Academic Impact

The University Libraries are the crossroads for learning, teaching, and research at UNLV. Comprised of the Lied Library and three branch libraries—Architecture Studies, Curriculum Materials, and Music—University Libraries stimulate the discovery, creation, advancement, and preservation of knowledge at the university and in Southern Nevada.

The Libraries dynamically advance UNLV’s mission to produce graduates who have the knowledge to succeed in their careers and contribute to our community. Besides being in the center of the UNLV campus, the Lied Library is at the center of student learning. Our librarians partner with faculty to make quality research an integral part of large-enrollment, lower-division courses and take a lead role in curriculum redesign. Through collaborative initiatives, we work with faculty members from each college to develop the best strategies for teaching critical thinking within their specific disciplines. Professors then implement these strategies to give every UNLV student a solid foundation of information literacy for their future academic and professional pursuits.

Our collection of print and digital resources, including scholarly journals, eBooks, government records, digitalized images, and archived newspapers enables people to conduct deeper, richer, and more comprehensive inquiries. These tools provide the access to information that is essential for success in today’s high-tech world.

Community Impact

As the only research library in Southern Nevada, we serve as a resource for the entire community, not just UNLV students and faculty. Teachers, business professionals, health care personnel, and citizens from all walks of life and professional focus work with our experts to find the information they need.

A vital part of our mission is to document the history, culture, and physical environment of the city of Las Vegas, the Southern Nevada region, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Our Special Collections include unique, rare, and specialized materials that document all aspects of life and community, including the gaming and entertainment industry. In the process, we nurture pride in the community for all those residents who have come here to build a city and an industry in the desert. In order to share this information, we have created a web-based digital library that can be used by anyone around the world—from school children to scholars. External funding has allowed us to develop digital collections that now include several significant historical projects including The Nevada Test Site Oral History Project, Southern Nevada: The Boomtown Years 1900-1925, Menus: The Art of Dining, and others. Additionally, the Oral History Research Center and the Center for Gaming Research augment the collection and research activities of Special Collections. By meticulously preserving the history of our local culture and making our resources available, the Libraries provide a unique and essential service to the Southern Nevada community.
**Economic Impact**

As Nevada strives to recover from the recent recession, the Libraries help to facilitate economic stimulation and diversification through outreach programs that engage the Las Vegas business community. Our dean frequently meets with local business groups to advise them about our vast resources and ways we can help businesses increase their expertise. Providing local businesses and entrepreneurs with research assistance and access to our rich electronic collections enables them to better understand and exploit needs, trends, and opportunities in the marketplace. We offer specialized one-on-one research assistance or design workshops for small groups. For example, we recently partnered with the College of Business to support the ExporTech program. ExporTech is designed to help manufacturing companies enter or expand in foreign markets to increase their sales, and ultimately, to create more jobs in Nevada. Our business liaison attends ExporTech sessions to demonstrate how library resources can be utilized to develop export plans. We follow up with workshops, more in-depth instruction for program participants and student interns, and continue to meet with individual company teams for research consultations as export plans develop.

**Alumni Impact**

Every alumnus of UNLV is an alumnus of the Libraries. We partner with the schools and colleges at UNLV to make sure all graduates leave the university with a deep understanding of information literacy and critical thinking skills. These abilities, taught and reinforced by University Libraries, allow our alumni to make more informed decisions in their careers, to better understand the needs of those around them, and to be successful lifelong learners. Given that more than 60,000 of our alumni reside in the Las Vegas area, these skills are a huge asset to our community. Additionally, through the recently endowed Mason Undergraduate Peer Research Coaches Program, we are developing a distinctive core of “University Libraries alumni,” who train fellow students as front-line research mentors. The program is now in its fifth year. It is our hope that this elite group of “library scholars,” drawn from applicants who had once been considered at-risk students, will continue in their roles as mentors long after graduating from UNLV.