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# 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 Libraries are a dynamic academic resource serving students, faculty, and researchers around the world. Consisting of 12 libraries on three campuses, the University Libraries system houses vast print and electronic collections. The center of this rich network is the John M. Olin Library, a 157,000-square-foot research library located on the Danforth campus of Washington University. In addition to offering resources in the humanities, social sciences, and engineering, Olin hosts a wide variety of special events and dynamic exhibits, provides flexible study space for the university community, and serves as home to the Julian Edison Department of Special Collections.

Spread across the university's three campuses, the other facilities in the University Libraries system feature collections that serve specific departments and schools, such as art and architecture, music, science, law, and business. Supporting the system is a staff of 140 full-time employees, including academic librarians, curators, scholars, writers, and a wide range of professionals and student assistants.

Washington University's original library, located in Ridgley Hall, was constructed in 1907. Over the ensuing decades, the University Libraries expanded to include 14 school and departmental libraries, in addition to Ridgley. By 1946, the University Libraries 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.

From 2016 to 2018, Olin Library underwent a \$22 million renovation that added approximately 20,000 square feet to the library building, increased the number of instruction rooms and study spaces, and quintupled the amount of the library's exhibition space. Equipped with technology-rich instruction rooms, an A/V studio, exhibit galleries, study spaces, and a café, Olin Library is a popular destination for students and the academic heart of the university.

Today, the University Libraries house more than 1,900,000 print books and nearly 70,000 print journals. The Libraries' patrons can access more than two million e-books and nearly 203,000 electronic journals from over 950 databases. Notable among the University Libraries' many remarkable holdings are the Special Collections' 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' Collections consist of more than one million titles in other formats (audio-visual materials, manuscripts, maps, microfilm, photographs, etc.). The University Libraries' holdings also 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 Henry Ward, the secretary of the state assembly, making it the oldest signed copy known to exist.

In 2013, the GIS Services, previously in the Office of the Provost, formally joined the University Libraries system and became the Data Services unit in the Libraries. The Data Services 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. Data Services, which includes comprehensive GIS programs, joined University Libraries in 2013. Data facilities in Olin include a Research Studio, a Data Visualization Environment (DaVE), and a suite with a large format scanner, large format printers, VR headsets, and other resources.

The University Libraries provide free access to the academic output of Washington University 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 university community.

For more information about the Washington University Libraries, visit [libraries.wustl.edu](http://libraries.wustl.edu).

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