

A STATE OF MINDS

The Campaign for West Virginia University



Investing in the WVU Libraries



THE WVU LIBRARIES: A STATE OF MINDS

Throughout history, the world's greatest thinkers have extolled the virtues of libraries. To Cicero, libraries were the "soul" of civilization. The great American educator George Mercer Dawson called them "the diary of the human race." More recently, the visionary author Ray Bradbury wrote, "Without libraries...we have no past and no future."

Libraries have been and always will be essential to human endeavor. And nowhere is an outstanding library more essential than on a university campus. Great universities are, in fact, built around great libraries, both figuratively and literally.

Since the opening of WVU's first library in 1867, the West Virginia University Libraries have continually endeavored to preserve the legacy of the past while evolving to meet the needs of the future. Much has changed over the last century

and a half, especially in the way information is accessed today. Online catalogs, journals, and digital databases now make it possible for students and researchers to stay at home and visit the library via the internet. Students can even use smartphones to access the Libraries' mobile website and to text questions to librarians.

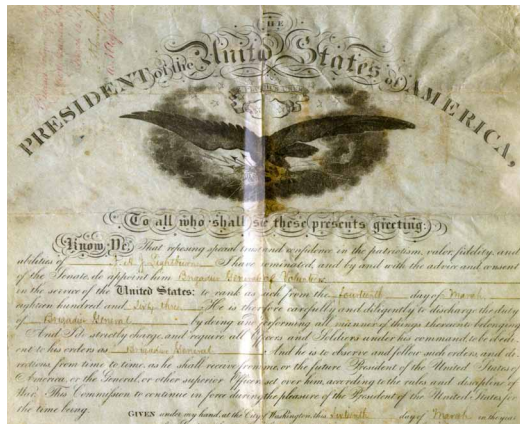
Yet, despite its growing remote availability, the library remains a vibrant central gathering place—the cultural, social, and intellectual heart of the University. But even this has evolved. Forget the old image of the lone student studying quietly in the stacks. Today's students often prefer to meet in groups, to learn and to work on projects assisted by rapidly expanding technology. Along with traditional written classwork, modern assignments often include the creation of electronic documents and multi-media presentations. The WVU Libraries are at the

cutting edge of these new information technology requirements and are serving more users on campus, and around the world, than ever before.

While constantly looking forward, however, the WVU Libraries maintain an equal devotion to preserving information resources that document the heritage of our state and region. In fact, *no other university library in America plays a more significant role in preserving the history and culture of its state.* Since its creation by an act of the State Legislature in 1933, the WVU Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Collection has been a leader in locating and preserving original manuscript and archival resources that document the history of West Virginia. From the papers of the state's political and industrial founders, to those of citizens in all walks of life, the West Virginia Collection is literally a West Virginia history treasure-trove.



The WVU Libraries are also home to *one of the finest rare book collections of any land-grant university* in the nation. From Shakespeare's priceless "First Folio"—the most important literary work in the English language—to unique medieval manuscripts and seminal works of botany, math, history, and science fiction, the Rare Books Collection provides library users with an opportunity to personally examine some of the most magnificent books ever produced by mankind.



The WVU Libraries Special Collections are not a museum. They are meant to be used and studied to help create new knowledge and new inspiration. *Access is not restricted to the WVU community but is open to any and all* who have an interest in studying the collections. Students, faculty, and citizens alike are free to explore unimagined worlds here, learning from what the volumes and archives contain and from the inspiring opportunity to view, for example, a

land grant document signed by James Monroe or Patrick Henry or a Civil War account book kept by General "Stonewall" Jackson or to feel the heft of the world's first true encyclopedia. In an increasingly technology-driven world, items like these, which form a *tangible link* to our heritage, must be preserved and protected for coming generations. It is essential to our *State of Minds*.

The students and faculty of WVU, and the people of West Virginia, expect much from the WVU Libraries. They expect us to pioneer the frontiers of 21st century information gathering and access while continuing our essential work in acquiring, conserving, and making available the rare and priceless resources that document the heritage of our state and civilization. It is a tall but essential order. With your generosity and commitment, we can and will exceed those expectations.

It is vital to WVU and West Virginia that the Libraries continue to provide access to the best resources and latest research and to preserve documents and items that chronicle our state's rich history.





THE TRAJECTORY OF SUCCESS



The WVU Libraries are breaking new ground in the organization and digital presentation of the world's knowledge. Our vision is centered on anticipating and meeting the needs of our learning community and on providing the latest resources and services that support learning, teaching, and research.

In addition to our progress in the technological arena, the unique resources

provided by our special collections are becoming recognized and respected around the country. From a recent National Endowment for the Humanities grant of more than \$260,000 to digitize priceless early West Virginia newspapers to selection as the official archive for the International Association for Identification, the world's oldest and largest forensic association, the WVU Libraries are serving education and research directly and powerfully.

It is vital to WVU and West Virginia that the Libraries continue to provide access to the best resources and latest research and to preserve documents and items that chronicle our state's rich history. Your commitment and generosity will help us to continue this success.

PRIORITIES FOR TOMORROW

The WVU Libraries have identified a list of essential funding priorities that, with your support, will enhance our contributions in education and research, with acquisitions, preservation, and digitization of important and rare materials. *A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University* is the vehicle through which you can make a difference for students and faculty members as well as our state, national, and global communities.

Strengthening the West Virginia and Regional History Collection

The combined resources of the Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Collection and Special Collections comprise the premier collection of research materials about the history of our state. Holdings include rare books, archives and manuscripts, folk music, genealogy,

newspapers, maps, photo archives, and public records. Private support is essential in maintaining the scope and quality of this unique and prestigious collection. We must ensure that these critical and rare materials are acquired, preserved, and made available to students, researchers, and the citizens of our state and our nation. Fulfilling a powerful role in the instructional programs of the WVU Libraries, the Rare Books Collection is growing in significance on campus as a teaching resource in studying the history, art, and craft of the book and the role of books in our culture. There are three elements to this priority: acquisition, preservation, and digitization.

Acquiring and preserving materials for the Collection \$1 million

Funds are needed to support the cost of acquiring rare books and manuscripts to preserve them for posterity and to make

them available for research. The acquisition of rare materials can be expensive regardless of whether they are purchased or donated. We need the funds to move quickly on unique opportunities so that historically important items are not lost.

Digitizing unique and rare materials \$1 million

We need funds to create digital files of our unique collections, both for increased access and for preservation. This work has already begun with rare books, folk music, photos, newspapers, and Civil War documents. Your support will sustain and enhance these digital initiatives, which require new technology and are extremely labor-intensive. We will also continue building the renowned West Virginia History OnView digital photo collection and integrate it into West Virginia K–12 teaching.



"An exceptional university library is a kind of partnership between what was and what comes next, between understanding where we've been and envisioning where we can go."

— Myra N. Lowe, Interim Dean

Naming Opportunities in Wise Library

Naming the Rare Book Room, including an endowment for acquisitions and preservation..... \$500,000

Naming the Reading Room in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, including an endowment for acquisitions and preservation..... \$500,000

Building the WVU Libraries' Future in the Digital Age

The Digital Library Fund will secure the WVU Libraries' future in the fast-changing digital age, which is profoundly changing the world's libraries. We will create new information portals for students, faculty, and scholars as we transform our physical resources into digital

ones. We will add sophisticated discovery systems to retrieve information across topics and formats worldwide. We will collaborate with other libraries. Your support will enable students and faculty to find the information they need and allow us to pursue digital content and access:

Library web resources and information portals	\$200,000
Multi-media projects and media digitization.....	\$100,000
21st century online discovery systems	\$500,000

Library Support for Graduate Teaching and Learning

As WVU graduate enrollment increases, the Libraries will provide distinctive online

tutorials, library guides, digital delivery systems, and expert instruction tailored to advanced students and researchers. In collaboration with faculty, we will enhance an already strong set of services to reflect the ways graduate students learn. Graduate students and researchers need the most current journal literature, which requires additional funding for electronic resources as the pace of and expectations for WVU research increase. This is a tremendous opportunity for the WVU Libraries to expand our vital role in graduate education.

Graduate student library support	\$100,000
Electronic journals.....	\$300,000
Designated graduate student learning space.....	\$300,000

SYNERGY: WVU AND THE WVU LIBRARIES



Much as the atrium connects the 1931 Wise Library to the modern Downtown Campus Library, the past, present, and future of WVU are intimately connected through the WVU Libraries. The history and enterprise that shaped West Virginia yesterday are indelibly linked to the *State of Minds* that will define West Virginia tomorrow. At the WVU Libraries, we make it easy and rewarding for students, faculty, and the citizens of our state to explore the past and envision the future, putting the world's knowledge where it is needed, from the quiet of the Rare Book Room to the screen of an iPad.

WVU is energized by its libraries. Great research discoveries and inspiring personal journeys have always begun from the foundation of knowing what has come before.

Every discipline at WVU asks questions that begin to be answered here. An exceptional university library is a kind of partnership between what was and what comes next, between understanding where we've been and envisioning where we can go.

This is our moment—you and the WVU Libraries in an equally valuable partnership. With your commitment and generosity, we can secure the preservation of our heritage and redefine the role of the modern library in a new age.

I urge you to support the WVU Libraries through *A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University*. Your investment will bring great rewards.

Myra N. Lowe
Interim Dean



WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

West Virginia's healthcare epicenter, its flagship of service, its brain trust. Home to some of the most innovative and forward-thinking minds in the country, WVU serves the world by first serving its state. We have emerged as a leader in solving today's most complex problems, and we are ready to share our State of Minds with the world.

A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University is about investing in the values, ambition, intellect, and mindset that define one of the most exciting universities in the country. With support from alumni, friends, foundations, and partners, West Virginia University will be in a position to lead the national and global dialogue on energy, health, the environment, the economy...and so much more.

West Virginia University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

West Virginia University Libraries

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