

Fast facts William T. Young

The William T. Young Library

- Has total space equivalent to 10 football fields or eight acres
- Houses 37 miles of compact shelving
- Stands 167 feet
- Six inches — as high as the 15th floor of UK's tallest building, the Patterson Office Tower
- Increases library seating by 350%

In addition, there are:

- 141 miles of data cable
- 60 miles of voice cable
- 50 miles of fiber optic cable
- 620 personal computers available for patrons and staff

And there's more:

- 57 group study and conference rooms
- Faculty/student study capacity increases from 36 to 350
- Bookends for the library were enough to fill two tractor trailers
- The library will be open 24 hours a day
- The library cost \$58 million
- Approximately 700,000 work sheets were required for the design
- The library is ranked 32nd among the 67 public research libraries in the United States

William T. Young began his studies at the University of Kentucky in 1935, when the Margaret I. King Library was only four years old. He graduated in 1939 with high distinction in mechanical engineering. Since then, his business interests have ranged from making peanut butter, to starting a storage company, to breeding thoroughbreds. Today, W. T. Young Storage Co. has become a successful Lexington business and Young, reached the pinnacle of any horseman's career in 1996 by winning the Kentucky Derby with Gridstone.

Young's business success has been enriched



by his civic endeavors. At UK, he was one of the original UK Fellows and has served on the university's Board of Trustees. He was chief of staff to Gov. John Y. Brown II, on a salary of \$1 a year. He was recognized as Lexington's Outstanding Philanthropist earlier this decade. Young's \$5 million contribution kicked off the campaign for a new library in October 1991. He said he hoped it would be a catalyst for others to give. It was. More than 14,000 others raised total donations to \$22 million for the building and a book endowment. The William T. Young Library assures that future generations will benefit from his commitment to UK and all of Kentucky.

John Gaines

John R. Gaines was perhaps second only to President Worthington in efforts to raise private funding for the construction of the new library. The prominent horseman and philanthropist was at the president's side when he announced the goal of constructing the new library. And he has been there ever since as chair of the fundraising campaign that would bring in more than \$22 million in private funding — 70 percent in the first 10 months.

A veteran of formidable fundraising challenges — several involving the University of Kentucky — Gaines was the chair of successful efforts to raise money for the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center.

He put his expertise and drive to work in his vision to help build a state-of-the-art library for the university. The founder of Gateway Farms, Gaines has long been a national leader in thoroughbred horse racing. He conceived the idea of the Breeders' Cup, which he first announced in Louisville as the "super bowl" of horse racing. His dream became that.

Paul Willis

Paul Willis has seen a lot of changes since he worked as a student assistant at the Margaret I. King Library in 1963. He helped fill the shelves that year in the new five-floor addition to the library's south side. He helped fill the shelves again in 1974 when King Library North opened, this time as director of university libraries.

He knew then that UK would someday need a new library. Housing one library in three buildings had led to a maze. Books were shelved on 17 floors and were classified under two systems — the old Dewey Decimal and the new Library of Congress. Another addition would have meant additional problems. That is why he is so pleased with the William T. Young Library.

"I will get my satisfaction from seeing it work and seeing people come and use it," Willis said of the new library, which

Thomas Clark

When Thomas Clark finished his master's degree in 1928, he did not plan to return to the University of Kentucky. But in 1931, he was invited back to teach history and develop UK's collection of rare books, manuscripts and other historical documents. The work became a life-time commitment for the native Mississippian who today is Kentucky's historian laureate.

The catalyst for developing the university's rare books and manuscripts was construction of a new library. When the Margaret I. King Library opened in 1931, it contained a small second-floor vault to house the special collection. With the opening of the new William T. Young Library, Special Collections and Archives will remain behind to occupy

the entire building. Because of Clark's commitment — the books he collected are the core of Special Collections — he was named honorary chairman of the faculty and staff campaign to raise money for the new library. Clark does not doubt the importance of the new library.

"You don't have a university if you don't have a good library. Without it, you're left with an intellectual shell," he said.



has books cataloged under one system and shelved on only three floors. "I'll get my satisfaction the first time I walk in the front door and see most of the seats filled."

In addition to the changes, however, Willis sees a lot of things that have stayed the same. Students still are drawn to attractive, comfortable reading rooms for studying. And they still look to libraries for information, whether in print or electronic form.

The Young Library provides three grand reading rooms and 3,000 seats for studying. And it was specifically designed for an age when information is found both on paper and screen.

"The new William T. Young Library boasts the very latest digital communications system that provides boundless resources to meet the needs of faculty, students and staff."
— UK President Charles F. Worthington Jr.

High tech innovations highlight Young Library

A university freshman sits in a library lounge, using a laptop computer to search the Internet for information for her first term paper. She gets up to get a drink of water and carries the laptop with her since there are no wires hooked to the wall.

In another part of the library, a reference librarian looks for a reference book, taking into a wireless headset to a caller from western Kentucky while scanning the shelves for the needed volume.

This futuristic sounding library is already here. Wireless laptop computers and wireless telephone handsets are just two of the new features in the University of Kentucky's new William T. Young Library.

"This library will be really state of the art," said Mary Molinaro, overall team leader for the Young Library. "We'll have technological innovations that will let us deliver services in a way we've never been able to in the past."

The Young Library will have 3,000 computer network ports and five times the seating capacity available in the King Library, said Molinaro. The wireless handsets will be for reference librarians in the second floor reference library. The high-tech headsets will allow staff to roam through the reference collection and talk with callers at the same time, instead of putting the caller on hold, searching the files, then returning to the phone with the information or to ask more questions.

About the architect

Michael McKinnell — Kallmann McKinnell & Wood

The lead architect for the William T. Young Library is Michael McKinnell of Kallmann McKinnell & Wood Associates, the firm picked by a UK selection committee to design the new library. A founding principal of the Boston-based firm, McKinnell has divided his career between the practice of architecture and teaching. He was a professor with the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University for 25 years.

The firm's accomplishments include projects at Yale, Harvard, Washington University and Carnegie Mellon. McKinnell was presented the task of designing a library for the 21st century — one that includes information resources in a digital format.

His work is a tremendous success. He has designed a flexible facility that creates special places in what has multiple uses. The design of the library is a result of what has multiple uses. The design of the library is a result of what has multiple uses. The design of the library is a result of what has multiple uses.



The laptop computers will be available for students and patrons to check out for use inside the library, said Molinaro. Many will be wireless, allowing students to move about freely in certain areas.

"They utilize new technology and will be usable in specific areas of the building where wiring wasn't feasible," said Molinaro. Another feature that makes the Young Library unique is the miles of compact shelving that will house more than 12 million volumes on six floors. The movable shelving allows more books and periodicals to be stored in less space than areas with conventional shelves. The Young Library is the only academic research library in the nation with all compact shelving, said Molinaro.

A central media distribution system will make video requests easier to fill, said Molinaro. Patrons can request a video or audio tape, laser disc, DVD or CD, which will be played back from the central control room and viewed at 90 video workstations, in the auditorium, or in study rooms throughout the building. Control of the media will remain with the user, but a library patron doesn't have to handle the media to operate the equipment.

Other features Molinaro said will make the library more "user-friendly" include 300 personal computers, 4,800 data jacks, 4,000 voice jacks, 57 group study and conference rooms, 3,000 general seats and 1,100 more seats in classrooms and meeting rooms.

"The Young Library also will offer assistive technology for disabled patrons in the computer labs and reference areas of the building," said Molinaro. "There will be pay phones throughout the building, including one with TTY technology for hearing-impaired patrons. There also will be screen readers and screen enlargers available."

Molinaro added the library will have a full-service copy center that includes a color copier for students and other patrons who need more than just black and white copies. A fax-on-demand service also will be available, said Molinaro. "All planning has been done from a customer's perspective to improve services to the highest level."

Quilt collection adorns interior

The spacious walls of the new William T. Young Library will be used to display a very special art form — quilts. Professor Wade Hall, retired chair of the English Department at Bellarmine College in Louisville and a member of the UK Library Associates Executive Committee, has donated his extensive collection of Ohio River Valley quilts to be mounted in the library.



The question was raised at a Library Associates meeting regarding what sort of art could be used throughout the great expanse of walls in the new library. "Someone suggested that quilts would be perfect, and it occurred to me that the new library might just be the place to permanently display my quilt collection," noted Professor Hall. Hall has amassed a collection of some 200 quilts as he has traveled throughout the region. The majority of the quilts come from four states along the Ohio River — Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. Lexington quilt curator Helen Thompson led a group of local quilters in preparing the quilts for the exhibition. A brochure about the quilt collection will be available.

"People all over the world must know about what happens in Kentucky, and vice versa. The Young Library makes this possible in new ways."
— Lou Scribner, dean of undergraduate studies