

Main Library Renovation Project
Open Meeting with the Campus Community
May 21, 2003

Youngmin Jahan (YJ): Definition of the building envelop is beginning this week in context with the campus fabric. We will be testing out programs as we move along and trying out different layouts within the building envelop. By October we will come back with alternatives for addressing the varying needs. At that point we will need to decide which way to go, with cost being an important factor. Budget adherence is a main point all along; encourage us to come with strong designs that meet the major needs. During May will be concentrating on faculty and students in May; Lib folks in June

Faculty: Main concern is that the library retain the same number of books in general collection; there is no substitute for examining and reviewing books in person. How many will be kept? (YJ): There's no way of knowing now; need to hear from the engineers and weigh different factors; we'll be working with these questions over the summer.

Undergraduate: When he walks in everything is junked together; no open spaces; would like to see a more open feeling to the building.

Undergraduate: Here to get an overview of what's going on. Her main concern is study space. She wants space to come and study and would benefit from a 24 hour facility, or at least late night opening.

Faculty: As he talks to folks about the renovation he hears a lot of concern for the collection; also concern for making it a place where folks come to study and work; balancing both aspects will be important. Flexible working areas for on line and print are needed; there should be spaces for working collaboratively, as well as quiet places for personal study.

Faculty: She is doing library liaison work for the department. He has been here since 1986 and has watched the decline of the library over the years. It's comparable to an inner city situation; unpleasant to be here on weekends because of the atmosphere. She has seen less and less of her colleagues in the library. She comes to library at least once a week even though she gets many materials sent to her office. Recently she has begun to see more of her colleagues.

We need to encourage students to come to the library; we need a balance of collections and services, but would like to have as large a collection here as possible. The Library should have not only inviting spaces for students to study, but also have stacks to move about in. What about moving down below ground? Probably may not be able to go down any further, but we'll make better use of what we have.

Computers are getting used a lot; by bringing back the Grand Reference Room we'd be taking away computer and collection space. Parking is also a problem; there's a great need for visitor parking

Faculty: He survived a library renovation at Tufts without a problem; and assumes he'll be able to do the same here. An undergraduate library is a place to see and be seen and study; undergraduates seem to be more productive in this kind of setting. The option to have library materials sent directly to his office is very important to his productivity. He needs the old stuff on a daily basis. The Library should be made monumental and historians will benefit. Every place else he has worked there have been library studies available in the library for faculty. If you want Humanities and Social Sciences faculty in the library you should have study spaces for them, combined with small function rooms (12 person rooms) with Internet connections. The latter would be used for group study or for class sessions. The University invests in lab

space for the sciences; individual study spaces are the equivalent of lab spaces for Humanities folks. Windows in these rooms would be really nice.

Faculty: Being able to have library materials sent directly to faculty offices helps. Having "office" space for faculty would be nice; perhaps 12x12 with Internet access, shelf space, and desk space; could be shared. Joe Branin (JB): University of Kentucky built spaces for graduate students and faculty in their new library; there aren't enough for graduate students, but the faculty spaces aren't being used. It would be nice to have a quiet space to go and study for orals.

No building or library can grow indefinitely; must make choices and determine what is most important. We have to live within the envelop of space and budget.

Graduate Student: He thought this was the graduate library. The graduate presence needs to be accounted for; Humanities students don't have office space provided to them to use. It's easier for them to live electronically, but library use is important.

Take a poll of departments to determine how many graduate students are reading for their general exams; they need to be in the building for many hours and have a place to study and be near the materials.

Graduate Student: He was essentially living in the library before his generals. Leans more toward the concentrating on print collections for the building; electronic materials can be decentralized and accessed from anywhere. What about the visually impaired? They need to use print materials. The library is important for getting and retaining graduate students; if it's difficult to get at materials, this will be detrimental to attracting graduate students. Possibly have rooms for groups of graduate students plus their advisor? They need a place to keep stuff and close themselves away.

Is there communication between undergraduates and graduate students, or students and faculty, going on in the library? Not now, but some faculty do have lectures, etc. at various spaces in the library. Hope for groups of faculty and students to get together; Students need to be introduced to the treasures of the library; need spaces where that can happen without impinging on staff space. Also need space for backpacks and coats in winter.

JB: If the building is designed correctly, it should be a place where faculty and students can mingle and interact in academic activities. Come in to see the Special Collections and come back to use them later.

Balance is necessary; the library can't be everything to everybody. To what extent will the building be a retail outlet? It should be a graduate library. There is currently no set idea of what should be here. JB: When he came the building was overflowing with books and had to be moved. There will be a significant print presence in the new building; probably a coffee bar as well.

It's a good idea to have study space and classrooms, but what's unique to the library is the collection; study and classrooms are available elsewhere. The Unions should be made more desirable. Proper balance is important.

Libraries' Personnel: There are currently 110 carrels with double occupancy; they're in so much demand that they have to be auctioned off.

We should think about exporting library functions to other buildings that can be open longer hours; 24 hour study rooms could just as well be in one of the student union buildings.

It's important to draw undergraduates in to be exposed to the Special Collections.

Some folks can't be productive in a social reading room, and need quiet study space.

Libraries' Personnel: Open meetings such as this aren't the proper venue to obtain input from faculty and students. Need broad feedback; perhaps WOSU radio and TV would be a good.

Everything here a space issue; \$100M and no more space

Faculty: He'd hate to see it as a last bastion of print; the library needs to be a place to learn how to use scholarly material in a variety of formats.

What is the place of Special Collections in the library? Critical editions are important. OSU is the only place in Ohio where serious research can be conducted; we should be able to compete with the other major Big 10 libraries. Special collections should be central in the new building.

This library is a major library; more major than any these architects have dealt with before.

Faculty: When he goes to use materials in Rare Books and Manuscripts, he makes a plan and sets aside a day; the collection could be located in a nice building somewhere else, but there would need to be ample parking.

Drake Union a dead issue; Ohio Union is currently a social place rather than a study spot. The architectural team should communicate with the Ohio Union folks who are planning a renovation there to see about possible interaction and cooperation. At the very least, there needs to be a coffee bar with more space in the library.

Don't know how to handle lockers, but would be a good idea

If we can go underground, maybe that's a place for carrels to be located.

Faculty: He would hate to have Special Collections in another building.

We tend to grab onto new technology, but have a tendency to drop old technology.

There needs to be decent seating in Special Collections reading rooms.