Part of the UNC Library system, the UNC Health Sciences Library (HSL) is the primary library for the UNC-CH Schools of Public Health, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, and UNC Hospitals. The HSL has superb staff (60 full-time positions), facilities, and collections, and is considered to be among the best medical school libraries in the United States and Canada. The HSL serves the health information needs of the entire university with more than 176,307 print and non-print titles and access to over 200 electronic databases. There is an exceptional collection of over 10,000 electronic serial publications, over 14,000 electronic books, over 4,600 streaming video titles, and over 340,000 total print volumes. The number of electronic resources held has more than doubled since the 1997-98 academic year. The HSL is a Resource Library for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, meaning that it participates in national and international interlibrary loan consortia. This participation allows the Library to borrow materials quickly from other libraries around the nation and the world. Hundreds of electronic journals and databases such as PubMed, CINAHL, ISI Citation Databases, BIOSIS, PsycINFO, eFacts, Lexi-Comp are available through the Library’s website. Faculty, staff, and students can access electronic resources from home. Information about other resources and databases can be obtained at the library’s Internet Desk, which is staffed on a full-time basis by technical experts. The HSL staff is available to assist in complex literature searches. Additionally, the HSL is a participant in faculty and student education related to the retrieval of electronic information and use of specific computer applications software.

The six-story building underwent extensive renovation, completed in early 2005. The HSL is fully wireless, with guest wireless access, and equipped with 64 public computer workstations, 20 small group study rooms, 2 teaching labs with a total of 45 workstations, 3 video conferencing facilities, 2 well-equipped public conference rooms, and a coffee shop. The Research Hub @ HSL, opened in 2015, offers video/web conferencing technologies, large screen displays paired with a variety of data analysis and visualization software, and an event space with web streaming capability. The library seats 578 people (401 open seats, 35 café, 50 classroom seats, 65 conference room seats, and 27 Research Hub seats).

HSL is ranked among the top academic health sciences libraries in the nation, and it is one of the largest of its type in the US. It is known for providing innovative electronic services to special clientele including public health practitioners and off campus students, and for its digital library development. Librarians offer a variety of additional services including customized literature searches and electronic applications development. The library supports internship opportunities for advanced health information professional training. In addition to providing users with an array of informational, instructional, and research resources, the libraries offer a wide range of campus-wide reference and referral services, most of which are now available remotely via the Internet or campus computer networks.

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