Mariam Coffin Canaday Library is the center of the College’s library system. It houses the collections in the humanities, social sciences and the Special Collections Department. The award-winning Rhys Carpenter Library, adjacent to the M. Carey Thomas Library, houses the collections for History of Art, Archaeology, Classics, and the Growth and Structure of Cities Program. The Lois and Reginald Collier Science Library located in the Marian Edwards Park Science Center primarily serves the Sciences and Mathematics Departments.

During the past five-years (May 31, 2000 through May 31, 2005) 66,578 items have been acquired, bringing the total to 1,147,453, excluding manuscripts and electronic journal subscriptions. Included in the total are regular books and bound periodicals, rare books, videos, CDs, U.S. documents, Pennsylvania documents, and United Nations documents, many of which are preserved in microform. Total microforms in the collection number 157,522. Each microfiche contains approximately 85 pages of text and each reel of microfilm can house several hundred pages of documents. Holdings by category are listed on the following page.

The Special Collections Department contains over 45,000 rare books, with strengths in fifteenth and sixteenth century printing; European travel accounts of Asia, Africa and Latin America; nineteenth and twentieth century literature; and women’s history. The Department contains over 1,000 linear feet of manuscripts, consisting of letters, diaries, and literary manuscripts of a number of prominent writers, artists, and political figures. The College’s Archives serve as a repository for the official records of the College, as well as for the personal papers of faculty, administrators and alumnae. The Archives house more than 4,000 linear feet of documentary records, an extensive photographic collection; and an oral history collection. In addition, all Ph.D. dissertations of the Graduate School of Arts and Science dating back to 1887 are archived, as are the Ph.D. dissertations and Masters’ theses of the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research.

In addition to journals, the Library has paper subscriptions to local, regional, national and international newspapers, including China Daily, Manchester Guardian Weekly, Le Monde, Nación, El País, Corriere della Sera, and Le Devoir. Other regular subscriptions include Frankfurter Allgemeine, Izvestia, the Japan Times, the Jerusalem Post, Literaturin Gazetta, London Times, Times Literary Supplement, Village Voice, and Die Zeit. The Library also subscribes to the electronic, full text version of a large number of domestic and international newspapers.

The Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Swarthmore libraries share a joint on-line automated library system called TRIPOD. This system is used for collection development, cataloging and circulation among the three colleges. The on-line public catalog allows users to access the over two million holdings of all three libraries and to employ sophisticated, user-friendly searching for monographs, documents, periodicals, manuscripts, maps, compact discs, videos and DVDs and scores, and electronic resources.

There are 73 public workstations in the libraries that are connected to the campus network. They provide patron access to bibliographic and full text databases, an increasing number of e-journals and e-books, videos, cassettes and CDs covering a wide range of subject disciplines. Most databases are available for searching from home and from any computer connected to the campus local area network; others are available on CD-ROM and can be used at most public workstations.

The Libraries, College Collections, Computing Services, Audio Visual Technology Services, the Language Learning Center, the Visual Resources Center, and Telephone Services make up the Information Services Department.

The web address for the Libraries is http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/
The web address for Information Services is http://www.brynmawr.edu/is/