Transformation of the Research Medical Library

When we closed the doors to the Research Medical Library on March 9, 2020, we expected to return in 8 weeks. The library staff launched our well-practiced emergency services plan, which we’d honed through hurricanes and floods, and we kept all our usual services functioning from our homes. During the pandemic, we developed new ways of serving the MD Anderson community in a remote environment.

Two years later, our library doors are still closed, and the library space is scheduled to be repurposed as a remote worker hub. However, we are designing a new library space to serve our educational mission. Our new facility in the Education and Training Building being planned for South Campus will be a haven for quiet focus and will support study and scholarship with a writing center, digital education studio, and group and individual study spaces. The anticipated opening date of the new space is 2026. Until then, the Research Medical Library will continue to provide online collections and other services that that our MD Anderson community relies on. Materials that are not available from our online collections can be requested through our interlibrary loan service, and we will provide a scanned digital copy if possible.
The Historical Resources Center, with its collection of presidents’ papers, rare books, and important artifacts from our institution’s history, will remain in its current home on Floor 21 of Pickens Tower until the new facility is built. Archival staff will continue to process and preserve these materials and work with researchers from around the world with questions about the history of MD Anderson and its people. As MD Anderson transforms its model for work, you may have important materials in your office space that would be appropriate additions to the archives. Contact Archivist Javier Garza to schedule a consultation about donating materials to the Historical Resources Center.

We look forward to continuing to serve you.

Clara Fowler, MSLS
Library Director, Research Medical Library

Research Medical Library NewsBytes

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