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

Jill Powell
Cornell University

Jeremy Cusker
Cornell University

Follow this and additional works at: https://surface.syr.edu/nyscilib

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by SURFACE. It has been accepted for inclusion in Upstate New York Science Librarians Conference by an authorized administrator of SURFACE. For more information, please contact surface@syr.edu.
Transforming a Library into a Bookless Branch and Increasing Discoverability of the Virtual Library

Jill Powell, jillpowell@cornell.edu
Jeremy Cusker, jpc27@cornell.edu
Cornell University
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/nI9rDc
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)
- I MechE backfile 1847-1996
- Knovel (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
### Transition, Blog, Quick Tips, Featured Databases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>About the Transition</th>
<th>Library News</th>
<th>Quick Tips</th>
<th>Featured Databases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What’s Happening to the Engineering Library?</td>
<td>All About LibGuides</td>
<td>Course Reserve books are now located in Uris Library.</td>
<td>ASCE research library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where are the Books Going?</td>
<td>NSF data management requirements: informational session</td>
<td>ACCEL is now managed by CIT.</td>
<td>AAPG/Datapages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bookless Branch: Engineering Library Transition is Complete (blog posting, July 5, 2011)</td>
<td>MyCopy service from SpringerLink</td>
<td>Passkey - access resources when off campus.</td>
<td>TRB publications index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Library Transitions to Virtual Library (University Librarian, July 5, 2011)</td>
<td>Transition: Four Things You Need To Know</td>
<td>Get reference help from <a href="mailto:engrref@cornell.edu">engrref@cornell.edu</a></td>
<td>MathSciNet mathematical reviews on the web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>arXiv’s 20th Anniversary Celebration</td>
<td>Get articles and books from the annex and books via interlibrary loan.</td>
<td>NANOnetBASE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more background news on the transition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**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

Search

Search results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>book (5829)</th>
<th>ebook (1017)</th>
<th>journal (526)</th>
<th>ejournal (156)</th>
<th>computer (27)</th>
<th>file (27)</th>
<th>recording (17)</th>
<th>video (17)</th>
<th>other (9)</th>
<th>database (8)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Journal: Annual renewable energy technology review
  - 7807 .A61

- Book: Key issues in developing renewables
  - 1997 TP360 .K49

- Journal: Abstracts of AIT reports and publications on renewable energy resources
  - T8810 .R39

- Book: Renewables are ready--people creating renewable energy solutions
  - Cole, Nancy
  - 1995 T8808 .C65

- Journal: Renewable energy review journal
  - T8810 .R43

- Book: The Phoenix Project: an energy transition to renewable resources
  - Braun, Harry
  - 1990 T163 .2

- Book: Deploying renewables: principles for effective policies
  - 2008 T8808 .D48

- Book: Utilization of renewable energy sources and energy-saving technologies by small-scale milk plants and collection centres
  - Riva, G
  - 1992 T8808 .R61
Curated List of Library Resources (CULLR)

PLOB – Persistent Library Object Page

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>bibid</th>
<th>discipline</th>
<th>Sub-resource type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alloy Phase Diagrams (ASM) (r)</td>
<td>7055187</td>
<td>materials science, ch handbook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASM handbooks online (no 89)</td>
<td>7055173</td>
<td>materials science, ch handbook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chemnetebk</td>
<td>5168655</td>
<td>biomedical engineer handbook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary of geology (no 899)</td>
<td>7091974</td>
<td>earth and atmospheric handbook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk-Othmer encyclopedia of</td>
<td>4478151</td>
<td>biomedical engineer handbook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K novel ebooks collection (see)</td>
<td>4004405</td>
<td>biomedical engineer handbook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>899 field - package</th>
<th>discipline</th>
<th>Sub-resource resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IEEE journals (many have) (IEEEX)</td>
<td>lytellcollebk</td>
<td>electrical and computer eng</td>
<td>ejournal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lytell collection</td>
<td>lytellcollebk</td>
<td>earth and atmospheric sciences</td>
<td>ebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan &amp; Claypool</td>
<td>morgclayebksdl</td>
<td>computer science, systems eng</td>
<td>ebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS proceedings</td>
<td>MRSprocebkb</td>
<td>materials science</td>
<td>ebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanotechnology ebooks</td>
<td>nanonetebk</td>
<td>biomedical engineering, biolog</td>
<td>ebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Society of Chemistry</td>
<td>RScEbks</td>
<td>computer science</td>
<td>ebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safari</td>
<td>saFTB</td>
<td>computer science, systems</td>
<td>ebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QE 701</td>
<td>paleontology</td>
<td>earth and atmosphere</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QE 856</td>
<td>biomedical engineering</td>
<td>biomedical engineer</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 858</td>
<td>computer applications</td>
<td>biomedical engineer</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RD 130</td>
<td>Prosthesis, artificial or biomedical engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T 1</td>
<td>general technology</td>
<td>electrical and comp</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA 1</td>
<td>general engineering, civil engineering</td>
<td>environment</td>
<td>628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC 1</td>
<td>hydraulic environment</td>
<td>civil engineering</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 1</td>
<td>building construction</td>
<td>civil engineering</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJ 1</td>
<td>mechanical engineering</td>
<td>mechanical and aerospace</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TK 1</td>
<td>electrical engineering, electrical and comp</td>
<td>1013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Database Weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Bib ID</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aerospace engineering</td>
<td>4003471</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAA online meeting</td>
<td>7007543</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAE digital library</td>
<td>4122779</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compendex</td>
<td>6992502</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engnetbase</td>
<td>3072002</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web of science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Development: Virtual Shelf Browse
Publicity: New Wall Graphics
Questions?

Jill Powell  
jhp1@cornell.edu

Jeremy Cusker  
jpc27@cornell.edu