Many of the best ideas for improving the UW-Madison Libraries come from our students. We try to pay careful attention to what they tell us—both good and bad—about their library experiences. Student feedback has guided our use of the libraries’ unrestricted gifts and endowments in ways that produce the maximum benefit for library users. Recent improvements to our services and facilities would not have been possible without generous gifts to the libraries made through the UW Foundation.

~ Kenneth L. Frazier, Director
University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries
Study Space

“Campus libraries constantly exceed my expectations. I feel privileged to attend a university with such a strong library system. Thanks and keep up the good work.”

~ Undergraduate, Psychology

“The libraries on this campus seem to provide students with excellent resources and environments for study. When I go to the library I’m able to get the work done that I need to in less time than if I were to stay at the dorms because the atmosphere is quiet and makes you want to keep studying.”

~ Undergraduate, Social Science

“Group study tends to be difficult. There are very few study rooms where we can talk freely without disturbing other students.”

~ Undergraduate, Agricultural & Life Sciences

“In general I am very satisfied with the library. I wish there was more group study space, but I wouldn’t want to see the quiet study areas any smaller either.”

~ Undergraduate, Education

Hours

“I love the new 24-hour policy at College. I just wish the Open Book Café would stay open later.”

~ Undergraduate, Business

“Most libraries don’t stay open late enough on Friday and Saturday nights and don’t open early enough on Saturday and Sunday mornings.”

~ Undergraduate, Health Sciences

“I think the libraries on this campus are generally good, especially now that College is open 24 hours. I wish Memorial was open longer hours.”

~ Undergraduate, Social Science

College Library

“When I arrive at the library, I remember why I enjoy studying there so often. The staff is friendly and helpful and I love the extended hours. I work late hours and stay up late to study and I find the new hours really beneficial to students with varying study habits.”

~ Undergraduate, Law

“I have been completely satisfied with the College Library. I have always been treated with respect, the staff is VERY helpful, and being able to access the Web site from my computer at home is wonderful. The library’s Web site and easy access made it a lot less stressful gathering my information for research papers.”

~ Undergraduate, Math

“I really enjoy the fact that College Library is open 24 hours.”

~ Undergraduate, Social Science

“I love the library. I love that it is comfortable and still a great study environment. I love the café that you added to College Library.”

~ Undergraduate, Physical Science

Memorial Library

“You should put some more comfortable chairs in the study rooms of Memorial Library. The tables are nice and big but the chairs can be a big pain in the butt, literally.”

~ Graduate, Psychology

“I live on Langdon Street so I find the libraries to be in a convenient location. I love libraries and, you know something, Memorial Library has to be one of the best. If I have less than favorable comments, it has little to do with the staff or services; it has to do with a state that demands quality but doesn’t provide enough money to assure it.”

~ Undergraduate, Humanities
Resources

“Keep on doing what you are doing. I’ve needed help researching this year and it was a very good experience. Thanks so much!”
~ Undergraduate, Business

“I would like to say how helpful the electronic journals and publications are. Very few times am I not able to access a publication or find information. The only drawback can be that the full text is not available and only the abstract can be viewed. I am very pleased with the overall library system.”
~ Graduate, Social Science

“The online journals are the best. I would not have been able to complete my research projects (engineering, engineering professional development, and history) without them. Memorial Library has lots of old books which are useful too.”
~ Undergraduate, Engineering

“Overall I’m very happy with the libraries on campus. Just about every piece of recreational reading I’ve ever wanted has been there; however, the selection of modern technical textbooks is somewhat disappointing.”
~ Undergraduate, Social Science

“Having electronic resources is great, but it can sometimes be time consuming to learn how to use each of the online journals individually. The libraries themselves seem to be pretty well organized with friendly, informed staff. Thank you!”
~ Undergraduate, Humanities

Historical Society

“I have had great service at the Historical Society Library. The ladies at the information desk are so helpful and really opened up new doors into my research.”
~ Graduate, Humanities

Physics Library

“Everyone has always been helpful, especially at the Physics Library.”
~ Undergraduate, Math

Steenbock Library

~ Undergraduates, Agricultural & Life Sciences

“Steenbock is an amazing library. You should put more money into modernizing it to be more compatible with the other libraries on campus. Your Lakeshore residents need it for a good, safe place to study. We love Bock!”

“It’s great. It’s been the best place to do my homework and to write papers. I only think that there is a need for more computers.”

“The big work space for group projects is great.”

“The library is usually full and not enough computers.”

“Working space is huge, there is excellent lighting, and there is a good view.”

“It’s awesome—lots of space to work and spread out materials, nice computers, great work environment.”

“It seems like people use the computers much more, and it is a lot harder to get on one to do work. I do like the large desks to spread work out on.”

Services

“The services provided by the libraries on this campus are the best I’ve seen. (Even compared to schools such as UC-Berkeley and Georgia Tech.) Almost all staff members are most courteous and helpful.”
~ Graduate, Social Science

“Great job. Whenever I need to get work done I go to a library.”
~ Graduate, Education

“Although it’s not the library staff’s job to police the noisy students or people who have ridiculous phone ring tones that go off every five minutes, it would be nice if they could somehow make loud people shut up in the quiet areas.”
~ Undergraduate, Humanities

“I think the libraries are pretty good. It would be nice if the printing/copying was a bit cheaper.”
~ Undergraduate, Social Science

Geography Library

“Some attendants seemed reluctant to help, like it was a chore for them and not something they enjoyed. At the Geography Library, on the other hand, I have been extremely pleased with the service. The availability of library Web pages makes it easy to find journal articles online.”
~ Undergraduate, Engineering

Quotes are taken from results of the LibQUAL+ survey, a library service quality survey, conducted at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, spring 2004.