A tale of two libraries slated to close: The newest iteration of the Cornell physical sciences library

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A tale of two libraries slated to close:
The newest iteration of the Cornell physical sciences library

Upstate NY Science Librarians
25 October 2010

Leah Solla – Chemistry Librarian, Coordinator Clark Library
Dianne Dietrich – Physics & Astronomy Librarian
If you only remember two things...

• The library has cool stuff
• Librarians are friendly
  they’re also good at
  – finding stuff
  – organizing stuff
  – making stuff accessible

(but if you just remember we’re friendly, that’s fine)

http://www.flickr.com/photos/eflon/3271730476/
Principles

- Collections – online & hardcopy
- Tools & services – finding & using
- Librarians – coffee & consultation
- Dynamic - evolving with needs & landscape
Users – what were they doing?

- **LOTS** of online activity
- Print charges (includes reserves): **8,000**
- Online downloads (one major pub.): **97,000**
- Studying (quiet & group): **300** users/day
- Reference – print classics, questions steady
- Computing – always busy
- Instruction steady
Users – what were they saying?

Dominoes in the library!
Users – what were they saying?

- Overarching concern: impact on research & teaching
- Collections
  - More online! (some concerns about ebooks)
  - Hardcopy books with like subjects
- Space & computing
  - More computers at Math Library
- Services
  - Reserves & classic texts at Math Library
  - Enhance PSL website for better resource discovery
- Process & communication
  - Increase outreach & promotion of library resources
Virtual Clark

- e-journals
- e-books
- Databases
- Research guides
- Theses

- Resources organized by subject

http://physicalsciences.library.cornell.edu/
CUL New Books

July 2010
(13729 titles)

A. General works (11)
B. Philosophy, Psychology, Religion (489)
C. Auxiliary sciences of history (46)
D. History (911)
E. American history (133)
F. American history (194)
G. Geography, Anthropology, Recreation (1414)
H. Social sciences (275)
K. Law (405)
L. Education (126)
M. Music (220)
N. Fine arts (438)
P. Language and literature (2009)
Q. Science (2920)
R. Medicine (197)
S. Agriculture (113)
T. Technology (866)
U. Military science (61)
V. Naval science (6)
Z. Bibliography, Library science (77)
-- [No Classification] (3238)

Passkey Bookmarklet BETA
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website
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Contact Programmer/Analyst: Rick Sillama

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• Full text access to articles
• Quick links in Google, Amazon, & elsewhere to Cornell resources
More Info | LibX Help | Tell us what you think! LibX in the news
Contact Programmer/Analyst: Rick Sillama

JAbbr: Decipher your journal abbreviations

Quick search results for Rep. Prog. Phys. : 2 titles found (0.174 seconds)
1. Reports on progress in physics
2. Reports on progress in polymer physics in Japan

Didn't find it? Try a deep search
Library: Who?

• Leah Solla  
  Chemistry Librarian
• Dianne Dietrich  
  Physics & Astronomy Librarian
• Steve Rockey  
  Mathematics Librarian
• Jill Powell, Jeremy Cusker  
  Engineering Librarians
Where to find the library...

- [http://physicalsciences.library.cornell.edu/](http://physicalsciences.library.cornell.edu/)
- Help: [pslref@cornell.edu](mailto:pslref@cornell.edu), 607.255.4016
- Librarians’ Office 283 Clark Hall
- Study Space thru Fall 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Books where?</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Library</td>
<td>experimental physics &amp; chemistry; all theses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Library (closest)</td>
<td>astronomy; theoretical physics &amp; chemistry; reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mann Library (Life Sciences )</td>
<td>organic &amp; biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex (storage)</td>
<td>low use books; all bound journals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I think we are building an exciting new model for science libraries...
First we are willing to give up the physical libraries to be in tune with our users who are 99% online.
Second we invest in our librarians (the intellectual value we bring to the academic endeavor of the university) in the high end of personal reference service, outreach, instruction, orientation for new students/faculty, and the high end of data librarianship and e-science.

Steve Rockey