

Library

and Instructional Services



"This is the machine age. The machine tends to kill initiative which is a fundamental element in life."

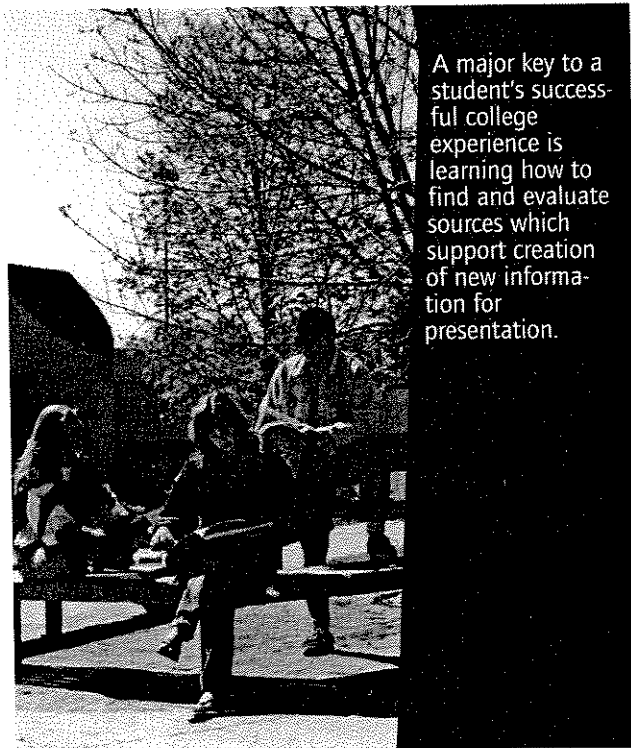
-Woodbridge N. Ferris

Library and Instructional Services

Information Access and the Library

A major key to a student's successful college experience is learning how to find and evaluate sources which support creation of new information for presentation. To assist students as they work towards their career goals, Library and Instructional Services (LIS) holds vast collections onsite as well as has access to worldwide information through the Internet/Web in keeping with the University mission. LIS is committed to helping students develop the necessary information access knowledge and skills through its instruction/reference program to become recognized practitioners of their chosen career as well as respected citizens.

Although LIS has numerous features that are familiar to anyone who has used libraries elsewhere, students will find collections, indexing services and Internet/Web homepages unique to their major are important new sources of information. To meet students needs, classroom and library faculty work together to engage learners in hands-on activities which reveal how the rich library and Internet/Web resources provide information for simple and complex questions. A full range of classes/workshops are offered beginning in the first-year experience program and continuing in major courses to prepare students for the more sophisticated information access strategies needed for lifelong learning.



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Personal Assistance

Since emerging technologies create constant change and a continual influx of new materials exists, students should stop by the information/reference desk or use the libraries' electronic reference service (<http://www.ferris.edu/library/>) often for direct assistance. Information/reference librarians are prepared to answer questions personally, by phone or e-mail as well as to help students learn how to use the computer efficiently to access information including Web-based databases, Internet/Web and other online services. Each librarian serves as a subject-specialist, and will be happy to work with students either on an individual or group basis. Appointments may be made for this purpose.

Library's Web Presence

Information seekers will find valuable assistance by using LIS' growing collection of Web pages. The subject-specialist librarians have designed a Virtual Reference Desk with pages selected on the basis of ease of use, currency of content, relevancy and authoritativeness. Other homepages continue to be created specifically as aids to assist users in effectively fulfilling course related or research needs including the identification of appropriate Internet/Web sites.

New Library Building

A new digitalized library, which is under construction and scheduled to open in 2001, will replace the current Abigail S. Timme Library and branch facility, the Health Sciences Library. The brand new building, which will be the campus focal point, will enhance the University's leadership role in teaching, learning and technology, and will be three times the size of the present libraries. Users will find network connectivity everywhere, e.g., in the large information commons with the latest computer technology and in the numerous group study rooms/conference areas. An adaptive technology lab, a food court and a family area are among the new library's features. The design incorporates workstations and software necessary for the creation of multimedia. An extraordinary opportunity will exist for discovery from the unique blend of traditional and electronic information sources.

Onsite Collections

A growing onsite collection in excess of 3/4 million books, periodicals, Michigan and U.S. government documents, research reports, maps, media and other materials are available through the University Libraries. The campus libraries also serve as a depository for U.S. Bureau of the Census and state of Michigan publications, and share this status with Northwestern Michigan College for other federal documents. The libraries have been designated as one of three Patent & Trademark Depository Libraries in Michigan.

University Archives functions to preserve Ferris State's history for future generations. Books once owned by W.N. Ferris, the University's founder, books about him, those about the institution, and publications by faculty, staff, students and alumni will be found in these collections.

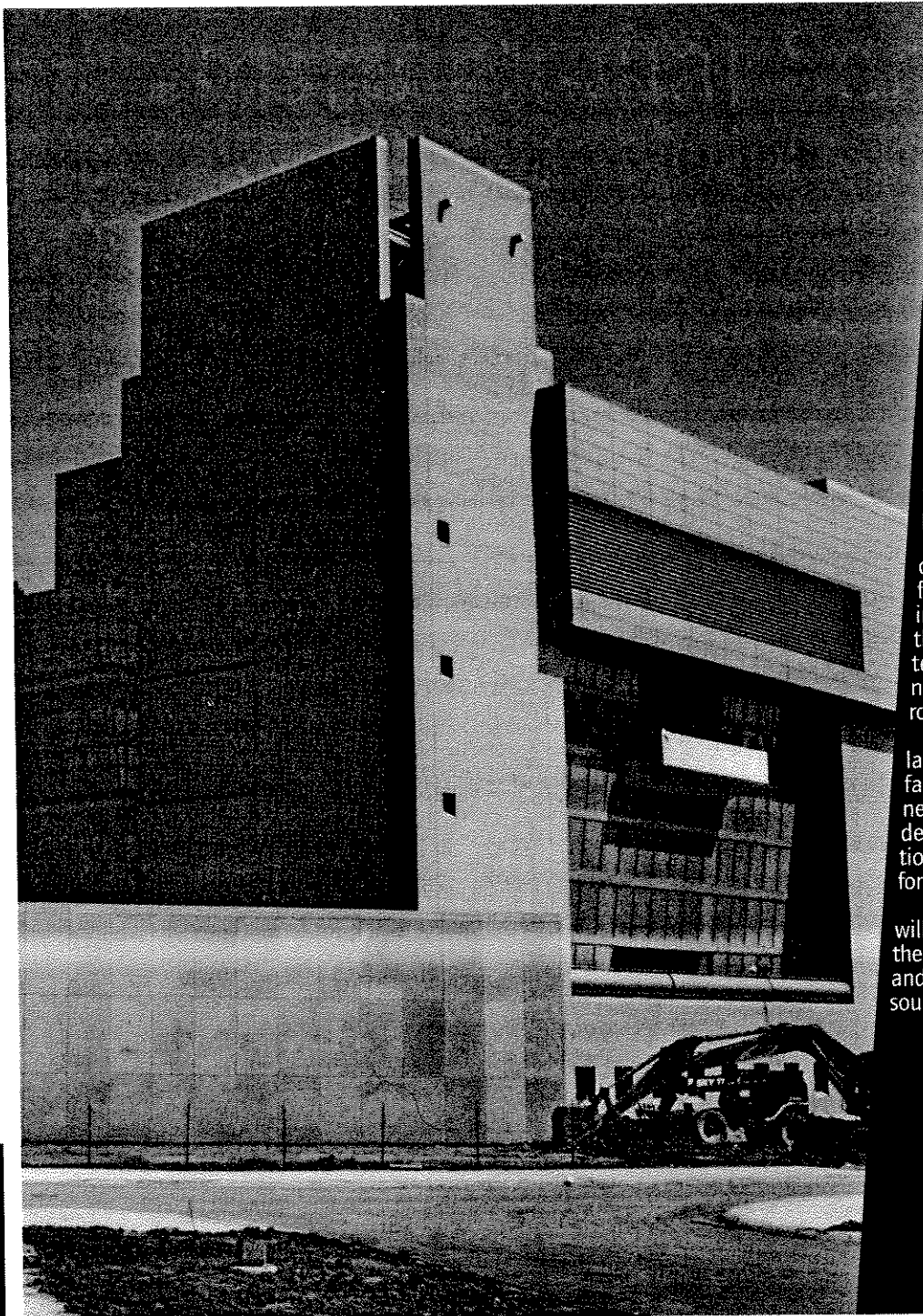
Collection Accessibility

The collections are shelved/filed by format and linked together with the online catalog that also lists Kendall College of Art and Design resources. The online catalog, moreover, has direct links to many full-text image publications. Workstations are onsite for searching either this catalog, the local area network (LAN) which includes an expanding collection of commercial Web-based products, Internet/Web or e-mail. Access is also available at other on-campus sites including microcomputer labs, residence halls and offices.

For materials not owned, Ferris State students, faculty and staff may initiate a request to borrow an item from another library/information center. For these requests, state-of-the-art technologies and sources are utilized. A major source is OCLC which connects more than 20,000 national and international libraries/information centers to deliver the material by mail, couriers, fax and other systems.

Distance Learning

Students enrolled in courses held off-campus are encouraged to use the Ferris Libraries' sources and services including direct document delivery of materials held. Access to the catalog is available through the Libraries' homepage. Authorized borrowers may search an increasing number of full-text image periodical articles using the libraries 24/7 easy-to-use remote service accessible from the Libraries' homepage. Reference, research assistance and instruction are provided to students upon request. Arrangements for these services are made by contacting reference/subject-specialist librarians.



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