

7-1-2015

Georgia Library Spotlight - American InterContinental University Library

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Recommended Citation

Epstein, Jessica (2015) "Georgia Library Spotlight - American InterContinental University Library," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 52 : Iss. 3 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol52/iss3/3>

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

American InterContinental University Library

The Library at American InterContinental University (AIU)—Atlanta is the hot spot on campus for general computing and printing, as well as online research and circulation. Recent renovations on campus included moving the Learning Center into a classroom in the library's space, making it easier for students to obtain academic support services in a single physical location.

Because degrees at AIU are career-focused, several highlights of the collection are particular to individual academic programs. For example, the fashion forecasting materials are in high demand as fashion students do marketing research and work on their portfolios. These trend books (from New York, Paris, and Milan) give students a sense of what color palettes, themes, and fabrics will be walking the runway 18–24 months from now.

Films are another significant aspect of the collection. This includes not just general new releases (popular with all students) but also classic and foreign films more specifically directed toward the media production students. One job of a media student is to watch as many different films as possible, and the library facilitates this through the popular DVD

collection, as well as with documentaries and instructional videos.

The library is also a hub for events around campus. Recent events in honor of Black History Month included a giant, themed crossword puzzle in the campus lobby, a Black History film series, and a roundtable discussion on Black History Month's relevance. Events are intended to both highlight and promote parts of the

collection, to create dialogue on campus, and to contribute to overall student satisfaction.

Following the screening of *More Than a Month*, a documentary that explores the idea of doing away with Black History Month in favor of teaching Black history as integrated history

year-round, the library is creating an initiative called Black History 365. This program will highlight an event, accomplishment, or person related to Black history every day on campus, in addition to periodic special events.

Finally, the library is in the process of creating a new section in the collection to encompass student-authored materials. This will include items like DVD copies of completed work by media students, portfolios by fashion and interior design students, and more. The library hopes students will find it informative and inspirational to view and experience work other students have created.

