



# Self-Guided Tour of Mabel Zoe Wilson Library

*Accessible to All*

**Begin at the Reference & Information Desk in the Haggard Wing**

## **Welcome to Mabel Zoe Wilson Library!**

### **Haggard Wing--Second Floor**

You are beginning your tour on the second floor of the remodeled Haggard Hall. This building, built in 1959 and named for WWU President **William Wade Haggard** (1939-1959), originally served as Western's main science facility. Following extensive renovation, it reopened in January 1999 as a multi-purpose facility housing an extension of the library, as well as the Student Technology Center, Academic Technology User Services, university lecture halls, student computer labs, the Planetarium, and even a coffee shop. The **Reference & Information Desk**, one of two main service areas on this floor, is staffed with reference librarians and specialists to help you with all your research and information needs. ⇒ Proceed around the Desk toward the large area of **computer workstations**. Here students access the **Western Libraries Web Site**, online gateway to the library catalog, Summit (academic regional catalog), ILLiad (interlibrary loan program), general and specialized subscription databases, how-to and subject research guides, Microsoft Office Suite, and the Internet. To your right is one of four **student print stations** in the library, as well as computers and a pay print station for visitors. The **Reference Collection** is housed in the book stacks extending along your right and to the windows overlooking Red Square. Behind the Reference Collection is the **Government Information Collection**. Wilson Library is a regional depository (since 1976) for

United States federal, Washington State, and Canadian government documents. Reference staff can help you locate and use these materials. ⇒ Retrace your route and proceed around the main circular stairs toward the second main service area, the **Circulation Services / Reserves Desk**. Here you can check-out, pick up, renew, and return materials, pay fines, and borrow **wireless laptops**. To borrow materials, you must have a current **WWU ID card** or a **Courtesy/Community Card**. For more information, ask at the desk. The **Reserves Collection** to your left contains required reading materials placed on hold by instructors for their classes. Electronic reserves are available online through the library website. Media reserves are at the Media Desk on Wilson 2 West. ⇒ Proceed down the hallway to your left, passing the **copy card machine** (left), and **restrooms** and **drinking fountain** (right). Next is the **Computer Lab** (HH 245), often used for library and class instruction. In front of you is the **Library Administration Office**. Peek inside to see a pastel painting by former library staff member and Northwest artist Susan Bennerstrom. ⇒ Turn right and walk to the **Copy Center** (on your right at the end of the hall), featuring many services, including color copying and faxing. Across the hall, in **Room 233**, you will find **general works** and books on **philosophy, psychology** and **ethics** (call numbers beginning with A and B-BJ) and comfortable study spaces.

⇒ Retrace your route back to the main hallway area.

### Haggard Wing--Third Floor

⇒Take the **elevator** in the hallway, or the **stairs** to your right at the top of the hallway, to the **third floor**. Note the popular study area that encircles the atrium here. The stacks on this floor house books on **religion, history, geography, business, anthropology, recreation, and social sciences** (call numbers BL-H). At the end of the hallway to the left, past **restrooms** and a **drinking fountain**, is the entrance to **Technical Services**, where library materials are purchased, cataloged and processed. Here also is the **Mendery**, where tired, torn-up materials are repaired. Browse the collections, then ⇒return to the main area on the second floor. ⇒Proceed across the **Skybridge**.

### Skybridge to Wilson Building:

#### Second Floor

The **Skybridge** is the vital link between the two wings of **Wilson Library**. Here you'll find places to study and relax, on your own or in groups. The Skybridge has become known as a campus gathering venue. Events such as the **Reading Series, Book of the Quarter** and student poetry readings often take place here. There is a **Library Catalog Quick Search** station – you'll find one on every floor and no login is required. More student workstations and a student printer are available. At the north end of the **Skybridge**, you are on the **second floor** of the **Wilson Building**, the historic structure originally built in 1927/28 and significantly remodeled in 1963 and 1970. ⇒Proceeding toward the historic north entrance, note the **Media Collections & Circulation Desk** on your left. At this desk you may check out materials and receive assistance with audio, video, and microform materials. Students can also borrow **wireless laptop computers** here and at the Circulation Services Desk on Haggard 2. Another of the four **student print stations** is located here. ⇒Continue into the foyer inside the north entrance to the building. This vaulted space was formerly capped by decorations in gold and art nouveau lighting fixtures. The **display cases**, with their mullioned doors, are original. Note the photograph of **Mabel Zoe Wilson**, taken in 1921, for whom the library

is named. She served as Western's first professional librarian, from 1902 to 1945. The ornate wrought iron exterior doors were crafted by Homer Mathes, son of Western's first president, Edwin T. Mathes. The elaborate exterior light fixture hanging just outside the doors is also original. ⇒Proceed back toward the lobby area and ⇒turn left just past the security gate. ⇒Continue into the room known as **Wilson Two North**. The area to your left, featuring tall windows with stained glass panels, was originally the periodicals reading room. Subsequently, the area was home to the Reference collection, then Government Information Services, and now houses **philosophy, psychology, religion, and world and American history periodicals** (call numbers B-E). In this room are more student workstations, a student print station and a self-serve photocopier.

⇒Proceed through the door marked **2 East** into the periodical stacks area (toward the windows facing the Humanities Building). On your left are **collaborative work stations**. At the windows, ⇒turn right, walking along one of the window walls of the library's 1970 addition, then ⇒right again. The stacks in this area hold **American history, geography and social science periodicals** (call numbers F-H). ⇒Proceed into the **Periodical Reading Room**, a quiet study area with **current issues** of selected **journals, magazines and newspapers**. ⇒Continuing through the exit, you will see the **book-drop** on your right. Across the hall you'll find paperback racks and the **New, Current Interest, and Diversity Book Displays** area – a great place to browse for something interesting to read. On your left is a special display case showcasing a selection of the **Miriam Snow Mathes Reading Figurine Collection**. (See the nearby brochure for more information).

### Wilson Second Floor West

⇒Continue down the hall, past stairs and elevator serving Wilson floors 2-6, into the **Microform Collection** room. These file cabinets contain a wealth of resources, such as historical newspapers, early book sets, curriculum, and government materials. Equipment is available here to read and copy microform resources. Help with

microforms is available at the **Reference and Media Desks**. ⇒Turn right, proceed north through the microforms room and exit right just past the Government Information Microfiche cabinets. ⇒Pass the elevator and stairs serving Wilson floors 1-5. ⇒Go through the double doors, turn right through the security gates, and right again into the **Video/Audio Collection** room. Here you will find **videos** (DVD and VHS formats) and **spoken word recordings**, with viewing/listening equipment. The **Media Desk** can assist you with video/audio materials. ⇒Exit the room the same way, ⇒then enter the double glass doors directly in front of you, into the **Special Collections** room. (Consult signage for hours.) When the library first opened in 1928, this room housed the extensive children's library, and later was home to the Reserves service. Several unique collections are now housed here, including the **Campus History Collection** and the **Rare Book Collection**. During service hours, the staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have about all the special collections. ⇒Proceed down the hallway. ⇒Turn right and continue past the **Media Collections & Circulation Desk**, then ⇒right again down the hallway (the New Books Display area will be on your right) where a **free campus phone**, a **pay telephone** and a **drinking fountain** are available. ⇒Take the elevator or stairs on your left to the Sixth Floor.

#### Wilson Sixth Floor

⇒Turn left on exiting the elevator or stairs. The **Sixth Floor**, which exists only on the west side of the library building, houses **political science**, some **music**, and **art books** (call numbers J, M and N). After extensive remodeling, this whole floor will house Special Collections. Detour to the west-facing windows for a **great view** out over the Performing Arts building, Virginia Wright Plaza, Bellingham Bay, Lummi Island, and British Columbia in the distance. ⇒Return to the elevator or stairs and head down to the Fifth Floor.

#### Wilson Fifth Floor

⇒Turn left on exiting the elevator or stairs into **Fifth Floor West**, which houses

**science and technology periodicals** (call numbers Q-V). In the office area to your left is the **Library Systems** department. In the back, to the right of the windows that overlook Virginia Wright Plaza, you will find a **group study room** that can be reserved at the Haggard Hall Circulation Services desk. After browsing in the area, ⇒retrace your route and proceed down the hallway. On your right are the offices of the University's **Copyright Services** and **Copier Support Services** (WL 562 & WL 564). On your left just beyond **restrooms** and a **drinking fountain**, you will pass a row of **stained glass panels**. These are the upper portion of the large stained glass window on the original exterior south wall of the 1928 building. A **self-service copy room** (WL 561) is available to the right of the entrance to 5 East. At the double doors, you enter **Fifth Floor East**, which houses **political science, law, education, music, art, language** and **literature periodicals** (call numbers J-P). ⇒After browsing, turn back to stairs or elevator and descend to the Fourth Floor.

#### Wilson Fourth Floor

⇒Turn left upon exiting the stairs or elevator and proceed into **Fourth Floor West**. On your left, you will see a section marked in yellow designated **Oversize**. These shelves, which have counterparts in most stacks areas, hold books that don't fit on regular shelves. **Science and technology books** are shelved on this floor (call numbers Q-V). ⇒Proceed clockwise through the stacks past a reservable group study room and exit past stairs and elevator into another hallway. ⇒Continue down the hallway, taking care on the slight downward slope, and observe the floor seams that connect the original building to the later 1963 and 1970 additions at this end of the structure. ⇒Turn right at the marble floor into the **Rotunda**. This was once the center of the second floor of the 1928 building. The original offices of the Library were located in the suite on the west or right side. Currently, the University's **Center for Service-Learning** is housed here. A plaque nearby honors **Herbert R. & Laura Beth Hearsey**. He served as a librarian at Western

from 1941-1974 and they established a Library Scholarship Endowment. From here, you can appreciate the large **stained glass window** that you glimpsed from the other side while on the Fifth Floor. Mabel Zoe Wilson called it "one of the most beautiful windows in the whole Northwest." ⇒Turn around (north) and enter **4 Central**, the historic 1928 **Reading Room**. This beautiful space was designed to seat 300 readers and accommodates 20,000 books. The main doors are said to be covered with whale skin leather. The hand-painted, 33-foot high ceiling and stained glass window panels feature exotic motifs popular in the 1920s. The oak study tables are original; the lighting fixtures were updated in 1995. Books on **law** are shelved here (K call numbers). ⇒Turn left upon exiting the room and proceed down the hallway. The semi-enclosed study area to your right was formerly a level of the old closed stacks, known for their opaque glass catwalks; they were demolished as part of the 1970 remodel. ⇒Continue past stairs and elevator (on your right) into **Fourth Floor East**. ⇒Proceed clockwise around the floor, through stacks housing books on **education** (L call numbers) and soon the **Curriculum Collection**. ⇒Angle to your left, through the double doors and continue into the new **Center for Children and Young Adult Literature**. Notice the spacious lounge area near the hallway. ⇒Go down the steps or ramp to your right, through the study area to the hallway, then ⇒proceed right down the hallway and ⇒take the stairs or elevator down to the Third Floor.

### Wilson Third Floor

Exit the stairs or elevator. In the small room (WL 391) immediately to your left, **free typewriters** are available. (There is also one on Wilson 5 East). ⇒Turn right, proceeding into **Third Floor East**. Both the East and West wings of the Third Floor hold **language and literature books** (P call numbers). ⇒Proceed clockwise around the floor, then along the side of the building facing the Haggard Wing. This area has been remodeled to provide more shelving capability for our expanding collection. An office suite occupied this space, which

housed the Library Administration from 1972 until completion of the Haggard Wing. ⇒Veer left around the corner and enter the **Skybridge Overlook**. ⇒Continue down the hallway past **restrooms** and a **drinking fountain** into **Third Floor West**, for many years the home of the "Education Library" (integrated into existing collections and services in 1995). On the north side, you will find several more reservable **group study rooms**. ⇒Continue to the exit. ⇒Take the stairs or elevator down to the First Floor.

### Wilson First Floor

⇒Turn right upon exiting the stairs or elevator and proceed down the hallway, past **restrooms** and the intersecting hallway leading to the **Stacks Maintenance/Return Room**. From here, borrowed materials are returned to their respective locations throughout the Library. At the end of the hallway, ⇒enter **First Floor East**. Here, you are in the world of **movable compact shelving**. There are nearly three miles of **inactive** and **older periodicals** in this area. Instructions for accessing the shelves are posted; try it! Then, ⇒retrace your route, all the way to the opposite end of the main hall, and ⇒turn left into **First Floor West**. This area houses **general interest periodicals**, as well as a **self-serve photocopier** and **Library Catalog Quick Search** station. ⇒Exit back into the hallway and take the stairs or elevator up to the Second Floor. ⇒Turn right upon exiting the stairs or elevator and proceed back into the main lobby area.

### Conclusion

A short walk takes you back across the **Skybridge** to the **Haggard Wing** and the **Reference & Information Desk** where you began your tour. Staff here will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our services and resources. We also invite you to visit the branch **Music Library**, located in the Performing Arts Center.

*We hope you enjoyed your tour of the  
Mabel Zoe Wilson Library!*

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