Libraries enable learning. Learning creates bridges for the mind and sparks the imagination, linking past and present to the future. As students progress through their unique journeys at TCU, the newly renovated library will be central to these experiences. Whoever they are and wherever they come from, their stories will bear witness to the concept that Knowledge is Power, the phrase etched in a dozen languages on the library steps.
An open house follows immediately in the Mary Couts Burnett Library. You are encouraged to visit the complete facility. Library staff and student volunteers will be available to conduct tours and to provide information about the newly renovated library building and library services. Refreshments will be served in Bistro Burnett.
The 2015 Mary Couts Burnett Library Renovation Is Truly a Vision in Action

The Mary Couts Burnett Library is the heart and soul of Texas Christian University and has been for nine decades. Constructed for $150,000, the library was made possible by a $3 million estate gift (more than $41.7 million in today’s dollars) left to the University by Mrs. Burnett, who was not affiliated with TCU. The only provision was that one building be a memorial to the donor. At the reading of the will, President E.M. Waits on the spot decided that the building would be a library.
Mrs. Burnett did not live to see the facility’s completion, but soon before her death in 1924, she was well enough to be driven by the classical building that bore her name, then in the final stage of construction. The Class of 1925 chose to memorialize TCU’s great benefactor with these words: “By this devoted act she has won enduring immortality. Her influence through deathless youth will be transmitted to the farthest reaches of time.”

Texas Christian University has worked hard to ensure that those words are more than hyperbole. The Mary Couts Burnett Library has remained at the core of TCU’s academic mission by evolving to meet the changing needs of students and faculty and undergoing major expansions and renovations in 1957 and 1983.
The library changed significantly over the 32 years since the expansion, with innovations including Bistro Burnett, a Starbucks café; a computer laboratory and Information Commons; thousands of electronic books, journals and full-text databases; and 24-hour, five-days-a-week open hours. The results were tremendous increases in usage. The Mary Couts Burnett Library had become a place of community, connection and collaboration, limited only by its size, configuration and lack of emerging technological resources.

The current renovation of the library is a crown jewel of Vision in Action: The Academy of Tomorrow, the strategic plan crafted to realize TCU’s vision — to be a world-class, values-centered university. This vision is becoming ever closer to reality as the University completes the Intellectual Commons on the east campus.

LIBRARY MILESTONES

1910 Fire on March 22 destroys the Main Building housing the library of 8,000 volumes valued at $15,000

1911 TCU moves to present campus; library is 24’ x 36’ room on second floor of the Main Building

1915 Earliest annual report of the library shows 4,716 volumes

1923 The University announces the Mary Couts Burnett gift in December; $150,000 is designated for the library building

1925 Mary Couts Burnett Library is dedicated on February 27; holdings number 30,000 at the time Nell Andrew resigns

1932 With the Great Depression, enrollment drops dramatically and book budget is cut to $100

1938 Bertie Hall Mothershead, acting librarian since 1933, is named sixth librarian

1943 North Texas Regional Union List of Serials is published – the first library cooperative effort in the region

1949 Fine Arts Library opens in Ed Landreth Hall

1953 C. Glenn Sparks becomes seventh librarian
In addition to the library, the project comprises the University’s first multidisciplinary academic building, Rees-Jones Hall, as well as renovation and expansion of the Annie Richardson Bass Building for Harris College of Nursing & Health Sciences (both completed in 2014) and a planned complex for the Neeley School of Business.

The Intellectual Commons has been designed to facilitate creative, intellectual “collisions” to encourage student/faculty collaboration across multiple fields. A skyway connects the library and Rees-Jones Hall, and the two buildings have more than 20 group study rooms, reflecting the team-learning approach now characteristic of many academic disciplines.
1974 Contract signed with Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC) provides access to shared cataloging database

1978 Computer database searching becomes part of reference service

1981 Froissart’s Chroniques is added as library’s millionth item in January

Ground is broken on April 11 for library addition

1983 Expanded Mary Couts Burnett Library is dedicated on March 25

1984 Abell Antique Map Collection given to Special Collections

1986 Pate-Newcomer Collection on the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

1987 Dr. Fred Heath becomes University Librarian (ninth librarian)

1988 First CD-ROM databases

1989 Implementation of library’s first Integrated Library System (ILS)

Speaker James C. Wright, Jr. Archives

1990 TCU registers the internet domain name “tcu.edu” and the library’s first website follows

1991 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Archives

Library begins use of leased storage in downtown Fort Worth

1993 Bob Seal becomes Library Dean (tenth librarian)

1997 Annual Library Staff Excellence Award funded by the Friends of the TCU Library

The Mary Couts Burnett Library has become a high-tech, media-rich environment while continuing its traditional role of providing print books. The GIGA Lab is created for high-end computing and the FAB lab for 3-D printing. A state-of-the-art, interactive multimedia wall supports the Great Theme Years that focus on water, food, energy and time — also Academy of Tomorrow initiatives. Multimedia-editing suites are available for student use. A technology “sandbox” enables students and faculty to try out the latest innovations. Many more group study rooms expand the seating capacity for TCU students.

The library fosters connection and collaboration within the University community with the revitalized Bistro Burnett, which features an expanded menu. TCU’s academic heritage is highlighted with iconic items such as the University Mace, photos of Chancellor’s Award winners and the University’s Phi Beta Kappa charter. The Lizard Lounge offers academic space for graduate students and space for events such as TED Talks, poetry readings and book discussions.

Fittingly, the “new” Mary Couts Burnett Library symbolizes Texas Christian University’s aspirations and expanding academic profile and reputation.
LIBRARY MILESTONES

1997 Library begins computer support for local Cultural District Library Consortium (CDLC) museum libraries

1998 Information Commons

1999 Library acquires the Amon G. Carter, Jr. Collection

2000 Bistro Burnett dedicated by Chancellor Michael R. Ferrari
Jack B. Friedman Judaic Collection

2002 Luxembourg ambassador presents gift of Bertrand Ney’s *Between Two Rings* sculpture
Marvin and Jan Gearhart Reading Room dedication
W.B. “Judge” Hamilton Audio Visual Center

2005 Frog Pods with Student Government Association (SGA) funding added to the Information Commons
Library accepts electronic dissertations and theses from TCU graduate students

2006 Dr. June Koelker becomes Library Dean (eleventh librarian)

2008 Library begins 24-hour service, 5 days a week
Library makes streaming videos available

2009 First compact shelving installed

2013 Library Annex opens as a permanent off-campus, high-density storage site

2015 Dedication of the newly renovated Mary Couts Burnett Library
Sumner Academic Heritage Room

Architects: Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford
Eric Hahnfeld, principal
Tony Hartin, project architect
CannonDesign
Ken Wiseman, principal
Patricia Bou, project architect

Builder: Linbeck Group
Tom Hale
Randall Brockett

Project Supervision: Texas Christian University
Jesse Rangel, project manager
THE STAIRS IN THE MARY COUTS BURNETT LIBRARY ARE SIMPLE, BEAUTIFUL AND FUNCTIONAL. MADE OF LIMESTONE AND ETCHED WITH “KNOWLEDGE IS POWER” IN 12 LANGUAGES, THE SINGLE FLIGHT FEATURES DEEP RISERS THAT PROVIDE A PATH FOR STUDENTS AS WELL AS AMPHITHEATER-LIKE SEATING UPON WHICH THEY MAY SOCIALIZE OR REST.
NAMED AREAS
IN HONOR OF DONORS

The Cecil and Ida Green Reading Room
Drs. Cecil H. and Ida Green

Sam P. Woodson, Jr. Reference Library
T.J. Brown and C.A. Lupton Foundation, Inc.

The Anne Burnett Tandy and Charles D. Tandy
Special Collections Area
The Anne Burnett Tandy and Charles D. Tandy
Foundation

Faculty Research Area
The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation

Graduate Studies Area
Houston Endowment, Inc.

Instructional Media Administrative Suite
Hillcrest Foundation

Student Lounge
Abell-Hanger Foundation

Group Study Room A
Moody Foundation

Group Study Room B
Mr. and Mrs. O. Wayne Crisman

Conference Room
Bruce McMillan, Jr. Foundation

Multimedia Lecture Room
Mr. and Mrs. Dee J. Kelly

Doctoral Studies Area
Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm K. Brachman

Group Study Room C
Dr. and Mrs. A.M. Pate, Jr. Collection
Dr. and Mrs. A.M. Pate, Jr.

Group Study Room D
Sherley Family

Group Study Room E
Mr. and Mrs. Carl T. Anderson

Marvin and Jan Gearhart Reading Room
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Gearhart

Jack B. Friedman Judaic Library
Mr. and Mrs. Jack B. Friedman

Bistro Burnett
Ms. Barrie Trinkle

Student Computer Lab
TTI, Inc.

Judge Hamilton AV Resource Center
W.B. “Judge” Hamilton

Sumner Academic Heritage Room
Dr. and Mrs. George Sumner
The new Mary Couts Burnett Library takes learning far beyond the pages of the books it houses to incorporate technology and resources at every turn. Make yourself at home and explore what’s new. The next chapter is here.

**SCREENING ROOM**
Watch movies on a big screen around the clock. Also available for reserved screenings.

**GIGA LAB**
Lab for students whose classes use software requiring high-end computing capability. Includes multimedia editing suites and twelve desktop computers.

**FAB LAB**
A fabulous place to fabricate three-dimensional objects. The 3-D printer is available for use by students and faculty.

**FROG PAD**
Stop by the Frog Pad, the IT Support HelpDesk’s new walk-up service center. We can look at your equipment or help solve a tech question. (M-F, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., SS, 12 - 8 p.m.)

**TECHNOLOGY SANDBOX**
Visit the Sandbox and get your hands on exciting new technology. Have fun trying out the latest in gadgets and software.

**SUMNER ACADEMIC HERITAGE ROOM**
This scholarly hall of fame will make you proud to be part of TCU’s academic tradition.

**RESEARCH SUPPORT**
Every TCU school and college has its own dedicated staff subject liaison. You’ll never search alone.

**REFERENCE READING ROOM**
A beautiful reading room for you when using reference material.

**INFORMATION COMMONS**
100 workstations (including 13 Macs) and 55 laptops (including 5 Macs) available for check out.

**3RD FLOOR**

**HISTORY HAS A HOME HERE**
Our third floor is part library, part museum.

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**
TCU’s rare books, archives and historical collections are one-of-a-kind.

**THE JIM WRIGHT COLLECTION**
Speaker of the House Jim Wright’s papers and personal artifacts showcase four decades of U.S. history.