University Libraries Podcast Script

Hello, my name is Kelsey and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. I would like to take this time to talk about the excellent services that the GVSU University Libraries offer graduate students and discuss how these services can help students succeed academically.

The University Libraries are currently made up of four unique locations, with two in downtown Grand Rapids and two in Allendale. These libraries serve the entire GVSU community and each library’s collection is tailored to its location and the programs it serves.

The Steelcase Library is located on the Pew Campus in downtown Grand Rapids and serves as both a traditional library as well as a technologically-advanced learning environment. This library offers collaborative work spaces, private study rooms, a large reading room, and one of the knowledge market locations. The Knowledge Market is a collection of services offered to help GVSU students develop research strategies, analyze data, improve writing, or polish presentations.

The Frey Foundation Learning Center is located in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences in downtown Grand Rapids, and offers print books and journals specific to the health professions, public computers, and large spaces for group work.

Also located on GVSU’s downtown Grand Rapids campus is a Curriculum Materials Library that offers current, high-quality instructional materials for preschool through grade 12 and provides spaces where graduate students from education, health sciences, and social work can preview resources, develop lesson plans, and try out teaching aides.

The Seidman House, located in Allendale, houses special and digital collections as well as university archives. The special collections include a substantial number of rare books, Michigan novels, the Harvey Lemmen Collection on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, and the Johnson Center Philanthropy Archives, as well as other special collections. The digital collections include a selection of photographs, correspondence, diaries, interviews, and other university entities.

The Mary Idema Pew Learning and Information Center is the largest library at Grand Valley State University. Opened in 2013, the Mary Idema Pew Learning and Information Center was awarded a LEED Platinum award for its sustainable energy usage. There are a variety of spaces available to study and learn, including 19 group study rooms, 2 learning labs, and 2 large reading rooms, presentation practice rooms with visual hook ups, an innovation zone, and a multitude of quiet spaces. This library location also houses another knowledge market location and the IT Help Desk.

While each library is unique in its own right, there are common services amongst all four University Libraries that all students have access to. The University Libraries house a robust collection of resources in multiple formats that support the research and scholarship activities of students and faculty members, including over 650,000 print volumes 60,000 electronic journals, and more than
one million e-books. Printing labs are also available and allow students to print course documents and materials free of charge using their GVSU student login and password. Technology lending is also available. Students may request to borrow laptops, calculators, webcams, headphones, monitor adapters, dual headphone adapters, whiteboards, markers and erasers for designated periods of time. For more information on where you can borrow these items, please visit www.gvsu.edu/library/technology-lending.

GVSU also employs liaison librarians who are faculty members and experts in the discipline of library and information sciences. They know how to find information in specific disciplines and can assist students with citation management tools, data management, writing style guides, avoiding plagiarism, copyright and fair-use, open education resources, and so much more. Liaison librarians also design subject guides, or research short-cuts to better assist students in finding quality resources in your discipline. Guides are available for all majors and some for specific specialized courses. To find a list of liaison librarians, please visit the subject librarian webpage at www.gvsu.edu/library/librarians.

The University Libraries have also established the Open Access Publishing Support Fund to remove financial barriers that prevent researchers from publishing in open access journals. The libraries cover up to $3,000 of author submission fees to support the ability of researchers to publish.

As you can see, the GVSU libraries are not only physical spaces available for student studying, they provide student research assistance, offer access to a nearly unlimited number of scholarly resources, and so much more. The University Libraries can provide a wide range of student support during your time at Grand Valley State University. For more information about library services please visit www.gvsu.edu/library.