REVITALIZING THE MILTON S. EISENHOWER LIBRARY

“There is no such thing as a strong university apart from a great library.”

Daniel Coit Gilman, founding president,
The Johns Hopkins University
THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Milton S. Eisenhower Library stands at the heart of Homewood campus and functions as the main research library for Johns Hopkins University. The library opened in 1964 and boasts a collection of more than 4 million volumes as well as an extensive array of electronic resources, maps, and special collections materials.

BY THE NUMBERS

Total volumes held: more than 4 million
Print and electronic journal subscriptions: 121,592
Full-text electronic books: 913,100
Maps: 211,000
Videos and DVDs: 15,000

In 2012, the library recorded more than 1 million user visits. The Homewood campus population, including full-time graduate students, is just under 7,000. And while the “gate count” numbers are not unique visitors, it is clear that the Eisenhower Library is one of the most heavily used buildings on campus.

The Brody Learning Commons, which opened in August 2012, allows us to focus attention on much needed renovations and updates to the Milton S. Eisenhower Library. The MSE Library was designed to meet the technological needs of its day, and it has been partially upgraded over time to satisfy critical needs. But the library’s role and usage at Johns Hopkins University, as well as our user expectations and needs, have evolved greatly over the past 50 years, and we must match this evolution with a holistic approach to changes within the building.

PREPARING MSE FOR A SECOND HALF CENTURY

The addition of the Brody Learning Commons has increased our seating capacity by a third, adding 16 group study rooms, a 100-seat quiet reading room, and 6 seminar rooms. Yet the Eisenhower Library remains a bustling center of activity, and we seek to renovate the building to better meet our users’ needs.

We will update the library building itself, adding new collaborative study rooms and provide a new, more visible home on M-level for the Center for Educational Resources (CER). The Garrett Room, which currently houses CER, will be returned to its original purpose for use by the Johns Hopkins community for lectures, symposia, and workshops. The area on Q-level previously occupied by Café Q will be converted into gallery space for exhibitions curated by students and displays of art gifted by donors.

Renovation of Student Study Areas

$2,000,000

New furniture and flooring, updated lighting, and technology upgrades (e.g., faster wireless) will ensure that the MSE Library will be as functional for our users as the Brody Learning Commons. This work includes the renovation of carrels and individual study spaces.

Renovation and Restoration of the Garrett Room

$1,000,000

The Garrett Room will be renovated and returned to its original purpose for use by faculty, students, staff and the public as a meeting and event facility. Renovations will include new restrooms and catering facilities.

Additional Group Study Spaces in the Eisenhower Library

$1,500,000

The increasingly important role of collaborative study helped drive the design of the Brody Learning Commons. The Eisenhower Library remains a more traditional kind of library space, but we need to create additional and larger group study rooms to provide our users with the same quality of collaborative spaces that they enjoy in the Brody Learning Commons.

Center for Educational Resources/Academic Liaison Program Renovations

$2,000,000

The CER, currently housed in the Garrett Room, will move to M-Level to be near the Academic Liaison Department. The two departments already work closely together, and this new geographic proximity will give rise to new synergies and partnerships that will enhance the research and teaching endeavors of our faculty and students. Reconfigured office and meeting space will help advance this cross-departmental collaboration.

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