Opportunities to Support Galter Library

Enhance the Library for the 21st Century

On October 14, 2015, the Galter Health Sciences Library hosted a program that was called "Partnering for the Future: A Next Generation Health Sciences Library and Learning Center". Medical school faculty, staff, and supporters gathered to learn about exciting plans for the library's future. The last extensive renovation of the library was in 1996.

We invite you to invest in the future of the Galter Library. Your annual gift or a gift for key projects such as the renovation helps the library maintain its position at the forefront of information technology. Renewing or increasing your support, or making your first gift this year, will have a vital impact. All gifts are welcome and will help Northwestern University's Galter Health Sciences Library preserve the past and anticipate the future.

The medical school is in the midst of We Will. The Campaign for Northwestern Medicine and growing philanthropic support for the Galter Sciences Library is a priority. A specific campaign to fund the library's renovation plan is underway. Donors can name designated spaces within the library, support endowed positions to aid in recruitment of new faculty, and provide programmatic resources.

For more information about supporting this renovation campaign and the future of the Galter Health Sciences Library, please contact David G. McCreery at 312-503-6099 or david.mccreery@northwestern.edu.

Previous Renovation

The Galter Health Sciences Library of Northwestern University, after extensive renovation made possible by a $10 million gift from Jack and Dollie Galter, was poised to meet the future in information storage, retrieval and management. Opened in March 1996, the new library was expanded in space and scope.

The new design permitted the consolidation of the Medical and Dental School libraries and the relocation of the Barnes Learning Resources Center (LRC) into contiguous space. The expanded library boasts 45,000 square feet (a 65 percent increase over its previous space) and a new infrastructure with more than 200 computer access points to support advances in knowledge generation and information access and retrieval into the new century.

The entrance was relocated to its original site off the Ward Building lobby and leads users into the restored 1926 library, now used as a reference center. A new atrium and grand staircase connects the library's floors, and atrium windows allow natural light to filter into the stacks on the first floor and mezzanine. The mission-style furniture and other decorative accents create a uniform theme throughout the library.

The Galter Library has 10 group-study rooms, 50 computer stations in the LRC, 467 seats (twice as many as before), and
a total capacity of 300,000 volumes (up from 180,000). Dollie's Corner, an attractive room featuring a leisure reading collection, pays tribute to Dollie Galter, who felt that students need a respite from their demanding studies.

Enabling the flow of health sciences information continues to be one of the Galter Library's missions, along with providing a broad range of services to its users and preserving classic and rare works in medical and dental history. But the rapid growth of information demands the latest technology to access it. Video, sound and text formats are now driven by new technologies, and the computerization of information has added a special dimension to the library's mission.

For example, since 1992 faculty members with connections to the University's fiberoptic network have been able to access library resources without leaving their offices. A library in the 21st century must serve as a gateway to electronic information, and the Galter Library is well positioned to be a leader in this service. This virtual library requires the services of highly trained, professional staff members who can search for, identify, and organize the best electronic and traditional information resources in a logical and user-friendly fashion. This results in effective and efficient retrieval by patrons.

As the library's role in the electronic arena expands, so will the need to constantly upgrade computer technology. Already information technology specialists recommend upgrades to hardware and software every three to five years.

Besides its role as a gateway to electronic resources, the library continues to be a repository for print material. However, as prices for journal subscriptions and other publications continue to rise, library staff members are forced to make difficult choices as to what they can afford to keep or collect.