



TO: Science Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students
FROM: Jo Ann Murphy, Head, Science and Engineering Libraries
DATE: October 5, 2017
SUBJECT: Science Library Lower Level Project

Background

For more than a decade the University Library has been proactively responding to the changing information landscape through refurbishment and revitalization of library collections, services, and facilities across the library system. Examples include renovations to the first and ground floors of the Murray Library, the new Leslie and Irene Dubé Health Sciences Library, the Veterinary Medicine Library, and the Engineering Library.

Over the past several months we have expanded our storage capacity in the General Purpose Building on campus. This allows us to relocate low use library material to this closed access facility and use the freed up space for student learning, study, collaboration, and instruction.

More information about the changes happening in the library, including the Master Plan, is available on our website. <http://library.usask.ca/libraryplanning/>

What is the Science Library Lower Level Project about?

As part of the Master Plan, we are currently preparing the lower level of the Science Library for the installation of patron accessible compact mobile shelving (similar to what exists in the Health Sciences Library). Compact mobile shelving provides about twice the storage capacity of the "static" shelving currently throughout the Science Library. Once the compact mobile shelving is in place, we will be able to move some of the collection from the upper floors of the Science Library to the lower level, providing an opportunity to re-envision this space for student learning, study, collaboration, and instruction.

What is happening with the books and journals?

A review of the print collection in the lower level was conducted by Science Librarians to determine which items will remain in the library, which will be relocated to the closed access storage facility, and which will be removed from the collection. Following the University Library's policy, which adheres to the University's policy for disposal of assets, these materials will be made available for faculty and students to view and remove for personal use. This same process was used for the Engineering Library collection relocation last year. Further information regarding this process will be provided in the coming weeks.

How will I access materials from closed access storage?

The library's current process for retrieving items from storage will continue to be in effect throughout this project. A "request hold" placed for an item with the location of "Storage" in the library's online catalogue will be retrieved and delivered to the library location of your choice. The estimated turnaround time is 1-2 business days.

Will the Science Library remain open during this project?

Yes. The Science Library will remain open, but the lower level will be closed off. Although there will be some construction noise, patrons will be notified in advance.

What is the timeline for this project?

While exact timelines for this project have yet to be finalized, the following steps have been set in place:

- Items identified for removal will be available for faculty, students, and staff (further information to be communicated shortly).
- Items identified for storage will be relocated to the General Purpose Building.
- Static shelving will be dismantled and new compact mobile shelving will be installed.
- Some of the collection will be relocated from upper floors to the lower level.

For more information, please contact:

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