The UMW Libraries constitute the knowledge center of the university — a physical and virtual manifestation of the institution's mission of connected, integrated, and engaged teaching, learning, research, and service.

During regular semesters, Simpson Library is open with full-service for 90 hours each week. During Reading Days/Exam Week, the Library is open 24/7. The Libraries’ collections contain more than 380,000 physical items including books, journals, videos, and popular reading materials. The Libraries provide access to more than 120,000 online journals, 450,000 electronic books, and 40,000 streaming videos. The Libraries also provide access to an extensive array of electronic databases that include full-text articles, historical newspapers and other primary source materials, images, and research datasets. The Libraries add 2,000 or more volumes to their collections each year to support the University’s wide-ranging curriculum.

An official partial depository of both Federal and state government publications, the Libraries also maintain an online digital repository, a rare book collection, and the archives of the University. The University of Mary Washington is an active member of VIVA (The Virtual Library of Virginia) a consortium of colleges and universities in Virginia that provides students and faculty access to a rich array of electronic resources through the campus network. VIVA resources range from online encyclopedias and dictionaries to bibliographic databases and full-text periodical services.

One of the largest buildings on the Fredericksburg campus, Simpson Library is connected to the Hurley Convergence Center (HCC) by a bridge leading from the library’s second floor to the HCC’s third floor. The library staffs a service desk in the HCC that is equipped with a self-service checkout system. The HCC also includes the library’s Digital Archiving Lab and Digital Gallery.

Simpson Library includes spaces for group and individual study, including the popular “treehouses” – double-decker study carrels located on the third floor. UMW’s ThinkLab maker space is also located in Simpson Library.

The Libraries also provide wireless access to the campus network. The online catalog provides access to the Libraries’ print and electronic collections. A full range of instructional services is offered to faculty and students to aid in the use and interpretation of the Libraries’ resources, research methods and the efficient use of new information technologies. Librarians teach a wide array of course-related instruction in addition to the provision of reference assistance. The Libraries also support an efficient interlibrary loan service.