

Washington University Libraries

Boilerplate for Grants

This boilerplate can be used in grant proposals to present information about Washington University Libraries. Feel free to cut and paste portions and use as appropriate for your specific grant proposal. This material is not intended to be a complete description, but a synopsis that can be inserted in proposals as needed.

The Washington University (WU) Libraries are a dynamic academic resource serving students, faculty, and researchers around the world. Consisting of 12 libraries on three campuses, the WU Libraries network houses vast print and electronic collections. The center of this rich network is John M. Olin Library, a 197,000-square-foot research library located on the main campus of WU. Olin offers resources in the humanities, social sciences, and engineering, and serves as home to the Department of Special Collections. Equipped with a technology lab, a dual-purpose café and extended-hours study space, reading rooms, and small-group studies, Olin is a popular destination for students and the academic heart of the university.

Spread across WU's three campuses, the other facilities in the WU Libraries system feature collections that serve specific departments and schools, such as art and architecture, music, science, law, and business. The system is supported by a staff of 200 full-time employees, including academic librarians, curators, scholars, writers, and wide-range of professionals, as well as student assistants.

WU's original library, located in Ridgley Hall, was constructed in 1907. Over the ensuing decades, the University Library expanded to include 14 school and departmental libraries, in addition to Ridgley. By 1946, the University Library owned 46,000 volumes. The larger, contemporary Olin Library opened in 1962 and was renovated in 2004 to meet the needs of the 21st century academic community. Newer facilities in the Libraries system include the Kenneth and Nancy Kranzberg Art & Architecture Library, which opened in 2006, and the Ronald Rettner Earth & Planetary Sciences Library, which opened in 2005. Olin Library is currently undergoing a renovation which will feature new spaces for enhanced technology, including data and Geographic Information Systems services, and the addition of new vault space for the university's growing special collections. The renovation is due to be finished in September 2017.

Today, the Libraries house more than 4 million books, journals, and other print materials; 2.5 million microforms; and 50,000 AV titles. Library patrons can access more than 65,000 electronic journals and more than 500,000 e-books. Notable among the Libraries' many remarkable holdings are the Film & Media Archive's Henry Hampton Collection, an archive of unique materials documenting the civil rights movement and other aspects of American history, and the Modern Literature Collection, which houses the James Merrill Papers, the largest archive in the world devoted to the writer's life and work. The Libraries holdings include a broadside of the Declaration of Independence printed in Newport, Rhode

Island, by S. Southwick and dated July 13, 1776. It was signed by the town clerk of Warwick, RI, making it the oldest signed copy known to exist.

In 2013, Data & GIS Services formally joined the WU Libraries system. The team works alongside faculty and students throughout the university in the collection, analysis and visualization of research data and geospatial technology. The team holds classes, workshops and seminars for the university community. GIS facilities include a teaching computer lab, research studio and immersive 3D virtual reality resources for research and academics. To learn more about the Libraries' Research Data & GIS Services unit, visit gis.wustl.edu.

The Libraries provide free access to the academic output of WU faculty, staff, and students through the Open Scholarship repository. Launched in 2012, the Open Scholarship site serves as a platform for open-access online journals, electronic theses and dissertations, textbooks, monographs, conference posters, data sets, and other forms of scholarly work produced by the WU community. The site is supported by the Libraries' Digital Library Services. Visit openscholarship.wustl.edu to learn more.

For more information about the Washington University Libraries, visit libraries.wustl.edu.

For more information about grants in the Libraries, please contact a member of the Libraries' Grants Support Team:

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