



University Libraries

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The Murray State University Libraries—the Harry Lee Waterfield Library, Wrather West Kentucky Museum, the James O. Overby Law Library and the Forrest C. Pogue Library—contain approximately 570,000 resource materials, including 400,000 books and approximately 317 current journal and newspaper subscriptions. The University Libraries also provide access to numerous electronic resources including 175 databases and over 100,000 eBooks.

As a service to students who desire directed instruction in the use of library resources, library faculty teach an information literacy course, INF 101 Research in the Information Age. INF 101 supports the University’s goal of ensuring that each MSU graduate will “apply sound standards of information gathering, analysis and evaluation to reach logical decisions.” This course completes a University Studies elective and serves as the introductory course into the Information Studies minor, also taught and administered by the University Libraries.

Waterfield Library, the main library of the University, houses the circulating and reference collections, government documents, microforms, and journals. The reserve collection, housed at Waterfield Library’s Circulation Desk, consists of materials assigned by faculty members for class use in the library or for a limited checkout period. A patron-initiated electronic interlibrary loan service for faculty, staff, and students is maintained for the borrowing of materials from other libraries. Photocopying services for print and microform materials are available for self-service use. In addition, the Waterfield Library lobby houses a computer lab with 60 computers loaded with Internet browsers and Microsoft Office software. Waterfield and Pogue Libraries both offer laptops for check-out. Waterfield Library also houses the Racer Writing Center, the Racer Oral Communication Center, Copy Express, and the Starbooks Cafe.

The Special Collections are located in the Forrest C. Pogue Library, housing materials relating to the history and culture of western Kentucky, Tennessee and those states from which the early settlers of this area came. Holdings include books, journals, newspapers, state documents, manuscripts, rare books, prints and paintings, tape recordings, maps, and microforms. Especially noteworthy are its outstanding collections of local and regional history, TVA materials, and Civil War materials, as well as the political papers of Harry Lee Waterfield, Robert A. Everett, Noble J. Gregory, Edward T. Breathitt, and Frank Albert Stubblefield. Additional holdings include materials relating to Kentucky authors Irvin S. Cobb and Jesse Stuart. The Forrest C. Pogue War and Diplomacy Collection, including personal papers, books and other materials donated by noted historian and Murray State University graduate Dr. Forrest C. Pogue, is available for research purposes. The James O. Overby Law Library, located on the lower level of the Pogue Library, consists of basic legal materials governing the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Wrather West Kentucky Museum highlights and promotes an understanding of the social, cultural, and economic development of West Kentucky and the Jackson Purchase. Acquisitions, exhibits, and special programs support this mission. Both permanent and changing exhibits are open to the public at no charge.

The University Libraries supports the Faculty Development Center, which provides opportunities for ongoing discussions about pedagogy and instructional design. These are accomplished in one-on-one and group settings through faculty consultations, classroom visits, faculty learning communities, workshops, and conferences. We collaborate with people and programs on Murray State’s campus and beyond to support the advancement of engaging pedagogies and effective instructional design. We support the university’s core mission of teaching excellence by helping cultivate an institutional climate that values, promotes and rewards teaching excellence at Murray State University.

Information Studies

The Information Studies Minor is designed to cultivate learners who have an interest in the interdisciplinary study of the role of information in modern society. Upon completion of the minor, students will be able to:

- demonstrate appropriate advanced information-seeking methods with the ability to utilize specific resources to accomplish advanced information-seeking tasks;
- discuss the complications of such controversial topics as propaganda, privacy, censorship, intellectual property, and others, and be able to take an informed stand on public policy purposes;
- critically discern authority, credibility, and bias among information creators;
- utilize skills attained within this program in professions (i.e. librarianship or information sciences) or advanced degrees that require critical thinking in information; and
- create and/or contribute new knowledge as part of the information society.

MINOR: Information Studies

Total Minor Requirements21 hrs
Six hours must be upper-level courses.

- INF 101 Research in the Information Age
- INF 250 Advanced Information Gathering: Resources and Strategies

- INF 260 Censorship, Propaganda and Privacy
or
INF 270 Intellectual Property in the Information Age
One of the following:
INF 310 Medical Information for Practitioners and Consumers
INF 320 Examination of Scientific Communication
INF 330 History of Libraries and the Written Word
INF 340 Children's and Young Adult Literature and Storytelling

Nine hours chosen from the following:

- COM 260 Communication Ethics
CSC 125 Internet and Web Page Design
PHI 103 Critical Thinking
INF 350 Topical Seminar in Information Studies
INF 400 Directed Study