Colorado School of Mines is dedicated to education and research in science, engineering and related fields in earth, environment and energy. The Arthur Lakes Library, as an integral part of the academic process, is committed to excellence in supporting the information needs of the Mines community and of library users. In cooperation with the academic departments, the library staff provides services and develops collections that directly support Mines’ academic and research programs. The library maintains cooperative agreements with other organizations to provide additional access to materials not available here.

Library hours are posted at the building entrance and library web site, and are available by phone. Hours vary based on the academic community calendar. Access policies for special collections are available on the library web site. All library materials (excepting special collections) are available in open stacks for use when the library is open. Access for disabled patrons is available at the southwest entrance and throughout the interior of the building.

Although the library is open to the public, the Mines community has priority access to the collection and other resources. Hours for full reference service are posted in the library and on the library web site.

Arthur Lakes Library is designated a selective depository for U.S. government publications and maps. Assistance and access to these publications is available to the public at large and, in particular, the residents in the Sixth Congressional District of Colorado. The U.S. government depository library logo is displayed at the library entrances to encourage the use of this collection. With the exception of selected materials in non-circulating collections, all government publications can be checked out. Knowledgeable staff members can assist users in finding information and refer them to other federal document depositories for items not in our collection.

Check-out of library materials is available to:
- Current Mines students and staff
- Current members of the Mines Alumni Association who live in Colorado
- Users with a valid borrowers card from another Alliance consortium library
- Users with a valid borrowers card from libraries with a reciprocal borrowing agreement with us
- Persons with a valid member card from the Library

Interlibrary loan and photocopy services are available to the Mines community for material that is not available in the Arthur Lakes Library. Circulating material and copies from our collection are available to users of other libraries through interlibrary loan. We provide photocopies of selected materials through our for-fee document delivery service. The library web site has a list of fees.

The Library Catalog provides public access to the Arthur Lakes Library collection. The library subscribes to hundreds of electronic indexes of the journal literature and other publications. Prospector, the Colorado Alliance’s regional catalog, provides similar access to the cataloged collections of regional libraries. In addition to the Library Catalog, specialized search tools and reference service are available in the library.

In addition to regular assistance, the Library provides for-fee information research services using on-site resources. Availability of this service is dependent on current needs of the Mines community; contact the reference librarians for further information.