Folsom Facts

The Building

The Richard G. Folsom Library opened in 1976, making it the 6th library location since the Institute's founding in 1824. It was designed by architects Quinlivan, Pierik and Krause. The total cost was $6.9 million. It is named for Richard Gilman Folsom, then president of Rensselaer. Seating is available for 900 people.

Staggering Statistics

- 521,165 bound volumes (books/journals)
- Over 93,892 government documents
- 509 print journal subscriptions
- 38,218 electronic journal subscriptions
- 32,573 electronic books
- over 200 online research databases

Not Just Books and Articles

Folsom has books and journals to support the academic programs at Rensselaer. We also have a growing number of compact discs, videos, DVDs, audiotapes, music CDs and software. These are generally available at the Reserve Desk on the second floor. Connect your laptop to the Internet via one of the many ports available on the third and fourth floors. Enjoy a study break at the Library Café.

If We Don't Have It, You Can Still Get It

- Document Delivery/Interlibrary Loan (ILL): If you have found a citation for a book or a journal article, conference paper, technical report or patent that we don't have, we will virtually scour the globe to find it for you. Just register as an ILLIAD user by clicking on the ILLIAD link on under Services on RensSearch.
- CaDiLAC: Through the Capital District Library Access Catalog, available on CD and online, you can get information about the holdings of more than 50 area libraries within driving distance of Troy. These include academic, public, law, medical and technical libraries, jointly holding more than 8 million book and 30,000 periodical titles. You can borrow books directly from these libraries, with a Direct Access Card (DAP) available at the Folsom or Architecture Circulation Desk.
- Connect NY is a combined catalog of 10 cooperating academic libraries, with over 4 million titles, that allows you to borrow materials from other Connect NY libraries if we do not own the book or if our copy is unavailable.

RensSearch: Rensselaer Libraries' Information Gateway

RensSearch uses Web-based technology to provide you with a variety of services including:
- our online catalog to see if the Libraries own a specific book, journal or other type of material,
- bibliographic databases that list references to research papers and journal articles,
- electronic full-text copies of numerous reference sources and thousands of journal articles,
- services such as ILL request forms, class reserve materials, electronic reference, and
- access to the World Wide Web to find resources on a wide variety of topics.

Connect to http://library.rpi.edu/ or choose "Libraries" from RPInfo (http://rpinfo.rpi.edu/).
Access is available from workstations in Folsom and the Architecture Library, the campus network, or on a computer in your home, dorm room, or office. Some databases are licensed for use by Rensselaer constituents only. For more information, contact the Folsom Library Reference Desk staff (276-8320) or lib-support@rpi.edu

All This and a Great View Too!

Folsom Library is perfectly situated to show an expanse of the Hudson Valley and the Capital region. Visit the Class of '96 Reading Room on the second floor to enjoy a good book or current magazine, a comfortable chair, and wonderful scenery. The view only gets better on the upper floors. So, for a study break, revive your circulation by climbing the stairs to the 3rd or 4th floor and stretch your eyes by looking as far into the distance as you can.