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## News - University of Georgia

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## University of Georgia Libraries

### The University of Georgia Special Collections Libraries begin 2012 in a new facility.

The University of Georgia has completed a new state-of-the-art special collections facility, the Richard B. Russell Building, to house the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, and the Walter J. Brown Media



Archives and Peabody Collection. The University broke ground for the \$46-million, 115,000-square-foot structure in January 2010. UGA raised one-third of the cost from private sources, along with \$7 million in gifts for program endowments.

“We are exhilarated to reach completion of this outstanding new facility designed for the purpose of growing, caring for, and sharing the University’s most distinguished collections,” said P. Toby Graham, deputy university librarian and director of the Hargrett Library. “After many years of planning and fundraising, we are eager to welcome students, researchers, and the general public to engage with our collections in the Russell Building’s research rooms, exhibition halls, classrooms, and through public events.”



Each special collection library has its own galleries in which to display permanent and rotating exhibits. Additionally, there are classrooms to allow the integration of primary source materials into instruction and meeting spaces for screenings, colloquia, and other public programs. The building includes digitization facilities for paper-based materials, moving images, and audio, as well as an oral history studio.

Located near historic North Campus, the Special Collections Libraries Building anchors a proposed northwest quadrant of campus.

A highlight of the building visitors will not see is a 30,000-square-foot Harvard-model high-density storage facility constructed largely below grade. As this storage model is generally used for off-site shelving facilities, UGA's special collections vault is unique in its incorporation of high density into an actual library. Items are retrieved using a motorized order picker to reach the 30-foot high shelves.

A grand opening celebration is planned for Feb. 17. Please contact Dr. Toby Graham, 706.542.7123, [tgraham@uga.edu](mailto:tgraham@uga.edu) for more information.