Gallaudet University Library

How unique are we?
General Collection

• Print resources that support the University’s curriculum
• A growing collection of e-books, including a large DDA collection
• General periodicals, primarily electronic
• Popular DVDs (no longer growing) **ALL CAPTIONED**
• Includes some items that might be considered “deaf” in other libraries
• Collections of the Washington Research Library Consortium
Deaf Collection

- Materials by/about deaf people, deaf culture, and sign languages
- Intended to be a comprehensive collection
- Books (print and electronic), videos, media, journals
- Some sound recordings and videos that do not have captions
- Archives
Deaf vs. General Collection

• Deaf: materials relating to Deaf people, Deaf culture, and sign languages

• General: Deafness as pathology: audiology, acoustics, communication devices, ear, hearing aids, hearing disorders, lip reading, middle ear, noise, speech
Information Literacy

• Classes
• One-on-one appointments
• Videos
Reference

• Mostly face-to-face, email, chat, some VP, almost no voice phone

• Gallaudet users
  • Typical academic library (support for papers and projects in all subject areas, literature reviews)
  • Deaf research (from very basic to in-depth)

• Non-Gallaudet
  • Statistics!
  • Access to databases
  • Students from other universities
  • Learning ASL, parents of deaf children, legal issues...
Staff

• 5 librarians (3 hearing, 2 Deaf)
• 1 archivist (Deaf)
• 6 technicians (all Deaf)
• Student assistants (staff Desk alone)
Challenges

• English instructions/documents
• Students don’t fully understand research concepts
• ASL instructions/explaining difficult concepts
• Class size