

Jerry Falwell Library (Academic Library)

Posted by Jennifer Mays at July 21, 2022

Space and Physical Access

The Jerry Falwell Library is located at Liberty University campus. The library is a large building toward the back of campus. There is a small lake on one side of the library. The back of the library has the road Regents Parkway running past it and other academic buildings around it on the other sides (See the map below for reference). The Jerry Falwell Library consists of 4 floors. Each of the four floors consist of stacks of books, study areas for the students, public computers, and offices. There are signs listing the different areas on each of the floors in the library. The library is very modern and up to date. The spaces within the library are welcoming and open. There are patios, terraces, and desks in which patrons can relax and study.



Liberty University Map (Google)

The staff offices are off limits to students and patrons. There are several areas within the library that are quiet zones. The quiet zones are areas where there is no talking or whispering. Cell phones are also to be on vibrate. The quiet zones are marked with standing signs and signs on the

pillars. The T floor is a quiet zone as well as the reading rooms and the group studies room on the third and fourth floors. There are at least three elevators which students, faculty, and staff can use.



Jerry Falwell Library (Jennifer Mays, 2022)



Falwell Library (Jennifer Mays, 2022)

People

The Jerry Falwell Library mainly serves the faculty and students of Liberty University. The library also serves the public. The staff at the Jerry Falwell Library are nice and respectful toward their patrons and coworkers. A young lady at one of the service desks said hi to me as well as others who passed by. She was polite and welcoming. There was a young male customer service worker who helped a young male student in returning books he borrowed. When the student came to the desk the customer service worker said, “Hi, how are you?” He helped the student in a respectable, nice way. I also noticed that a female staff member held open a door for a custodial worker.

There were several students throughout the four floors of the library, working on assignments or studying, reading, or hanging out. I noticed that there was little diversity among the library students. There were a few African American students and a few Middle Eastern students. The majority of the students I saw were white. It was hard to know if there was more diversity within the library when there were only a few students there at the time of my visit. At least there was some diversity present and I’m sure that with the number of students that attend Liberty University, that there are more diverse students and patrons that go to the library.

The jobs of the library staff consist of librarians, customer service, security, service desk workers, and custodial workers. The customer service workers help students with questions that students or patrons may have, and check out or return library resources. The service desk clerks help those in need, which I have witnessed in my observation of the library. There was also little diversity among the library staff. There was a mixture of male and female staff members, who got along well with each other.



Student Studying (Jennifer Mays, 2022)

Services and Intellectual Access

The library catalog is accessible on the Jerry Falwell Library website. Students, faculty, staff, and the public can access the library catalog through the website. The library is organized based on the Library of Congress Classification System. Each floor of the library is shelved by subject. There are posters on some of the shelves that show patrons how to find books. There are also computers within some of the bookshelves in which patrons can look for books or other resources. To help patrons find what they are looking for, there are signs on the bookshelves with the call numbers and subjects. There are also signs on shelves with the audiobooks, DVDs, and new books.

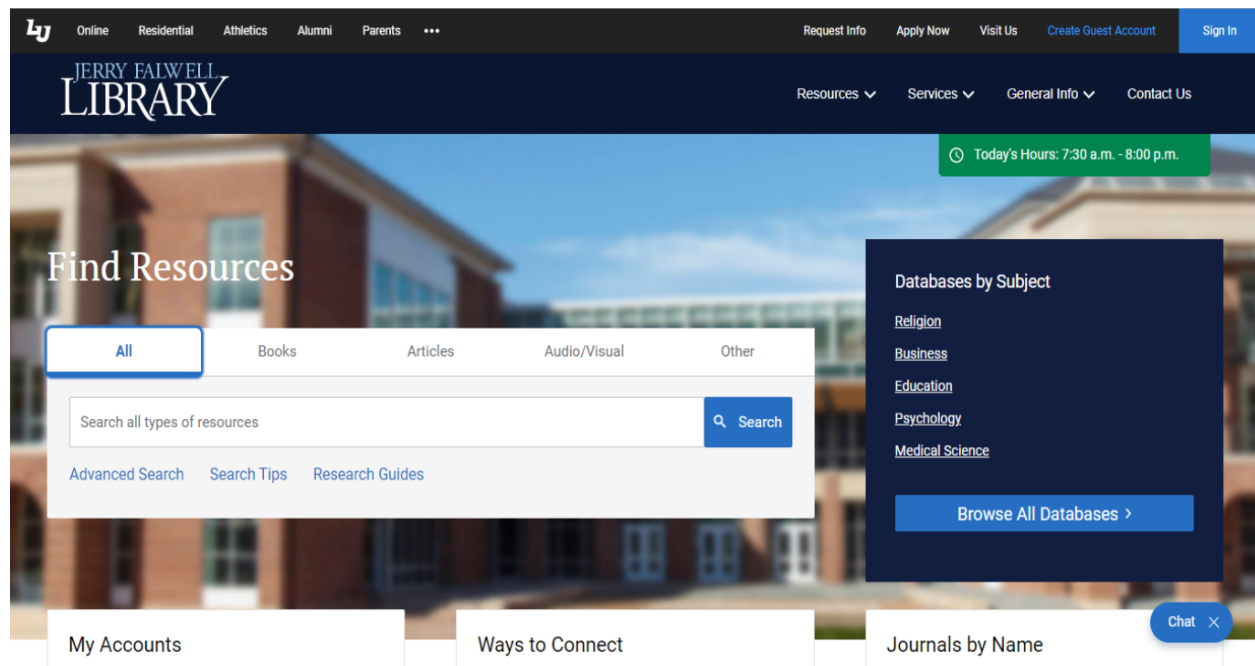
The library is welcome to anyone, no matter who they are or what their gender, race, ethnicity, or disability may be. I saw no sign of an audience that was not clearly welcome there. It shows that there is equality in the library, which is needed in all libraries.

Digital Access

This is the link to the Jerry Falwell Library website: [Jerry Falwell Library \(liberty.edu\)](http://liberty.edu)

The Jerry Falwell Library website is easy for the community to access. It is a detailed, colorful, and organized website. It provides many resources to Liberty students, faculty, and the public. The library catalog is available through the library website. The home page of the website shows a search box in which people can search for certain resources. People can also click on the resources tab and select the link they are looking for. There is also a link for the community through the service tab, which shows that the library as well as its website is open to the public, not just the students and faculty.

There are multiple ways in which to get in contact with the library. There is a link on the website which the public can click on and use one of the ways provided to contact a librarian. Some of these include by phone, chat, an appointment, in person or by email. There are a few staff members mentioned on the website through the about page. On the left side of the about page, you can click on “Department Directory” to see the staff names provided. There are plenty of other tabs and links that the community can use to do research, gather information about the library, and get into contact with the library.



Library website (Jennifer Mays, 2022)

Collections

There are multiple resources available to the faculty, students, and public. The resources include books, magazines, audiobooks, DVDs, and games. There are also printers and copiers available. There are public computers available throughout the four floors of the library. There are also areas with televisions in which students can connect to their laptops and share their screens. On the main floor to the right of the entrance, the Dodak Technology Commons. There, patrons can have access to computers in which to do research, and assignments.



Jerry Falwell Library Sign (Jennifer Mays, 2022)

Others

The mission of the library is “The Jerry Falwell Library promotes learning, discovery, and research by providing robust resources, engaging instruction, flexible spaces, and outstanding services to the Liberty University community” (Jerry Falwell Library). The Jerry Falwell Library follows through with its mission in every way. There are multiple ways in which individuals can learn and do research through the many resources that the library provides to the community. The library has over a million print and electronic resources accessible to the community. There are also great services provided by the library staff such as the reading rooms, study areas, and computer lab. The staff are willing to help the patrons in any way they can. There are four floors in which students and the public can use to study and spend time in. It’s amazing what this library has to offer its community.

I was surprised how big the library was. I was also surprised by how the library was set up. I wasn’t expecting there to be so many group study areas. I liked how there were reading rooms, where you can quietly read and study. It made you feel like you were in an old fashioned yet modern library. I also liked that most of the walls within the library were glass, so that there was a lot of sunlight and you could take in the sights of the campus. I would like to know what other ways that the Jerry Falwell Library is diverse, whether it be its resources or patrons. Nothing disappointed me with my visit to the library. I was pleased with what I observed. The Jerry Falwell Library is one of the nicest academic libraries I have visited.



Library Fourer (Jennifer Mays, 2022)



Reading Room (Jennifer Mays, 2022)



Commons Area (Jennifer Mays, 2022)



Bookshelves (Jennifer Mays, 2022)

References

Jerry Falwell Library, n.d., *Jerry Falwell Library* (Jerry Falwell Library). [Jerry Falwell Library \(liberty.edu\)](https://liberty.edu)

Mays, J. (2022). *Jerry Falwell Library, Falwell Library, Student Studying, Library website, Jerry Falwell Library Sign, Library Foyer, Reading Room, Commons Area, Bookshelves*. (Photographs of Jerry Falwell Library).