As told by Amanda Pellerin, Two time Georgia State University graduate (2005 2010)

I love history. It has been my favorite subject since the second grade. Which is why I am surprised that my awareness of the archival profession did not happen until my sophomore year in college. When I enrolled at Georgia State University, my academic trajectory felt definitive but my career path afterwards was less clear. The inevitable follow up question to “what are you studying?” was “what are you going to do with your history degree?”

On my first research day in the University Library’s Special Collections and Archives department, I met two women who would change my life – Cathey Steinberg and Morna Gerrard. My introduction to Cathey came while listening to her oral history interview housed on the library’s YouTube page.

When I asked Morna how these amazing stories were collected, she told me volunteers conducted the interviews so in my eagerness I signed up to volunteer immediately.

As a volunteer, I realized that archival work offered a practical application of history through service to donors, researchers, and communities. From that moment on, I knew I wanted to be an archivist.

After graduation, I became a full time employee with the University Library. Over the next couple of years, I completed the Masters in Historic Preservation program. The degree coupled with the experience attained while working with Special Collections and Archives opened the door to subsequent professional archivist positions. My transition from college to career was supported by the resources and services of the University Library. Georgia State University not only delivered a quality education experience but also guided me to a profession related to my studies that I am passionate about.

Our Case for Support

Helps us create a dynamic, attractive, and resource-rich environment for students, faculty, and the community.

Beyond Grades and Classrooms

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Mission, Vision, and Values

MISSION
Provide resources and services that enhance student learning and success, inspire creative expression, enable the creation of new knowledge, and facilitate informed dialogue.

VISION
The Georgia State University Library will be looked to as a national model of the innovative research library: the intellectual commons of the University, a valued partner in student success, and an integral component of the University research community.

VALUES
- Collaboration. We seek partnerships and promote open communication.
- Diversity. We value diversity and strive to create a climate of openness, respect, and appreciation.
- Innovation. We are innovative, flexible, and creative.
- Integrity. We act with consistency, honesty, fairness, and professionalism.
- Learning. We promote the lifelong pursuit of knowledge.
- Service. We serve our community in a knowledgeable, receptive, and courteous manner.
History of the Library

The University Library has existed since 1936. In 1945, the library was relocated to the first floor of the newly purchased Ivy Street Building and was staffed by three professionally trained employees. The second floor of Sparks Hall became the library’s home in 1955. The library’s facilities were air-conditioned and included a large reading room and space for 150,000 books. The library soon required a building of its own to house its burgeoning collections. The first phase of construction resulted in a two-story building, which was completed in 1966. Three additional floors were added to the new library building during the second phase of construction in 1968.

The building was completed in 1969, and the surrounding plaza was eventually landscaped. A variety of comfortable reading and study areas were provided inside the library. As the descriptive brochure stated, “the library at Georgia State College is not a book barn. It is a place for people.”

A 1969 agreement with representatives of the Southern labor community resulted in the addition of archival materials to the library’s collections. The holdings of the Special Collections Department originally consisted of the Southern Labor Archives and Georgia State University Archives but soon grew to include a Popular Music collection, the library’s Rare Books collection, and the Georgia Government Documentation Project.

The library’s first computerized circulation system was implemented in 1971 and used Hollerith cards. The new bar code system allowed for immediate updating of circulation records and provided access to circulation information from any computer terminal.

The first of the Perimeter Libraries was established on the Decatur campus with the completion of the SA building in 1972. The library facility, as part of the third floor provided a 10,258 square feet space for students.

A rapidly-growing collection and staff on the Atlanta campus soon required the construction of another large addition to the library building. The expansion into the Academic Building, now known as Library South, was completed in 1987 and required the rearrangement of nearly all of the library’s one million volumes.

The library grew again in 2008 on the Atlanta campus with the expansion of the bridge connecting Library North and Library South, adding even more space for students to study, meet, and research.

The Clarkston library facility which is housed in a 114,371 square foot building was built in 1993. Then in 2001, the Dunwoody library facility, originally located in the Dunwoody Student Center building opened in a new 46,600 square foot building.

In 2009 Newton opened it’s 8,800 square foot library space. Alpharetta opened its 1828 square foot library space in 2010.

In his book Where Good Ideas Come From, Stephen Johnson tells us that big discoveries typically stem from assembling existing ideas in new ways. A “platform” where people from different walks of life come together can facilitate “collisions” of ideas that lead to new insight, and that “spark” innovation.

We aim to provide this kind of a place – both online and in our six library facilities. By boldly developing spaces and programs that support this vision we seek to become a leading model of the progressive research library.
Library Departments

Collection Development
The Collection Development Department selects the resources that comprise the University Library’s electronic and print collections. The Collection Development Department works closely with the Research & Engagement and Perimeter Library Services departments to build collections that meet the research and teaching needs of the faculty and students of Georgia State University. The Collection Development Department also evaluates the collection regularly to assure its relevance to the university’s changing needs.

Digital Library Services
The Digital Library Services Department develops and manages technology and systems to support the academic goals of Georgia State’s students, faculty, and staff. To that end, the department provides workstation support, maintains the Library’s website, digitizes library collections, and works with faculty and students on digital scholarship projects.

Research & Engagement
The Research & Engagement Department supports research and learning across the university. Librarians connect Georgia State’s academic departments to the library services and resources. Subject liaisons collaborate with and advise users across the entire research lifecycle. These librarians are also intermediaries between the academic departments and Collection Development, working with both to ensure our collections promote the research and teaching missions of the Atlanta campus. Within Research & Engagement, the Research Data Services team supports data-focused research projects and learning across multiple disciplines involving quantitative, qualitative, business, and spatial/GIS data.

Special Collections
Special Collections and Archives collect and preserve unique and rare historical materials in selected subject areas. The department promotes the use of these materials by the Georgia State University community, scholars and the public. Its goal is to advance scholarship and to further the educational, research and service missions of the university.

Perimeter Library Services
Perimeter Library Services provides access to librarians, technology and collections to support learning and success at library facilities at each of the Perimeter College campus. Perimeter College works with Research and Engagement and Collection Development to ensure services and collections that meet the unique needs of the students, faculty, staff and local communities in which the libraries reside.
The Library: By the Numbers

- Over 2 million titles held as of June 2017
- Over 2 million online full-text articles requested
- Over 6,000 interactions with patrons
- Over 2 million visits to Library sites on 6 campuses in FY17
- Over 22,000 exchanges through Inter-Library Loan
- Over 700 Virtual Reality Room open in 2017 with already over 700 visits
- Over 400 computer workstations
- 460 presentations to groups on Library services, library use, and tours
- Over 20,000 linear feet of Special Collections and Archives
- Over 130,000 uses of our group study rooms
Priorities for the Future
& how you can support the work of the University Library

Space

Library Reimagined - The Georgia State University Library seeks to be a national model of the innovative research library and aims to provide dynamic physical and virtual spaces in support of our Strategic Intentions. With this in mind, the University Library has developed a master plan for the Atlanta campus library, which will guide our space decisions in the years ahead. Help create the library of the future by giving to the Library Future Fund.

Technology

Workstations - With over 400 workstations in the University Library, several of them need to be updated or replaced every year. Help us keep our technology up to date so it can keep up with our scholars.

CURVE - The Collaborative University Research & Visualization Environment (CURVE) is a technology-rich discovery space designed to promote interdisciplinary engagement, collaborative investigation, and innovative inquiry. Support for new, emerging, and upgraded technologies will allow us to continue to meet the research and digital scholarship goals of our students, faculty, and staff. Help support innovation in the university library by giving to the Arthur Vandenberg Library Innovation Fund.

Special Collections

Oral Histories - Special Collections and Archives houses an extensive compilation of oral history interviews that complement its manuscript holdings.

Restoration and Digitization of Photographs - With over 8 million photographs, our collection of 20th century photographs, including the Atlanta Journal-Constitution photo morgue, is astounding. Over 63,000 images are digitized and available online at the Georgia State University Digital Collections, with new additions every day. The restoration and digitization process is expensive and time consuming, but your gift can make it possible to provide the world access to these photographs.
Endow an Archivist - Our archivists work hard every day to make sure our collections are up to date and well preserved. Endow an archivist’s position to ensure the continued success of our collections.

Preserve our Current Collections - The cost of caring for, describing, and giving access to rare and historic materials is extremely time consuming and expensive. Donating to our archives preservation endowment ensures that we have the necessary funding to preserve our collections for generations to come. Give to the General Library Endowment Fund.

Special Projects

Library Research Award - This award, offered annually to doctoral students in any discipline helps fund travel to a museum, archive or library to complete dissertation research. Recipients present on their travel and research as it relates to their dissertation. The Library Research Award fund also allows for prize money to go to 3 Minute Thesis winners, presented by the Library and Graduate Programs. The research communication competition supports the development of students’ capacities to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. Please consider a gift to the Library Research Award.

Collection Development

Collections Funding - Georgia State University scholars and students rely on the libraries’ collections to make discoveries, expand their knowledge, and inspire a lifelong love of learning. Your financial contribution to the University Libraries’ collections budget would increase our ability to provide faculty and students with a richer and even more diverse collection to support their activities. As an innovative research university our faculty and students often seek non-traditional library resources to carry out their work such as: statistical products used in data visualization and mapping applications; streaming video products used by faculty in teaching and supporting distance education; STEM video journals illustrating lab techniques and experiments for the university’s fast growing scientific research areas; and, digitized primary sources from world-class archives used for text mining and digital humanities scholarship. These examples are just some of the ways your gift can be used to help produce the latest scientific breakthrough, award-winning undergraduate research project, or Georgia State University faculty publication. Give to the General Library Endowment Fund.
Thank you for your support.