage of beautiful weather by sitting in our third-floor court yard. Just be warned—there are no outlets.

Reading room

The third-floor reading room (there's one on the fourth floor, too) is a favorite of the silent studiers. The reading rooms are the only place in the library where there is absolutely no talking. The third floor has a great view of the carillon tower and features a big cozy fireplace.

Study rooms

Three of four floors feature study rooms that can be reserved for groups of 1-3. You can [reserve rooms](#) ahead of time or occupy empty ones on a first-come, first-serve basis. Some rooms have screens for presentation and sharing.

Fourth Floor

Rooftop garden

By the time you get to the fourth floor, you've seen a lot of the same things. By the reading room, there's a door to our rooftop garden, where on a clear day you can see all the way to Lake Michigan. Just stand back of the barrier!