

UCSB Library Addition and Renovation

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Why is the Library undergoing a major renovation and addition?

A: The UCSB Library has not undergone any renovations in thirty-five years. During that time, UCSB enrollment has risen dramatically and revolutionary advances in information technology have transformed libraries and societies. The redesigned UCSB Library will provide critical physical spaces, professional expertise, and information resources to meet the broader goals of the University and of a new generation of scholars.

Q: What funds are being used to pay for the addition and renovation?

A: Financing for the UCSB Library Addition and Renovation Project was received through a revenue state bond initiative for approximately \$76 million. Fundraising from private individuals, foundations and friends of the Library is underway for resources, technology, collections, endowment support, and digitization beyond the scope of the building. No student tuition or fees are being used to fund the UCSB Library project.

Q: When will construction start and how long will the project take?

A: Construction activities began in August 2013 and the project is expected to be completed in January 2016.

Q: Will I be able to access the building once construction begins?

A: Yes, the Library will remain open throughout construction. However, the two-story building, along with its east entrance, is closed for renovation and will remain closed for the duration of the project.

Q: Will I be able to access books and journals while construction is going on?

A: Some books and journals will be boxed up and moved off-site to accommodate the closing of the two-story building. Although these volumes will be inaccessible, UCSB faculty, staff, and students can use Interlibrary Loan to request books and journal articles from other libraries. We will continue to support retrieval services from our annexes for specialized items like maps and microform materials.

Some floors of the eight-story tower will be closed to the public for a few weeks at a time during construction, but materials will continue to be retrieved on demand by Library staff. For more details, see [the Space Planning Initiative FAQ](#).

Q: Will I be able to study in the building while construction is going on?

A: Yes, the Library will endeavor to conduct the loudest construction work during times of least impact, such as the summer months, breaks, and nights. Construction in the four-story and eight-story buildings will be completed mostly during night hours. The Library will communicate through its website and digital signs exactly when to anticipate high-noise periods.

The Library will retain the same number of publicly-accessible computers throughout the project and will redistribute study tables and chairs from the two-story building throughout the remaining open buildings to compensate for the reduced space.

Q: Are arrangements being made to provide alternate study space for students during the Library Addition and Renovation project?

A: The UCen has extended its hours in consultation with the Library in order to provide an alternative quiet study space for students in the late night hours.

Q: Will the Arts Library be affected by the construction project?

A: The Arts Library is not being touched as part of the construction project. The art collection will be moved into the newly-renovated main Library once the construction is completed.

Q: What is happening to the 24-hour Study Room?

A: The 24-hour Study Room has been closed and a new Overnight Study service launched that makes the entire first two floors of the Library accessible all night to current UCSB students, faculty, and staff with Access ID cards. For the most part, Overnight Study will remain open for the duration of the project.

Q: What impact will the construction have on surrounding buildings and walkways?

A: A construction perimeter fence has been erected and will remain in place until the completion of the project in January 2016. Some walkways on the north and east sides of the Library will be impacted by the project, and foot traffic will be redirected.

Q: What is the Library doing to minimize the environmental impact of the Addition and Renovation project?

A: The Library is aiming to achieve a gold rating from the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) system for its new construction and two-story renovation. The Library also worked with the Campus Design and Facilities department and tree experts to relocate and repurpose as many trees as possible. For more details, see the [Environmental Impact FAQ](#).

Q: Why is the Library expanding its physical space during a time of increased reliance on electronic information?

A: The Library is expanding its digitization program at the same time that it is expanding its physical space. The increased physical space will accommodate the high demand for student quiet and collaborative study space, additional power outlets, and state-of-the-art facilities for Special Collections. However, demand for physical books and journals will remain strong while current copyright restrictions continue to limit libraries' abilities to provide full-text access to a wide range of scholarly materials. In collaboration with campus partners, we are focusing our growing digitization program on unique and local materials.

Q: Where can I view pictures of the new Library design?

A: Architectural renderings are on display in the lobby of the UCSB Library and online at <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/building>.

Q: Where can I access timely updates about the construction project?

A: Construction updates can be found on our blog at <http://building.library.ucsb.edu>. Digital signs in the Library lobby will also communicate essential information.

Q: Who can I contact if I have additional questions about the building project?

A: If you want to learn more about the Library Addition and Renovation Project or have questions or concerns, please contact project@library.ucsb.edu.