The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill academic and research communities benefit from a library system that perennially ranks among the best research libraries in North America. Nearly three dozen libraries support the University’s academic and professional programs. Their combined collections exceed 4M print volumes, 3M government publications and 14M manuscripts. A network of libraries and reading rooms across the campus supports the University of North Carolina’s academic, research, and professional programs. More than three hundred library staff members provide library services to Chapel Hill students, faculty, and staff as well as researchers from throughout North Carolina and across the globe. The combined book and serial volumes held exceeds 8,200,000 (including 1.5 million e-books); 5.2 million microforms; 1.6 million government publications; 496,684 audiovisuals; 287,600 maps; and 2.4 million graphic items. UNC’s Southern Historical Collection, with more than 24 million unique items, is the largest collection anywhere of materials that document the region. In terms of subject scope, campus libraries cover most areas of the fine arts, biomedical and physical sciences, humanities, law, and social sciences.

The University Library, also known as the Academic Affairs Library, consists of the Walter Royal Davis Library, the main library that principally serves the humanities and social sciences; the Robert B. House Undergraduate Library that includes the major reserve reading materials and the Media Resources Center; the Louis Round Wilson Library, a special collections facility that includes the Manuscripts, Maps, and Rare Book collections, the North Carolina Collection and gallery; and nearly a dozen branch libraries covering art, biology, chemistry, geological sciences, information and library science, math/physics, marine sciences, music, and city and regional planning. The Health Sciences Library, the Katherine R. Everett Law Library, and several independent libraries, including, for example, the Carolina Population Center Library, Highway Safety Research Center Library, and Park Library of Journalism and Mass Communication complete the campus network.

The Library is a member of the Association for Research Libraries, a non-profit organization operated and maintained by its participating institutions for the sole purpose of increasing the library research materials available to its readers. The UNC-CH Library system also participates in the Triangle Research Libraries Network, a library consortium involving UNC-CH, North Carolina State University, Duke University, and North Carolina Central University, allowing UNC faculty, staff, and students to borrow materials from the other university libraries.

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