

Marriott Library is key to student success



ALEE
HOLBROOK

When you think of a university library, what comes to mind? Do you see towering bookshelves packed with dusty antiquated volumes and a grumpy librarian shushing patrons while wheeling a rickety cart stacked with books around the shelves? Fortunately, the Marriott Library hardly resembles the stereotype. In fact, the Marriott Library embodies cutting-edge and revolutionary services, and librarians are constantly improving their resources to suit up-to-date student needs. As a part-time employee at the library, I am constantly surprised to learn that students are generally unaware of the breadth of the services the library has tailored specifically for student use. If you want to have a successful first year, the resources and services at the Marriott Library are essential to achieving your academic goals.

Located at the heart of campus, the Marriott Library is a central location for students, staff and faculty members. The classrooms are located on the first floor and are nearly all equipped with computers, projectors and other technology learning services. In addition, students have the option to borrow iPads, USB adaptors, microphones, projectors and other technological accessories and hardware for personal and academic use from Student Computing Services. Not only can the employees show you how to use the equipment, but they can also help you download and install any software programs you may need to ensure your presentation or class goes as smoothly as possible. Also located in the Knowledge Commons are the library's recently

acquired 3-D printer and large format printer, both of which can be used by students for a small fee.

On the second floor, the Reserve Desk houses a plethora of services for students. Here you can check out textbooks for your classes on an hourly basis, pick up books you requested online through the library catalogue and interlibrary loans, check out bone boxes or skeletons to study for health sciences classes and even purchase basic school supplies, such as note cards or whiteboard markers. Located across from the Reserve Desk is the Writing Center, which is a free service for students looking to improve the quality of their writing. After making an appointment online, students work with a tutor to review and revise their writing and create a more suitable, well-developed paper for their assignment. The Writing Center is not just limited to academic writing and invites students to bring in all types of written work, including personal statements, résumés, grant proposals and even fictional pieces.

The most underutilized service in the library, however, is the guidance offered by professional and knowledgeable faculty librarians. Most librarians have specific fields of study and can help students navigate and find library materials tailored to their assignments, papers or research. Each librarian has a profile posted on the Marriott Library's website, and students can request an individual appointment where the librarian will not only teach you how to navigate the library's online catalogue but will also help you with additional services, such as making interlibrary loan requests or downloading PDFs from online databases. Librarians are always staffed in the Knowledge Commons on the second floor and are eager to help students with all types of research. The services they provide can make an incredible difference in your academic career. As you begin your first semester, make it a point to explore the library.

letters@chronicle.utah.edu