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. For faculty and researchers, the Library’s most compelling priority is to support the Institute’s mission to enrich teaching, learning, and research by contributing resources and services to enhance their knowledge advancement and research output. The Library’s 2007-2011 Strategic Plan provides direction about the opportunities and challenges we face. 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 positioned to meet future challenges, and take a leadership role as the Institute strengthens its global responsibilities as a world-class research institution. For additional Award information, see the ACRL Excellence in Libraries Award video: http://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/15065.
The Library strives to empower the elite academic community at Georgia Tech, which boasts:

- Over 19,000 students (including over 6,400 graduate students) and approximately 1,000 academic faculty and 3,500 research faculty and other professionals; the incoming freshmen average composite SAT scores are 1395 (Fall 2009).

- Consistently ranked among the nation’s top ten U.S. public universities since 1999 with a ranking of 7th in 2008 (overall ranking of 38th among 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 18 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 9th; 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 in the last decade with 27 members currently and among the top ten universities in the nation. 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 the top engineering school for Hispanic students. Georgia Tech is a national leader in graduating minority and female engineers.

- Over $525 million total in annual research expenditures. 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 ten program according to U.S. News and World Report and is the largest optional co-op program nationally.

- The percentage of Tech alums contributing 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.

- Georgia Tech launched 89 new companies during the past decade; 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 academic places to work.

- The number of prestigious scholarships won by Tech students has increased 444% in the last ten years (including Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, and Fulbright).

- Georgia Tech is cited as a Top 15 best value in public education.

To meet the demands of such a prestigious community, the Library currently employs over 125 highly-trained faculty and staff members, including subject specialists in 35 disciplines, who provide 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, and wireless;

- 289 library classes and tours reaching 6,302 students;

- interlibrary loan services: 12,062 items borrowed, ILL Lending: 10,589 items lent; LENDS document delivery for faculty/staff/ distance learners totaling over 14,000 transactions; and

- 105,790 circulation charges (9% increase) and 76,810 reserves transactions.

Library attendance increased to over 1 million client visits (not including 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.
In maintaining its extensive collections, the Library’s expenditures reached approximately $13.5 million in 2007/08. Expenditures on collections were approximately $6 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 2.5 million books, bound periodicals and serials, including about 1.4 million government documents; approximately 2.8 million technical reports; and over 198,000 cartographic materials;
- over 230 online databases, over 50,000 electronic books, nearly 30,000 e-journals, and over 18,000 electronic government documents;
- over 20 million virtual visits to the Library website; over 2.6 million searches in Library databases, and nearly 1.2 million full-text articles retrieved from these databases; and
- over 2 million items accessed from Library digital collections such as SMARTech and Government-Funded Technical Reports.

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

- The Architecture Library: houses 49,000 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. This library has one of the most comprehensive historical architecture and design journal collections in the Southeast.
- 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 4,332-volume Rare Book Collection, a 8,000-volume Science Fiction Collection, 200 artifacts, approximately 1,250 collections of manuscripts, university archives, photographs and architectural drawings.

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:

**New Dean of Libraries**

Dean Catherine Murray-Rust assumed the deanship of the Library and Information Center of Georgia Institute of Technology in August 2008 upon the retirement of Dean Richard Meyer. Dean Murray-Rust’s primary focus areas are library development and marketing, a broader outreach to the GT community, partnering on forward-looking projects and advocating for library services and collections. Moving toward digital planning, research and production are essential, as is participation in information policy-making.

**Commons / CULC Updates**

The Library West Commons received a technology upgrade and refreshment in 2008 based on student feedback from both the West and East Commons. The number of computers stations increased with the addition of walk-up terminals for quick email/printing and several new printing options. For the Library East Commons (LEC), a series of qualitative and quantitative assessment tools informed a complete technology refreshment which is planned for 2009 and ensures that the space’s programming maintains its relevancy for student needs.

The Library just completed a year of discovery efforts including focus groups, online message boards, surveys, and design exercises to help create its next renovation project – the 2 West Commons. This project will incorporate some LEC features such as increased power outlets and moveable furniture but it will utilize a new framework system that allows greater flexibility to quickly reconfigure the space. Unlike its Commons’ predecessors, this space is designed to primarily support laptop usage. The 2 West Commons will open during the 2009-2010 academic year. In joining the Library West Commons and East Commons “experiments”, the 2 West Commons will aid in informing the programming of the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons (CULC): [http://www.development.gatech.edu/capital-projects/ilrc.php](http://www.development.gatech.edu/capital-projects/ilrc.php). Library staff continue their
involvement in designing the CULC working on joint programming efforts with campus units that will occupy the new space as well as addressing functional/technical issues arising from the physical access between CULC and the existing Price Gilbert Library.

**Digital Services for Scholarly Communication**

SMARTech, Scholarly Materials and Research @ Georgia Tech: http://SMARTech.gatech.edu is a trusted repository for capturing the Institute’s intellectual output in support of its teaching and research missions. SMARTech connects digital materials currently in existence throughout campus to create a cohesive, sustainable repository available to Georgia Tech and the world. First launched in 2004, the repository has quickly grown to become the 7th largest institutional repository (IR) in the United States and the 30th largest IR in the world, (according to the Directory of Open Access Repositories, http://www.opendoar.org). FY 2007/08 statistics indicate a growth of 131% in items viewed, 294% in items downloaded, and 184% in searches performed, providing Georgia Tech authors with increasing visibility and exposure.

The substantial size of the repository – at over 23,000 items - is due in part to the expansion of our program to include popular lecture recordings, open access journal support, and conference proceedings support services to campus constituents. The EPAGE@Tech publishing program: http://epage.gatech.edu, offers Georgia Tech researchers digital tools to connect with their peers at various points in the scholarly communication cycle, in addition to a service to archive the final product of their collaborations. In FY 2007/08 the Library supported two e-journals and two conferences. In our second year of capturing scholarly events, we recorded 87 symposia and lectures, including 12 new lecture series in the College of Architecture, the College of Engineering, the College of Computing, and the College of Sciences.

The Library maintains a website on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy: http://www.library.gatech.edu/scholarlycommunication/nihpolicy.html. It co-sponsored two Office of Organizational Development meetings with the Office of Sponsored Programs on policy compliance, encouraging authors to retain rights to deposit in PubMed Central and to archive their research in SMARTech. A Library-led brown bag series on author rights is being developed for Spring 2009.

**Library Events**

Several Library events, are 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 event engage both students and faculty. The RATS Week Library CeLIBration in August 2008, the fifth annual event, included a variety of activities, such as board games, Project Runway, improv comedy, speed dating, Turbopoker, Team Trivia, and Dodge Ball, coupled with pizza, popcorn and soft drinks designed to strike a balance between entertaining newly-arrived students and familiarizing them with Library services.

**Library Technology / Service Enhancements**

The GT Library introduces a Next Generation Library Catalog: http://finder.library.gatech.edu. This new interface provides an innovative discovery experience that better meets user search expectations. The “New” GT Catalog provides a variety of powerful search features including a Google-like simple query search box, categorized results to narrow searches, suggestions for similar items, and sophisticated relevance rankings. It is also Web 2.0 capable with the ability to tag results, organize favorites and much more. GT CrossSearch: the Georgia Tech Library now provides a new tool for searching multiple databases at once: http://www.library.gatech.edu:2048/login?url=http://metasearch.galileo.usg.edu/V. Using the QuickStart menu, a search for articles across pre-selected groupings of databases can be performed. Using the Multi-Database Search, a research area can be selected to find a list of appropriate databases to be searched. RapidILL provides improved access to a wide variety of journals with strengths in the humanities and social sciences as well as engineering and sciences. This easy to use, faster interlibrary loan service provides access to journal articles from 40 major research libraries, including MIT, Purdue, Columbia, and the University of Michigan. The turnaround time, in many cases, is a matter of hours rather than days and it utilizes the existing interlibrary loan system ILLiad: https://illiad.library.gatech.edu/logon.html.

**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 . . . a national tribute to a library and its staff for the outstanding services, programs, and leadership . . . “ The Library makes imaginative use of public spaces, offers virtual services with SMARTech and EPAGE, its CeLIBration Welcome Week event, Tuesday Talks (a showcase for faculty research), and other innovative programming and services.