

= Harold B. Lee Library =

The Harold B. Lee Library (HBLL) , located in Provo , Utah , is the main academic library of Brigham Young University (BYU) , the largest religious and third @-@ largest private university in the United States . The library has approximately 98 miles (158 km) of shelving for the more than 6 million items in its various collections , as well as a seating capacity for 4 @,@ 600 people . With over 10 @,@ 000 patrons entering the building each day , The Princeton Review consistently ranks the HBLL in the nation 's Top Ten University Libraries ? # 1 in 2004 and # 3 in 2012 . Named for Harold B. Lee , former president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints (LDS Church) , the library 's motto is " ... Learning by study and also by faith . "

= = History = =

The HBLL began as a small collection of books kept in the office of Karl G. Maeser during his time as principal of then @-@ Brigham Young Academy . The small library relied almost exclusively on gifts , donations , and free material from the U.S. Government . When Maeser 's office was destroyed by a fire in 1884 , his library collection went with it . By the time the Education Building was completed in 1892 , a new library had been formed and a room was provided on the second floor of the new building .

The academy later became a university , which spurred the library 's growth until it filled the third floor and much of the second floor of the Education building . In July 1924 , the alumni association reported that \$ 125 @,@ 000 had been appropriated to construct a new library building to be erected on University Hill . The new Heber J. Grant Library was subsequently dedicated on October 15 , 1925 with 40 @,@ 000 books and 35 @,@ 000 pamphlets were moved into their new home .

By 1950 , the collection had long since outgrown the Grant Library , and books were stored in almost all campus buildings . The lack of adequate space in the Grant Library lead to the location of libraries in other buildings on campus during the 1950s . The Physical Science Library was housed in the Eyring Science Center from the opening of that building in 1950 . In 1957 when the Joseph F. Smith Family Living Center was opened , it contained the life science library on the first floor and the music library on the third floor . The pre @-@ 1940 bound periodicals were being stored in the basement of BYU 's Joseph Smith Memorial Building . The reserve library was located in the David O. McKay Building , while the attics of the Maeser Building and the women 's gymnasium used for storage as well as a warehouse in downtown Provo .

Ernest L. Wilkinson appointed a faculty committee to survey library needs in January 1953 . As a result of the study , the J. Reuben Clark Library was constructed to help accommodate the growing collections of the Grant Library . In 1961 , 300 @,@ 000 volumes were moved into the Clark Library , although the building was not dedicated until October 10 , 1962 .

The new library was designed by Lorenzo Snow Young with Keyes D. Metcalf , Librarian @-@ emeritus of Harvard serving as a consultant . It was built by the Garff , Ryberg , and Garff Construction Company . Another key figure in the planning and building of the library was S. Lyman Tyler , who at the time was the director of the BYU Library . With the expansion of the library building came the expansion of the library collection . In 1971 the library celebrated the acquisition of their millionth volume with a conference on library acquisition and a luncheon for donors .

In 1973 , the name of the J. Reuben Clark Library was changed to the Harold B. Lee Library , in honor of the former president of the LDS Church . In order to keep up with the needs of the academic community and the church , construction began in 1974 on a library addition of 215 @,@ 000 square feet (20 @,@ 000 m2) . This addition was occupied in the summer of 1976 and dedicated March 15 , 1977 .

As the university continued to grow , so did the library collections and need for additional space . To help fill this need , ground was broken on September 20 , 1996 for another addition to the library . In the four years of construction , roughly 235 @,@ 000 square feet (21 @,@ 800 m2) were added to the library , most of it underground . When the new addition was dedicated on November 15 , 2000 , the library was 665 @,@ 000 square feet (61 @,@ 800 m2) . Since then , the library has focused

more on digital expansion , adding access to several electronic books and scholarly databases from on- and off @-@ campus . Today , the library is supported by 351 full @-@ time equivalent employees .

= = Collections = =

The HBLL includes a family history library , the Primrose International Viola Archive , the International Harp Archives , and serves as a designated depository of government documents . In January 2010 the juvenile literature department opened its Lloyd Alexander Collection , featuring items from the author 's home office for students and researchers to access .

= = = Special Collections = = =

The L. Tom Perry Special Collections Library , named for an LDS Church apostle , preserves and makes available rare unique library materials in original and digital forms . Originally established in 1957 under the direction of Chad J. Flake , the library holds 350 @,@ 000 rare books and print matter , over 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 photographs , and 10 @,@ 000 manuscript and archival collections . The library also offers numerous exhibits , lectures , tours , and conferences related to its holdings . The collection includes a 1967 Biblia Sacra illustrated by Salvador Dalí , a 1555 Biblia translated by Martin Luther , a 13th @-@ century hand @-@ copied Latin Vulgate Bible , a Turkish New Testament from 1905 , a page from the Bible produced by Johannes Gutenberg in about 1450 , and four first @-@ edition copies of the Book of Mormon . Other artifacts include four 4 @,@ 000 @-@ year @-@ old cuneiform tablets , six Oscars , and ten Ansel Adams photographs .

In 1983 , after the commercial flop of *The Magic of Lassie* , Jimmy Stewart went into semi @-@ retirement and donated his papers , films , and other records to the HBLL . The library 's collections also include the Cecil B. DeMille papers .

= = = Foreign Language Collections = = =

The HBLL houses collections in many foreign languages . It houses a Welsh library originally sponsored in 1951 by the National Gymanfa Association of the United States and Canada . The Icelandic Library Association of Spanish Fork also donated their collection of Icelandic books in 1951 .

= = = Map Collection = = =

The map collection at the HBLL is located on the second floor and is considered " one of the best collections of printed maps in the area . " It contains approximately 240 @,@ 000 maps , 5 @,@ 500 atlases and gazetteers , and various online geographic resources . The map collection also contains a geospatial services and training lab which assists students and faculty with maps , data management , spatial analysis , and geographic information systems (GIS) .

= = Media attention = =

In July 2010 , the HBLL received nationwide attention for a parody on an Old Spice commercial that was filmed inside the library . In April 2011 , a cappella group Vocal Point recorded the music video for their rendition of " Jump , Jive , an ' Wail " in the HBLL .