



CLAPP LIBRARY

Since it opened its doors in 1909, the Margaret Clapp Library has been the heart of the Wellesley campus—a critical centerpiece of curious inquiry, intellectual exchange, and knowledge-building that vitalizes academic growth and the student experience.

Named for Wellesley's eighth president, the library contains more than 1 million volumes of print materials, music scores, e-books, streaming media, manuscripts, and more. The Archives and Special Collections are internationally renowned and are indispensable to faculty and students. As our world becomes ever more digital, Clapp Library offers electronic resources while still valuing the home of the material book and the importance of engaging in person with written texts on the page.

In December 2023, the College launched a renovation project to update the building and bolster its programming. The effort, which is expected to be completed in August 2025, will increase class space in Archives and Special Collections, repair and update critical systems to improve energy efficiency, meet current accessibility standards, and enhance the student experience. The goal is to ensure the library is a place that will invite students, faculty, and visitors to linger and learn for years to come.



By the **NUMBERS**

579,469

circulating items including books, DVDs, scores, etc. live in the library.

52,000

materials housed in Special Collections.

5,000

linear feet of materials housed in Archives.

108

classes taught and presentations held in Special Collections and Archives in 2022-2023, representing 17 departments and 255 student visits.

~1,500

square feet of new study area to be added as part of the renovation.

~100

seats to be added throughout the Library as part of the renovation.



Designed for the Future

As part of the meticulous planning process, Wellesley has made design choices that will maximize the sense of community and collaboration, reduce the building's environmental impact, and preserve the character of the library. The renovation project will:

- Add instructional and research space to Archives and Special Collections on the fourth floor.
- Upgrade the first-floor makerspace with a fabrication shop, workshop, gaming nook, and virtual-reality laboratory.
- Add a striking new staircase that will become a centerpiece for the library, make it far easier to move between the first and second floors, and bring more natural light to the ground floor.
- Open a new café on the first floor to provide students with a space to take a break from their work and replenish with refreshments.
- Enhance the charm and functionality of the second-floor reading room, home of the presidential portraits, by relocating computer stations to create a classic library reading room.
- Relocate the Pforzheimer Learning and Teaching Center and Accessibility and Disability Resources from the third floor to a more central and accessible location on the second floor.
- Redesign and modernize the main lobby and service desk to be a more vibrant space.
- Create a space to administer exams for students requiring accommodations.
- Upgrade gathering spaces throughout the building with comfortable furniture for students studying in groups and individually.
- Widen the aisles between book stacks and add a ramp to the main entrance to comply with accessibility standards.
- Prioritize sustainability by installing a new low-temperature hot water heating system, upgraded lighting, and recycled building materials that support healthy indoor air quality.
- Revitalize the east plaza entrance with accessible pathways, fresh landscaping, and a new outdoor seating area.