Untapped resources of the University Libraries

by Maggie Saponaro

Unless you work next door to one of the branch libraries or stroll by Hornbake or McKeldin on your way across campus, you may not realize just how much the University libraries have to offer you and your students.

In fact, the variety of resources available through the libraries is almost limitless. There’s much more than just books. The libraries hold circulating and special collections that include scores, manuscripts, print and online journals, maps, and more. They license over 350 databases covering a wide range of subjects. These databases are accessible via ResearchPort and specially designed subject guides.

In addition to subject-specific resources, the libraries license a number of interdisciplinary resources such as Credo Reference, Global Issues in Context, and Reference Universe. Streaming audio and video databases are also available.

Some disciplines are not as well served as others by online resources, and for them, print resources or materials from special collections may be the place to look for the answer to a research question. The key to locating these resources are the libraries’ staff.

Libraries’ staff would, for instance, know to point researchers, who might think they have “found everything” after using a general search engine on the Internet, toward resources to which the libraries subscribe, such as individual journals, eBook collections, or databases such as Lexis-Nexis Academic. Libraries’ staff know that information contained in library subscription resources cannot always be located by searching the “open Web”, or if it is found, parts of it might not be accessible without paying a fee. In such cases, researchers would probably find more answers to their questions if they let the staff guide them to the library resources indicated above. All of these resources and more are accessible via ResearchPort.

The University libraries offer “almost limitless” resources -- much more than just books. (Karin Zeitvogel/CTE)
Subject librarians are another key library resource. We have specific areas of expertise — everything from my own specialties of journalism and hearing and speech sciences to ethnomusicology (Stephen Henry); religion (Yelena Luckert); kinesiology (Nedelina Tchangalova), and scores more. And we are available for instructional sessions. My advice: consult with your subject librarian as you develop your class assignments. They can help you identify key resources and services, and this can make the research process more rewarding for you and your students.

In addition to the collections and expertise of staff, the campus libraries provide a range of services, including the ability to stream videos in ELMS, study carrels for graduate and Ph.D. students, and the Terra-pin Learning Commons (TLC) area.

The TLC is a space on the second floor of McKeldin where students can access everything they “need to succeed: technology, services, information and a place to meet your group.” Bigger than three basketball courts, the TLC contains group study rooms, computers, printers, scanners, lots of power outlets, comfortable furniture — and it’s open all night. Multimedia workstations and lockers to recharge laptops between classes will soon be added to the TLC’s amenities.

Librarian Cinthya Ippoliti introduced the TLC to participants at a CTE workshop on learning spaces in early April. The TLC is far from the quiet haven that students might expect to find in a library, she said, describing it as “very noisy and dynamic” — so much so that it has been nicknamed Club McKeldin. In spite of that, the TLC is conducive to learning.

Hornbake Library: Maryland’s multimedia mother lode

The Nonprint Media library in the basement of Hornbake is home to the University’s Digital Collections and other media in a format other than print. Among the jewels in the Digital Collections’ crown are the Jim Henson Works, more than 70 digital videos of the Muppets creator’s television and movie work. Another jewel is Films@UM, some 800 digital films covering a variety of genres. Nonprint Media Services in Hornbake has DVD or VHS copies of all of the programs in Films@UM, and faculty may borrow these for classroom use.

Also part of Digital Collections are the Internet Archives, which contain, among other documents, media guides to the Terrapins’ football and basketball teams since the 1940s.

Other series in the nonprint collections at Hornbake are:

- **American History in Video** - 2,000 hours of online video that allow students and researchers to analyze historical events over time;
- **Counseling and Therapy in Video** - An online collection of video available for the study of social work, psychotherapy, psychology, and psychiatric counseling;
- **Dance in Video** - Streaming video collection of dance;
- **Education in Video** - the first online collection of streaming video developed specifically for training and developing teachers;
- **Ethnographic Video Online**, more than 750 hours and 1,000 films for the study of human culture and behavior;
- **Opera in Video** - streaming access to 40 full opera performances;
- **Theatre in Video** - Streaming video collection of plays and documentaries.
Hornbake also offers free loans of audiovisual equipment, some of which you might think had been relegated to the stockpile of technological history, such as mini-cassette recorders and transcribers; Super-8 cameras, 16-mm. projectors, slide projectors and more.

Several rooms in Hornbake are available to faculty, staff and student groups. This includes the media studio, which can be used free of charge for interviews or events involving Maryland experts. Priority for large rooms in Hornbake is given to faculty and instructors using audiovisual programs for class instruction activities, but student groups, comprising at least three people, can also use them.

Under Hornbake’s “reserves” system, faculty can make course materials held by the nonprint media library or from the faculty member’s own “legally-acquired materials” accessible to students. To request items from the Nonprint collection to be put on reserve for in-library viewing, faculty should fill out this request form. To request media for ELMS online viewing, faculty must fill a different form, which is accessible by clicking on the hyperlink. - Karin Zeitvogel

Other library services

- All campus libraries and Hornbake Special Collections have free scanners available for use.
- The Popular Reading Collection can be found in McKeldin 2109, adjacent to the Terrapin Learning Commons. This collection of fiction and nonfiction books and CD audiobooks contains over 300 titles representing a variety of genres. Titles are listed in the library catalog, or you can stop by McKeldin 2109 to browse the collection.
- Circulating CDs and DVDs. At the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library, most compact discs circulate to UMCP faculty, staff and students for up to one week.
- Seven rooms in the Terrapin Learning Commons are available for groups of two or more to reserve for two-hour blocks to work on projects, presentations, and for studying. Room reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis and can be made online. All other campus libraries also have quiet individual and group study spaces.