SMARTech, Georgia Tech's Institutional Repository

Our institutional repository (IR), SMARTech, Scholarly Materials and Research @ Georgia Tech: http://SMARTech.gatech.edu, captures the Institute's intellectual output in support of its teaching and research missions. SMARTech connects the digital materials currently in existence throughout campus to create a cohesive, useful, sustainable repository available to Georgia Tech and the world. SMARTech has grown dramatically during 2006/07, adding 4,406 items. Seventy-three new collections and 20 new communities and sub-communities were created. SMARTech continues to be a top DSpace repository in size, according to the Directory of Open Access Repositories, http://www.opendoar.org. "The repositories at MIT, Ohio State, Michigan, Cal Tech, and Georgia Tech comprised five of the top six largest IRs in American academe," according to Cat S. McDowell in the October 2007 issue of D-Lib Magazine SMARTech had 1,407,041 item records viewed and 1,698,792 items downloaded, with 261,464 searches performed. These numbers reflect a growth of over 40% in items viewed, over 345% in items downloaded, and about 520% in searches performed, providing Georgia Tech authors with increasing visibility and exposure.

Scholarly Communication

Two Library faculty members, in cooperation with a School of International Affairs faculty member, participated in the 2nd Annual Association of Research Libraries/Association of College and Research Libraries' Institute of Scholarly Communication in December 2006. The team created a campus outreach plan to be implemented during the 2007/08 academic year. A Scholarly Communication website: http://www.library.gatech.edu/scholarlycommunication/index.html has been developed to raise awareness at Georgia Tech of issues related to scholarly communication, the open access movement, author rights management, and alternative publishing models. A Library-led educational program with training for library faculty members is in progress in addition to a workshop for campus faculty held in November 2007.

GALILEO Knowledge Repository

Georgia Tech LIbrary continues to participate in the development of a software platform and pilot program for a Georgia statewide repository program, the GALILEO Knowledge Repository: (http://gkr.gatech.edu), which will be hosted by Georgia Tech. As an information resource, GKR will reach a global audience of scholars and learners, providing seamless access to the University System of Georgia's digital scholarship.

Library Events

Several Library events held throughout the year were designed to increase student and faculty awareness of Library services and facilities. The New Faculty Orientation, Welcome Back Event, Graduate Student Orientations, Graduate Expo, President's Scholars tours, FASET Marketplace, FASET tours, and RATS Week fun night comprise additional efforts to engage students and faculty. The RATS Week Library CeLIBration in August 2007 was the fourth annual event. It included a variety of activities, including board games, films, improv comedy, speed dating, poker, and Ninja Tag, coupled with pizza, popcorn and soft drinks. This effort strikes a balance of entertainment options for newly-arrived students while familiarizing them with the Library for their future use.

2007 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Excellence in Academic Libraries Award (University Category)

The Georgia Tech Library and Information Center was selected for this prestigious award "for its impressive five-year transformation into the heart and soul of the community." The Library makes imaginative use of public spaces, offers virtual services with SMARTech and Epage, and invites the community to come to the Library with its CeLIBration Welcome Week event, Tuesday Talks (a showcase for faculty research), and other innovative programming. "An Excellence in Academic Libraries Award is a national tribute to a library and its staff for the outstanding services, programs and leadership they provide to their students, administrators, faculty and community," said Mary Ellen Davis, ACRL Executive Director.

EMPOWER...
ENRICH...
ADVANCE...

The Georgia Tech Library and Information Center is an active participant in the teaching, research and service missions of the Institute. For students, the Library is a gathering place – cultivating intellectual inquiry and the development of critical thinking skills, promoting academic discourse, and fostering lifelong learning and knowledge enhancement. In this capacity, the Library is integral to the retention and overall success of our students. For our faculty and researchers, our most compelling priority in support of the Institute's mission is to enrich their teaching, learning, and research – contributing to their knowledge advancement and research output with resources and services to meet their needs. The Library's newly developed 2007 – 2011 Strategic Plan will provide direction as we embrace the opportunities and challenges we face, and as we continue to establish an exemplary record of services and leadership for the Institute: http://www.library.gatech.edu/about/strategic_plan.php.

The Georgia Tech Library, recognized as the "2007 Association of College & Research Libraries' Excellence in Academic Libraries Award" winner, is now positioned to meet future challenges, and to also take a leadership role as the Institute strengthens its global responsibilities as a world-class research institution. For more information, see the ACRL Excellence in Libraries Award video developed by the Library's Digital Initiatives Department: http://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/15065.

EMPOWER.

The Library strives to empower the elite academic community at Georgia Tech, which boasts:

- Over 18,000 students (including over 5,500 graduate students) and approximately 950 academic faculty; incoming freshmen with average composite SAT scores of 1343.

- Consistently ranked among the nation's top ten U.S. public universities since 1999 with a ranking of 7th in 2007 (overall ranking of 38th for both private and public universities). The College of Engineering ranks 4th in graduate programs; top 10 graduate programs in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Computer Engineering; the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering has been ranked No. 1 for the past 17 consecutive years. Top 15 graduate program in the College of Architecture and No. 1 in the South according to "America's Best Architecture and Design Schools;" the College of Computing graduate program ranks 11th; and the Business, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics programs are in the top 40.

- The number of faculty elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) more than doubled from 1997 to 2006. Tech has 142 endowed or honorary chairs and professorships, one per 6.7 academic faculty members.

- No.1 U.S. institution granting degrees to black engineers and No.3 among the nation's engineering graduate schools for Hispanic students.

- Over $440 million total in research expenditures, an increase of 84% in 10 years; federal expenditures increased 129% during that same time period. Georgia Tech now ranks among the top five in research expenditures among universities without a medical school.

- A Cooperative Education Program ranked as a top 10 program for three consecutive years according to U.S. News and World Report and is the largest optional co-op program nationally.

- The percentage of Tech alums making donations to the Institute is the highest among top 50 public universities

- Georgia Tech and Emory University partnered to win three national centers of excellence in nanomedicine from the National Institute of Health. Georgia Tech is home to or partner in nineteen federal centers of excellence, up from six in 1997.

- Over the past five years, 53 companies have been started based on Georgia Tech discoveries; The Milken Institute ranks Georgia Tech among the top 5 in the world for biotech startups and top 10 in patents in U.S. universities. The number of patents awarded increased 193% in the last ten years with Tech ranking in the top ten universities in the nation.

- The Scientist lists Georgia Tech in the top 15 best places to work.

To meet the demands of such a prestigious community, the Library currently employs over 125 highly trained staff members, including subject specialists in 35 disciplines, who assist with services such as:

- Access to an extensive collection of books, journals, electronic resources, and databases

- Virtual and in-person research assistance, current awareness services, electronic reserves, information consulting, interlibrary loan/document delivery, library instruction, acquisitions, and technology assistance including support for software, hardware, wireless, and network port connections

- 285 library classes and tours reaching 5,389 students

- Interlibrary loan services: ILL Borrowing is up 76% (12,748 items borrowed), ILL Lending is up 5% (10,275 items lent); LENDS document delivery for faculty/staff/distance learners is up 48% and fee-based research is up 23%.

- 96,933 circulation charges; 56,593 reserves transactions

Library attendance increased to over 1 million client visits, up 16% (this figure does not include the Architecture Library, for which a gate count is not available). The Library has become a critical facility and service destination for students whose learning occurs across a 24-hour spectrum. The Library provides both physical and virtual destinations for learners and knowledge seekers.

ENRICH.

In maintaining these extensive collections, the Library's expenditures reached approximately $12 million in 2006/07. Expenditures on collections were approximately $5.9 million for the same time period. To successfully enrich the academic lives of students staff, and faculty, the Library must maintain ever-expanding collections, which currently include:

- over 2.4 million books, bound periodicals and serials, including about 900,000 government documents; approximately 2.7 million technical reports; and over 198,000 cartographic materials
- over 275 online databases
- over 40,000 electronic books, nearly 30,000 e-journals, and over 55,000 electronic government documents.

In addition to the main library, students and faculty have access to the following:

- The Architecture Library: houses 48,000 volumes (including books, journals and videotapes) in the fields of architecture and art, building construction, urban planning, industrial design, and landscape architecture as well as approximately 1,000 rare books.
- Archives and Records Management: promotes research and scholarship through collections relating to the academic curriculum by preserving, and providing access to the history of Georgia Tech, its faculty, staff, students, and alumni, including a 4332-volume Rare Book Collection, a 4000-volume Science Fiction Collection, 200 artifacts, approximately 1,100 collections of manuscripts, university archives, photographs and architectural drawings.

ADVANCE.

The Georgia Tech Library is constantly looking toward the future, in search of ways to advance the academic community and enterprise. Some of the Library's current initiatives include:

Library East Commons
The Library East Commons (LEC), opened in August 2006, provides an outlet for student engagement and expression. After significant planning by Library staff, students, and partners, the LEC represents a transformative development in the Library's program. While this space is normally utilized for small group study, the flexibility built into the space through its adaptable furniture, power supply, and audio-visual capability accommodates its use for a variety of purposes. From showcasing undergraduate research through Honors Program poster sessions and presentations to highlighting the creativity of Georgia Tech students through improv sessions and much more, this space has quickly became a student-owned campus resource. Incorporating a presentation space, along with two collaborative computing areas, two soft seating/flexible furniture areas, a full-service café, and a redesigned circulation department, the LEC represents the latest in Library facilities from its revolutionary overhead power/data/lighting grid to its flexible computing and study areas. The Library West Commons and East Commons "experiments" go a long way in informing the programming of the Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC).