Transforming a Library into a Bookless Branch and Increasing Discoverability of the Virtual Library

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Transforming a Library into a Bookless Branch and Increasing Discoverability of the Virtual Library

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Why “close” a library?

- Financial crisis 2008
- Lower endowment payouts (14%)
- High prices for serials causes underfunding for other needed resources
- Drop in ARL rankings for collections
- Library Budget reductions – $1.7 million year 1; $1.1 million year 2
- Strategic Plan focused on collections & selectors
- Provost’s directives . . .
Provost’s Directives to Library, 2009

- Develop a concrete plan to enhance resources devoted to collections and other scholarly resources.
- Explore consolidation of some unit libraries
- Participation from deans, faculty, and other constituencies
- Plan must also provide for maintaining student study space
- bit.ly/nl9rDc
Communication and Reaction

- Advisory Committee to Re-envision the Engineering Library report April 29, 2010 – took lead in communicating with stakeholders
- Comprised of 4 faculty, 3 librarians, 2 graduates, and 2 undergrads
- Dean spoke with department chairs several times throughout process
- Cornell Sun, Cornell Chronicle, press releases once decision was made public in June 2010

Still . . .

- Some faculty not happy with the changes
- Specific complaints included loss of ability to browse whole collection, loss of book drop, and move of course reserves to Uris Library
- Also, some apparently “didn’t get the message” and were unpleasantly surprised
Redistributing the books

- 20,000 books to Uris Library
- 145,000 books to Annex
- 3,000 books to Math Library
- 1,500 books to Mann Library
- 50+ print journals to Uris Library stacks
24 months later . . .

- Physical collection closed/redistributed
- …but still accessible and growing.
- 90% of journals switched to e-only
- Course reserves moved to central library
- From 6 staff to 2.5
- Space now open via keycard, 24/7
- Librarians still on-site, near departments & students
The dividend

- **AccessEngineering** - classic and new McGraw-Hill books
- AGU Backfile 1894-1995
- AIAA Online technical papers backfile, 1963 - date
- ASME Conf backfile 2002 +; Journals backfile, 1980+
- **ASTM Standards and Digital Library**
- **ENGnetBASE and NanoNetBase (CRC)**
- Geological Society of America online (includes field guides, memoirs)
- IMechE backfile 1847-1996
- K novel (additional file packages)
- **Lyell Collection** (expanded access) - geology
- NSPE Engineering Income and Salary Survey
- OnePetro - geology and petrology
- SAE Digital Library, 1980 to present
- SPIE Digital Library
- Springer eBooks
The Unexpected

- Challenges
- Improvements
- Surprises
Challenges

- Some library staff in central libraries not wanting Q-Z books. Used to an A-P environment.
- Unexpected formats – Stiquito robot, jigsaw puzzle, CDs, oversize
- Bindery money
- Course reserve – transfer not smooth
- Circulation notices not being sent
- Book Drop very much missed.
- Mail delivery
Improvements

- 24/7 building access
- Increased digital collections
- More group study rooms
- Former circulation desk turned into 50 study seats.
- New position: Outreach Coordinator and Collection Specialist
- Blog, Facebook, Twitter pages
- Chance to renovate librarians offices
- New enhanced website
From Circulation to Study Area
Improving Discoverability of the Virtual Library
### About the Transition

**What's Happening to the Engineering Library?**

**Where are the Books Going?**

**The Bookless Branch:** Engineering Library Transition is Complete (blog posting, July 5, 2011)

**Engineering Library Transitions to Virtual Library** (University Librarian, July 5, 2011)

more background news on the transition

### Library News

- All About LibGuides
- NSF data management requirements: informational session
- MyCopy service from SpringerLink
- Transition: Four Things You Need To Know
- arXiv’s 20th Anniversary Celebration

### Quick Tips

- Course Reserve books are now located in Uris Library.
- ACCEL is now managed by CIT.
- Passkey - access resources when off campus.
- Get reference help from engrref@cornell.edu
- Get articles and books from the annex and books via interlibrary loan.

### Featured Databases

- ASCE research library
- AAPG/Datapages
- TRB publications index
- MathSciNet mathematical reviews on the web
- NANOnetBASE
## Sample Search

### Search Library Resources

Enter your keywords: **renewable energy**

- **Retain current filters**

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Curated List of Library Resources (CULLR)

PLOP – Persistant Library Object Page

- BIB Ids
- 899 field
- 050 field
- discipline(s)
- sub-resource
- resource type
- weighting

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## Curated List of Library Resources: Call numbers, Weighting

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In Development: Virtual Shelf Browse
Publicity: New Wall Graphics
Questions?

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