GEISEL LIBRARY BUILDING GUIDE

Theodor Seuss Geisel Memorial (2004)

WELCOM

TO UC SAN DIEGO'S **GEISEL LIBRARY**

Designed by renowned architect William Pereira in 1970, this campus landmark was named for Audrey and Theodor Seuss Geisel — better known as Dr. Seuss — in 1995. The building's Brutalist architecture conveys the idea that powerful and permanent hands are holding aloft knowledge itself, which was Pereira's stated intention. Pereira is also known for works such as the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and rocket-launching facilities at Cape Canaveral.

In 1992, underground space on the east and west sides of the building was designed by Latvian-American architect Gunnar Birkerts. Birkerts deliberately designed this addition to be subordinate to the strong, geometrical form of the existing structure. Known for using angular forms, folding planes and light-suffused interiors, Birkerts' addition provided extra space while preserving the building's original silhouette and ensuring ample natural light to the lower floors.

This guide shares many of the spaces, services, and collections found within this iconic campus building. Staff at Geisel Library's service desk can answer questions that might arise during your visit. You are welcome to explore floors 1 and 2; floors 4 – 8 in the tower are reserved for quiet study.

lib.ucsd.edu/about-geisel

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John Baldessari installation (2001)

Art Installations near Geisel Library

1 On the building's west side, on the third-level concrete forum (up the external stairs outside the main entrance), is a life-size bronze statue of Theodor Seuss Geisel. This original sculpture by Lark Grey Dimond-Cates shows Geisel sitting at his desk while a towering "Cat in the Hat" looks over his shoulder.

2 While viewing the sculpture, you may hear the carillon chime. Donated by Joe Rubinger in 1989, the carillon is an acoustic instrument which can be played live via keyboard from a small room on the Library's roof. The university carillonneur takes requests and oversees a music commissioning program for the carillon.

Three works from UC San Diego's Stuart Collection are visible from the Library. Ask for a brochure with further details at the service desk on the 2nd (main) floor.

3 On the east side of the building is artist Alexis Smith's *Snake Path* that winds its way toward the Library entrance past a book and an Eden-like garden, marking a symbolic path to Geisel Library as the intellectual heart of the campus.

4 Towering in front of the Library's entrance to the south is a preserved eucalyptus tree known to many as the "Silent Tree," which is part of Terry Allen's art installation *Trees*. This marks the beginning of the walkway leading into Geisel Library.

5 Forming the entrance to Geisel Library, artist John Baldessari's *READ/WRITE/THINK/DREAM* installation reminds students to contemplate the unexpected and envision new worlds.

Alexis Smith's *Snake Path* (1992)
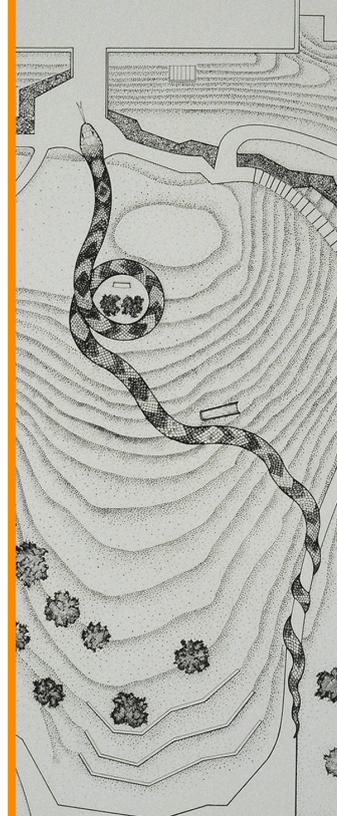
Terry Allen's *Trees* (1986)

2ND (MAIN) FLOOR

Entrance

Service desk staff offer a wide range of assistance to Library users, including directional help, checkout of library materials, tech lending, course reserves, billing, library accounts, and more. Computers here facilitate quick actions such as printing and searching items in the online catalog. Charging lockers allow users to charge laptops and other personal devices. Nearby classrooms provide space for general and advanced instruction in the research process and use of Library resources. Elevators in this area provide access to the Library's upper floors, which are dedicated to quiet study. Items obtained from other libraries or requested from UC San Diego's collections are available on the self-service hold shelf for pick-up. Items may be checked out at the Front Desk or the self-checkout kiosks.
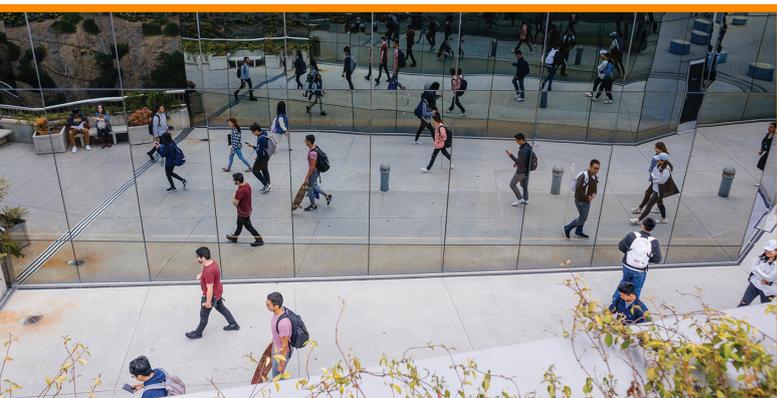
Geisel West

❶ **West Commons** supports students and researchers as they explore myriad fields of study. Research Assistance Desk staff provide introductory and advanced research guidance in person. Help is also available 24/7 online through chat. Collections here include new books, popular science books, newspapers, current journals, encyclopedias/handbooks, maps, government publications, and more. Computers, study tables, bright natural light, and casual seating make this an inviting place to study. **lib.ucsd.edu/ask**

❷ **Data & GIS Lab** supports the full data lifecycle for quantitative, qualitative, and geographical research at UC San Diego. Specialized assistance helps users locate, use, organize, and manage geospatial, numeric, and textual data in various formats. The lab provides access to and consulting on statistical and geospatial tools, including ArcGIS, R, Stata, Python, SPSS, and SAS. **lib.ucsd.edu/data-gis-lab**

❸ **Special Collections & Archives** houses rare and unique materials used for research. Over 250,000 books, more than 35 million manuscripts, and numerous maps, photographs, art works, and other original media are available here. Strengths of Special Collections include the Spanish Civil War, early voyages of exploration to the Pacific, marine science and oceanography, contemporary American poetry, California and San Diego history, Melanesian anthropology, artists' books, and the culinary history of the American Southwest and Latin America. Special Collections also houses the personal archive of Theodor Seuss Geisel, including original drawings for his many children's books, his advertising artwork, and his World War II editorial cartoons. A permanent exhibit of selections from the Dr. Seuss Collection is available outside the Seuss Room. **lib.ucsd.edu/sca**

Geisel **East**

4 **East Commons** provides seating and computing to support student collaboration or individual study. During regular academic terms, this space is open from the Library's opening on Sundays through closing on Fridays to provide overnight student study space. Assistance is provided at the service desk, as is a variety of technology and productivity items. The space features five group study rooms and an Active Learning Lab with mobile furnishings and ample writing surfaces. Foam rollers, WalkStation treadmills, adjustable-height tables, a shared puzzle, games, and periodic events enable short study breaks. The Chameleon JumpSuit, donated by UC San Diego alumnus and video game pioneer Michel Kripalani ('87), is from the popular Journeyman Project "Legacy of Time" video game.

5 **Digital Media Lab** offers specialized assistance, software, and other tools to enable creation and manipulation of emerging and advanced media projects. Students can try virtual reality headsets, take advantage of free 3D printing, access a full suite of online technology tutorials, and much more. Expert assistance is available in the lab during open hours. **lib.ucsd.edu/dml**

6 **Audrey's Café** — named after the late Audrey Stone Geisel — opened in 2016 to sustain students through long hours of study. A variety of beverages and snacks can be purchased during the café's open hours. **lib.ucsd.edu/audreys-cafe**

2ND (MAIN) FLOOR

- **1** WEST COMMONS
- **2** Data & GIS Lab
- Dunst Classroom
- Current Periodicals & Newspapers
- Classroom 2
- Access to All Floors
- Front Desk
- ENTRANCE
- **3** SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES
- Seuss Room
- **4** EAST COMMONS
- **5** Digital Media Lab
- **6** Audrey's

1ST
(LOWER) FLOOR

Geisel **West**

❶ Brody Collaborative Space, intended for social learning and collaborative study, is equipped with large and small tables, lounge seating, a WalkStation treadmill, computers, and writable surfaces. Group study rooms offer technology to project one's laptop content on a larger display for group viewing. Foam rollers and another shared puzzle allow for brief study breaks. Lockers can be reserved by graduate students in all disciplines. Designated workstations allow viewing of Library and course-related materials while a nearby viewing room accommodates larger groups for this purpose.

❷ Teaching + Learning Commons (The Commons) was established by the university in 2015 to develop skilled instructors and more engaged learners. In an effort to make services more accessible to students and faculty, The Commons moved into Geisel Library in October 2016. Today's current suite of services and programs supports an educational experience that prepares students to be capable of solving problems, leading, and innovating in a diverse and interconnected world. **commons.ucsd.edu**

Geisel **East**

❸ Immense research collections in this area support innovative research, teaching, and learning across a full range of academic disciplines. Much of the Library's print collection is housed in this area of open shelving, along with table seating, which serves as a relatively quiet place to study. Additional collections are housed on Geisel's upper floors, at the nearby Biomedical Library Building, and offsite. The Library also offers a wealth of online resources.
lib.ucsd.edu/research-and-collections

❹ Subterranean gardens are visible along the south and east perimeters of this floor. The glass structures visible from outside are skylights allowing natural light to penetrate the below ground levels to each of the gardens.

❺ Tunnel Computer Lab houses nearly 50 computers and connects the Library's east and west sides on this floor.

Visit **lib.ucsd.edu/study** for a listing of our various studying spaces.

1ST (LOWER) FLOOR

❷ **TEACHING + LEARNING COMMONS**

Access to All Floors

❺ **TUNNEL COMPUTER LAB**

❶ **BRODY COLLABORATIVE SPACE**

❸ **LIBRARY COLLECTIONS**

❹

❹

❹
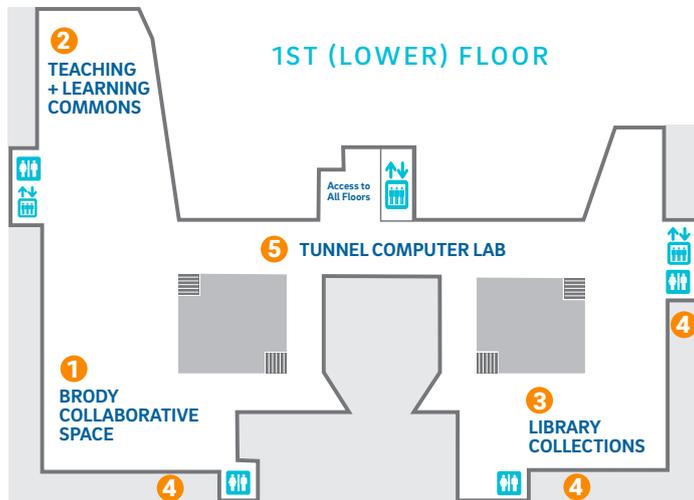
Library **by the Numbers**

As the intellectual heart of campus, the UC San Diego Library provides access to more than 7 million digital and print volumes, journals, and multimedia materials to meet the evolving information needs of faculty, students, and the local community. A lot happens at the Library, both physically and virtually!

Between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019

- **2,648,564** people visited one of the two Library buildings
- **59,289** information and reference questions were answered in person and remotely
- **215,785** items were checked out
- **26,161** items were loaned to users at other libraries
- **1,315,948** views were made of the Library's digital collections
- **55,055** tech lending items were lent to users
- **79,658** group study room reservations were made

Public **Events**

A variety of events are hosted in Geisel Library throughout the year, including author talks, panel discussions, and other activities such as a birthday party in honor of Dr. Seuss every March.
lib.ucsd.edu/events

The Library
UC SAN DIEGO

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