



## **CMU LIBRARIES**

Central Michigan University is committed to offering exceptional library resources and services.

The University Libraries - comprised of the University Library, the Clarke Historical Library, and the Off-Campus Library Services – play an essential role in supporting students, faculty, and community members in learning, teaching, and research.

Students, faculty, and community members view the Charles V. Park Library with pride. It is an outstanding resource that places CMU's library facilities at the forefront of campus libraries in the nation.

Park Library, which opened in 2002 following an extensive \$50 million construction project, is an academic and architectural centerpiece for the university. The library blends the traditional collections of a major academic library with advanced, computer-networked information resources and services. Features include:

- Patron seating for 2,655;
- Thirty-three miles of electronically assisted, user-accessible, movable, compact shelving and total storage space for more than 1.3 million volumes;
- Technology-equipped classrooms, group study rooms, and an auditorium;
- More than 360 public computer workstations and 2,000 plus network connections to access information resources from around the world;
- Comprehensive wireless technology access;
- Expanded, attractive, and functional facilities for the specialized Clarke Historical Library; and
- A stimulating academic and social-cultural environment.

CMU Libraries' Vision: Excellence and Leadership in Academic Library Services  
To support CMU's ambitious academic goals, the CMU Libraries strive to provide:

- Access to the best collection and content-rich information sources in both paper and digital forms;
- An integrated program of quality traditional and innovative information services;
- Current and dynamically-developing information technology;
- An outstanding mission-focused staff well-prepared for support of students and faculty and continuous development of collections and services;
- Premier facilities that feature attractive, well-organized study and research environments, and a special academic and social-cultural center for the campus and community;

- Service models that set new standards of library support for university programs.

Since CMU's primary mission is to prepare our students to succeed in a diversified, highly technological, and information-oriented society, support for our library resources is of paramount importance. Library resources are essential for all of CMU's academic programs.

## **CMU LIBRARIES: A CASE FOR SUPPORT**

The ongoing support for Central Michigan University presents opportunities throughout the university, including initiatives to continue building the university's library collections and services. The philanthropic goals highlighted here closely match the comprehensive goals articulated in the University's CMU 2010 strategic plan.

In particular, the aspirations for charitable support mirror the Libraries' direct contributions to the CMU 2010 priorities of:

- Creating an environment that supports teaching and learning as the top priority;
- Enhancing the infrastructure for research and creative activity; and
- Providing service for the public good.

If the University is going to succeed in achieving progress toward these challenging priorities, the Libraries will need to remain a strong, dependable element of every academic activity of the university.

The CMU Libraries truly are at the heart of Central Michigan University, and they touch every student with opportunities for reading, research, and study.

**Collections Excellence Endowment:** Whether students and faculty are searching for the right article or manuscript for research, or browsing for the joy of exploring and learning, the quality of library collections is key. The CMU Libraries aspire to provide the most up-to-date and comprehensive resources for reading and gathering information. This is a continuous and daunting challenge considering CMU's evolving academic needs, the rapid rate of worldwide information growth, and the high cost of keeping print and electronic resources current.

Providing our students with the best print and digital books, journals, and databases available is crucial for the university's progress as a doctoral/research-intensive institution. The Libraries' acquisitions budgets are a CMU priority, but these budgets remain modest compared to annual cost increases for library resources and compared to the budgets at similar universities.

For this reason, the CMU Libraries are seeking philanthropic support for sustaining library collections quality. This is a major need. The Collections Excellence Endowment will provide for purchasing print and digital information resources to ensure that CMU can offer superior library resources and services far into the future.

**Clarke Historical Library Endowment:** The Clarke Historical Library was founded in 1954 through an alumnus' gift of books and other materials. The Clarke Library was established to document the history of Michigan and the Old Northwest Territory, and it has developed extensive holdings in the areas of genealogy, local community history, and Michigan's Native American population. The Clarke Historical Library also has an impressive collection of books that portray the state in fiction.

The Children's Library was added to the Clarke Historical Library in 1971. The Children's Library focuses exclusively on books – both school books and works of fiction – that children use when they're learning to read, and also on examples of the finest achievements in children's book illustration.

The Clarke Historical Library Endowment supports the growth, preservation, and dissemination of these nationally valued research collections, including an ambitious program to make these resources available on the Web. Enriching this endowment will allow greater acquisition of special materials and will guarantee access to these splendid resources for future generations of students, faculty, and citizens.

**Dean's Fund for Library Programs:** Annual giving of both restricted and unrestricted dollars supports innovation in programming and gives the CMU Libraries flexibility to respond to the emerging needs of CMU's students, faculty, and the community.

Park Library for many years has been a campus magnet for academic exploration. Following the renovation and expansion completed in 2002, Park Library provides an exceptional environment for study, self-directed learning, and cultural enrichment. Library resources and services enable our students to expand their creative and intellectual horizons, whether they use the University Library or the Clarke Historical Library, both of which are in the Park Library facility.

Annual giving dollars have great potential to leverage other gifts and to serve as matching gifts for technology and equipment purchases. Such giving dollars also provide financial support for enhancing the library surroundings and services available to students, faculty, staff, and the community.