Libraries

Lehigh University has two major library facilities, the Linderman Library and the Fairchild-Martindale Library. The Lehigh University library collection comprises over one million volumes. Subscriptions to periodicals are mostly in electronic format, and the collection of ebooks is growing at a rapid rate.

The historic Linderman Library reopened after an extensive renovation as a showcase for humanities programs and collections, as well as an intellectual center for the campus at large. The 1878 high Victorian rotunda and the 1929 grand reading room were retained in all their magnificence. Among the new features are: seminar rooms, a computer classroom, exhibition space, group studies, a cafe, and wireless throughout. Linderman houses books and journals in the humanities and Lehigh’s impressive collection of rare books including Darwin’s Origin of Species and John James Audubon’s four-volume elephant folio edition of Birds of America. Digital library projects highlight various aspects of the collection from “Digital Bridges” (books on 19th century bridge construction) and “Beyond Steel” (materials examining the social and cultural impact of the Lehigh Valley’s industrial past) to the Brown and White student newspaper archive. In addition, Special Collections holds numerous archival collections that focus on industrial and regional history.

The Fairchild-Martindale Library contains electronic and print books and journals in all branches of science, engineering, mathematics, and the social sciences, including business and education. It provides collaborative learning spaces, wireless connectivity, a small cafe, and comfortable lounge areas.

The Libraries offer students, faculty, and staff a full range of electronic journals, full text and image databases easily accessible from on and off campus. The library web page library.lehigh.edu serves as a gateway to these resources, as well as encompassing news items, a blog, library hours, and an invaluable set of library research guides (Libguides). The web page also provides quick access to most library services and to research assistance. Interlibrary loan via ILLiad or PALCI (Pennsylvania academic libraries) allows for rapid and easy borrowing from collections in other libraries. There is also desktop delivery of scanned articles in Lehigh’s print journal collection. Students and faculty may also borrow books directly from other academic libraries in the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC).