

# River Campus Libraries

Transforming Teaching, Learning, and Research

► With combined holdings of more than 3.5 million volumes and extensive collections of online databases, electronic journals, and rare books, the River Campus Libraries (RCL) at the University of Rochester forms a rich intellectual foundation for students and faculty. The RCL also provides spaces for quiet study, in-depth research, collaboration, and discovery.

To meet the needs of 21st-century students and faculty, it is essential that the RCL continues to evolve. It must keep pace with technological change, which is having a profound impact on libraries, the services they offer, and how information is made available and knowledge is created. By doing so, the RCL will leverage its strengths and legacy and continue to provide the tools to transform teaching, learning, and research.

The RCL's vision is to become a collaborative hub of innovation and a center of knowledge creation



through a diverse and vibrant range of services, scholarly resources, technology-enabled spaces, and expert assistance. The RCL is committed to offering specialized areas for group activities, experiential learning, and knowledge creation, as well as for solitude and reflection.

## The Libraries

Since it opened in 1930, Rush Rhees Library has been a symbol

of the University's scholarship and emblematic of the pride it inspires. Facing the River Campus's Eastman Quad, the library has become a "sacred place," as alumni fondly recall their favorite spaces and experiences within its storied interior.

Rush Rhees Library houses the arts, social sciences, and humanities collections and offers a mix of study and collaborative workspaces. It is also home to the University



*"The libraries are the heart of this University. The staff here takes the time to listen to students and follows up with their ideas, especially during intensive design processes for new facilities. Their passion sets an example for the entire University."*

—Ulrik Soderstrom '16

data science and Earth and environmental sciences double major,  
senior class president



Students collaborate in the Gleason Library on River Campus.

Archives; the Art/Music Library; the Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation; the Rossell Hope Robbins Library, which houses works related to medieval studies; and the Gleason Library, which provides a flexible 24/7 study environment.

Other libraries on campus include the Chester F. Carlson Science and Engineering Library in the Computer Studies Building and the Physics-Optics-Astronomy Library in the Bausch & Lomb building.

## The Collection

The RCL's collections have been built over the course of more than 150 years, since the University was founded, with works dating back 500 years. Increasingly, the RCL is transitioning to keep pace with the digital world, while focusing on the acquisition of unique items. Here are some collection highlights:

**Historic Papers:** The RCL houses the papers of William Seward, Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and other historical figures. Many of these materials have been digitized.

**AIDS Posters:** With more than 7,000 posters representing 124 countries and 68 languages, this is one of the world's largest collections of its kind. It documents efforts to educate people about HIV/AIDS prevention, risks, social advocacy, and compassion for those affected.

## Robbins Library's Digital

**Projects:** The Camelot and Robin Hood projects provide students and scholars electronic access to texts, images, bibliographies, and other information related to medieval literature including Arthurian tales and outlaw stories.

## Rush Rhees Library Master Plan

Since its last major renovation in 1969, there have been some updates to a few essential spaces in Rush Rhees Library, such as those to the Martin E. Messinger Periodical Reading Room on the second floor and the creation of the Gleason Library within the east wing.

The Rush Rhees Library Master Plan will redefine the library as a center of innovation and knowledge creation, and it will successfully steward the building's relevance for current and future generations of students and faculty. As a work in progress, the project will evolve to address navigational and infrastructure issues, better showcase rare and unique collections, and increase general and specialized learning spaces. All of this will be achieved while retaining the essence and beauty of the library's historic spaces. Realizing these goals depends primarily on private support.



## Transformational Giving

Evans Lam '83, '84S (MBA) is a University trustee and senior vice president of wealth management and senior portfolio manager at UBS Financial Services, Inc. In the spring of 2015, he and his wife, Susanna, committed \$1 million to support the modernization of the patron services area of Rush Rhees Library. In recognition of this generous gift, it will be named Evans Lam Square.

Located off the Roger B. Friedlander Lobby of Rush Rhees Library, the square will be home to technology-enhanced spaces that facilitate in-depth research consultations with librarians. For example, a “technology sandbar” will serve as an open space for exploring cutting-edge tools that can be used in coursework. The square will also house Rush Rhees Library’s Q&i service, which provides circulation and basic research support for patrons.

“Rush Rhees Library was the center of my college life. It was where I could learn, discover, network, and even enjoy a good rest. I hope the state-of-the-art Evans Lam Square will continue to function as a hub for our students to explore knowledge, generate ideas, establish friendships, and attain their aspirations.”

—Evans Lam

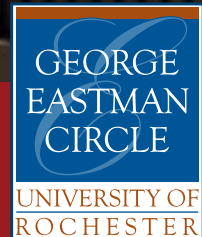


iZone



Carlson Student Research Space

◀ Part of the RCL's master plan involves creating spaces that will enrich the student learning experience here, such as the new iZone and the Carlson Student Research Space. Located inside Rush Rhees Library, the iZone will be a place where students will explore and imagine ideas for social, cultural, and economic impact. The Carlson Student Research Space will be in the Carlson Science and Engineering Library and help students advance their research skills.



## How You Can Help

Dedicated donors and their generosity to the libraries have an enduring impact on our students and faculty. Experiences within the libraries prepare our students with the skills needed to thrive in their careers. They also play a key role in helping our faculty probe and even solve some of the biggest questions in their fields.

**Students:** Help fund student internships in the Robbins Library; the Digital Scholarship Lab; the Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation; and elsewhere across the RCL.

**Collections:** Fuel the acquisition and preservation of collections

and unique and rare materials. This creates opportunities for customized curricular experiences, curated exhibits, and collaborations with other cultural institutions.

**Technology:** Keep our students at the forefront of the digital age by supporting the RCL's technology fund, which enables the purchase of new and emerging technologies that enhance students' digital media skills.

**Learning Spaces:** Support specialized, technology-enabled spaces to provide the collaborative or individual learning environments that are essential for student success.

## George Eastman Circle

You can also help shape the future of the River Campus Libraries by becoming a member of the George Eastman Circle, the University's leadership annual giving society, and by designating your gift support to the RCL. Generous support of at least \$1,500 each year (for five years) provides budget-relieving annual funds to the libraries and helps enhance the scholarly experience.

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For more information on giving opportunities, please contact  
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