THE LIBRARIES

The Health Science Center Libraries (http://library.uthscsa.edu) promote learning, inspire discovery, and connect with the communities they serve. To achieve this mission library staff deliver resources for teaching, learning, and research; provide expert information and instructional services; develop innovative physical and virtual spaces; strengthen existing partnerships; and seek new collaborations. The Libraries include:

- Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Library at the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Campus
- Regional Campus Library in Laredo
- Jesse H. Jones Comprehensive Research Library at the South Texas Research Park

Most library resources are available electronically, enabling students in San Antonio as well as distance and off-site students to access them from any location. Computers, study carrels, collaborative and individual study tables and comfortable seating can be found throughout the library. Use of library computers or Wi-Fi requires a campus network login or a guest login available upon request. Staff assistance can be requested at the Circulation Desk. Inquiries can be made in person, by email and by telephone. Liaison librarians assigned to each school provide one-on-one research assistance to drop-in students and by appointment.

- Hours: The Briscoe Library is open 24/7 with Health Science Center ID card access.
- Catalog: The library’s catalog provides information about the collections. Off-campus access to e-journals and e-books is restricted to Health Science Center ID holders and University Health System house staff. The Library strives to provide convenient access and services by observing a schedule and hours that meet the needs of its users.
- Circulation: All university students, faculty, staff, residents, fellows, and University Health System ID holders may check out materials.
- Reserve Collection: A core collection of text books, selected by faculty or due to the significance of the items, is available for limited checkout periods. Electronic course reserve materials are managed by individual faculty through the university’s course management system, Canvas.
- Study Room Reservations: Group study rooms and meeting rooms may be reserved for student use. Rooms are equipped with whiteboards, and most rooms have a large screen monitor for shared projects. Individual study rooms are available on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Information and Reference Services: The Library is staffed with professional librarians and library assistants who provide information assistance in person, via telephone, and via email.
- Literature Search Services: Librarians provide a mediated database search service for health sciences related topics, customizing search strategies and printing or emailing citations. Requests can be made using an online form. Librarians also collaborate with students and faculty on systematic reviews. These services are available to faculty, staff and students, to health care professionals and students in South Texas, and to the general public. Non-Health Science Center requesters are charged a fee.
- Instructional Services: Librarians provide orientations for new students, faculty and staff and classes on databases, searching the Internet, finding evidence-based resources, and citation management.
- Library Guides: Library staff have developed a series of web-based guides with links to subject-specific resources that provide point of need information.
- Interlibrary Loan: Library users from the Health Science Center may request and receive materials not owned by the Library through this fee-based service. Other libraries may request to borrow books or receive articles from our collection. In 2016, we delivered almost 3,700 more items to other libraries than what we requested, which speaks to the strength of the Library’s collection.
- Photocopy/printing services: Library users may photocopy or print at the Briscoe and Laredo libraries at a cost of 10 cents per page.
- Liaison Librarians: Librarians are designated as a single point of contact at each school for library instruction and research services. The liaison librarians have office hours when students can drop by for assistance. They work with the faculty, instructional designers, and program directors to plan and develop curriculum-integrated courses on use of library databases, evidence-based practice health information, and citation management. They participate on curriculum committees as well as other campus groups. The liaison librarians participate in systematic reviews, and provide reference services and customized instruction.
- Services for Distance and Off-Site Students: Students who are enrolled in distance programs or are unable to get to the Library in person are still able to take advantage of the library’s collections and services. The collection books and journals is over 95% online and accessible from anywhere with a network login. They can request copies of print books and journal articles through the Interlibrary Loan service at no charge, and can return them with postage paid by the Library. Distance students can interact with librarians by telephone and email if they need assistance. With the TexShare program, they are able to borrow materials from academic libraries in their local area.
- Simulation and Immersion Technology: The library has designated a space called The Hub that uses technology to enhance teaching and learning. Equipment includes digital and virtual reality anatomy programs, software for students to create and edit presentations and videos, and a 3D printer and scanner.
- Outreach and Community Engagement: In keeping with the university’s mission to engage our community to improve health, we offer access to library services such as reference, clinical information, database searches, and document delivery to licensed area health professionals. Librarians collaborate with area libraries and health care organizations to develop programs with an emphasis on access to consumer health information and health information literacy.

Contact information:
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210-567-2440 (Circulation)
210-567-2450 (Reference)
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