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Georgia Library Spotlight - Willet Memorial Library, Wesleyan College

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

Willet Memorial Library Wesleyan College

Willet Memorial Library at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia is transitioning. A library on a small women's college campus has opportunities for service that larger libraries may not be able to offer. Willet Memorial librarians pride themselves on their personal service to students, whether it is in the form of supplying coffee and tea or just listening. More importantly, they offer hours of research assistance. The library even provides the ministrations of a cat named Libris, who is a willing accomplice to its homey atmosphere. Libris is actually known world-wide, as he was a featured cat in a British magazine a few years ago.



Wesleyan College, being the first college in the country chartered to grant degrees to women, is proud of its history, and the entire campus is on the Historic Register. Its archives and special collections, housed in Willet Library, are used by students and researchers from all over the country. The special collections room, called the China Room, is a point of interest in the library that attracts many visitors each year as well as various dignitaries from countries such as China and Japan.

Wesleyan's first Chinese students were the three Soong sisters who are known for their marriages to men important to China and the world and who were instrumental in determining the present history of that country. They were Soong Ai-Ling, married to H. H. Kung, the wealthiest man in China in the early years of the twentieth century; Soong Ching-Ling, revered to the present as the mother of China having married Sun Yat-Sen, the father of the Chinese Revolution in 1912; and Soong May-Ling, or Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, who in 1943 became the first woman to speak before the United States Congress. Current ties with China include the establishment of a Confucius Institute inside the library. The institute is working with private schools in the Macon-Bibb County area and is teaching classes on the Wesleyan Campus.

Willet Library is transitioning in other ways, evaluating systems and moving forward soon into the cloud, making every effort to bring the best of modern technology to the students at Wesleyan College. For more information, visit Willet Memorial Library's website at <http://www.wesleyancollege.edu/academics/library/services/index.cfm>.