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/
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