

Willis Library



The Library Plaza with its plantings and fountains is an asset and enhances the experience of approaching and entering the Willis Library.



Built more than thirty-five years ago, and last renovated nearly fifteen years ago, the Willis Library is the main library for the University of North Texas academic community.



Creative designers draw inspiration from a variety of sources. During the working lunch on Tuesday, December 1, one staff member claimed that the inspiration for the architecture of the Willis Library was the Babylonian scriptorium or ziggurat.



The Willis Library certainly expresses a solemn monumentality, with large masses and vertical facades unrelieved by detail.



There are few external windows, and no daylighting on the lower level; artificial lighting is adequate, supplied primarily by lay-in ceiling fixtures. A single common entrance and exit provides access to the library. A separate entrance provides access to Willis 134, a 24-hour General Access Computer Lab, operated as part of a network of labs around the campus.

Library Learning Center



Immediately to the left of the entrance is the Willis Library Learning Center (Rm 136).



A door separating the GACL (Rm 134) from the Learning Center (Rm 136) makes it feasible to consider expanding 24-hour access to include the Learning Center.



The reference collection, reference desk and study area lie directly ahead when entering the building. Rm 184 on this floor is for groups, and is left open.

Research and Instructional Services



At the entrance to this area a pair of desks on wheels is poised for future mobility.

The Research and Instructional Services staff space has tall workstation panels that tend to cut down on casual interaction, undermining collegiality; this was identified as an issue across the library.

CyberCafe



At the rear of the First Floor is the CyberCafe, an asset for the library and its user community.



Replacing the tables with additional comfortable lounge seating would enhance the comfort of the CyberCafe and perhaps encourage a more relaxed, informal, collaborative, social atmosphere.

Reserves/Current Periodicals Reading Room



The Reserves/Current Periodicals Reading Room is an enclosed room immediately adjacent to the CyberCafe.



While intended for quiet, individual use of library resources, the library's shipping and receiving area occupies one corner of the space, behind the Reserve Desk.



Housed in a variety of metal cabinets, the collection is suffering damage caused by variable, high temperatures and humidity, and occasional flooding.

Microforms



The Lower Level is home to the Bound Periodicals collection, open study space, and the microforms collection, reading and service area.

Room 035



Rm 035 is on the Lower Level. Equipped with large screen presentation technology, Rm 035 represents one of the few group spaces available for the Library's instruction program, and for staff meetings. Since it contains no installed computers it can't be used for hands-on training.