

[NOTE: Email sent to all faculty by Gene Lucas, January 24, 2012]

Colleagues,

A significant development affecting the Library requires our collective attention. The University has recently learned that the 8-story tower in the Library complex requires seismic retrofitting in order to meet current standards. The retrofit – now being studied – will be incorporated in the existing Addition and Renovation project. The work necessary to correct seismic issues in the 8-story tower and fire/safety and ADA requirements will result in some space being permanently impacted. The Library anticipates a potential resulting loss of up to 20% of current materials capacity in the tower – populated primarily with humanities and social sciences titles. The exact number or volumes impacted will depend upon the final design and construction plans for the seismic retrofit and whether some affected space is recoverable for materials replacement. We have tasked the design team to identify all options to mitigate volume loss.

Given the uncertainties of evolving design efforts, it is prudent for the Library to plan for prioritizing on-site tower holdings and for relocating a portion of materials to off-site alternative stacks. Faculty input is essential to assure the best possible outcome for access to physical Library collections supporting research and instruction. Under a time constraint, the Library must:

- Prepare for moving up to 130,000 volumes to alternative off-site stacks.
- Handle nearly 700,000 volumes – all materials located in the tower - in some manner to affect a major collection shift and partial relocation.
- Develop a plan of action by early June in order to manage this large scale challenge.

The unavoidable timing of this new challenge represents an additional element to the larger Addition and Renovation. Denise Stephens, our University Librarian, and her staff have begun statistical analysis of collection characteristics and activity. Another critical need is relevant and reliable information from all faculty and graduate students about the possible impacts of alternatives for accessing materials. This will help to establish a sustainable consultative process for long-term collection planning. To meet this goal in a timely manner, I have directed Librarian Stephens to assemble an ad hoc committee composed of faculty and student representatives charged with the work of advising the Library on prioritization of on-site holdings, thereby minimizing adverse impacts of alternatives to on-site location of print resources. The ad hoc committee will:

- Assist with identifying key research and instructional considerations for evaluating collection access alternatives.
- Collaborate with the Library to evaluate and validate conclusions reached from data collected from faculty and graduate students regarding their use of collections and the possible impacts of alternative access.

Librarian Stephens will consult with campus deans and the Senate to identify ad hoc committee participants and initiate their work in February with the goal of completing recommendations no later than May 1, 2012.

The Library will provide more detailed information and reports of progress to stakeholders through various communication channels (including *The Lens* newsletter, the Library Website, and direct electronic communication).

Please contact Denise Stephens, University Librarian (dstephens@Library.ucsb.edu) with questions about this important undertaking.