

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PRESENTED BY: Lisa Kalynchuk, chair, planning and priorities committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 23, 2016

SUBJECT: **Library Transformation**

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The library has changed a great deal over the past decade, due to changing demands from researchers, teachers, and learners and the onset of a digital revolution of library holdings. On May 18, the planning and priorities committee met with Charlene Sorensen, interim dean, and Ken Ladd, interim associate dean of the University Library to receive the presentation, “*University Library Transformation Project – Creating a Vision for Library Spaces.*”

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

Library transformation remains a university priority with the goal of bringing the entire library system up to a standard expected of a U15, research intensive university. An overall University Master Library Plan is under development and has as its starting point the master plan created for the Murray Library in 2013. The plan will include new research space that includes visualization and simulation suites, community spaces, and spaces for academic success. Reconfiguration of collections includes reducing the print collection and its footprint. Strategies include consolidation, compact mobile shelving, and shared archives of print materials.

Committee discussion focused on reliable online access and storage of research data, continued access to print materials, and whether the transformation of space will reduce library operations costs. One of the projects submitted to the federal government’s Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) is the project to fill in the soffit overhang of the Murray Building and create additional space for archives and special collections on the fifth floor of the building. A remote storage facility continues to be on the planning horizon as the storage space on campus is inadequate long term for the library’s collections.

Additional information about the Library transformation and development of a Library Master Plan is available at: <http://library.usask.ca/libraryplanning/#About>.

Online feedback and questions can be submitted through the site. Council members are encouraged to be engaged with their Library and to submit their ideas and feedback about library spaces through the site or by emailing libraryplanning@library.usask.ca.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. University Library Transformation Project Update



University Library Transformation Project - Update

April 15, 2016



Context

The digital age has brought transformative change to the scholarly information environment and has dramatically changed the way faculty and students use libraries. Library users have a diversity of information needs and libraries worldwide are responding to the challenges of the digital age by rethinking approaches to library facilities, services, and collections. The previous paradigm of acquiring resources ‘just in case’ a user – now or in the future – might access the resource has largely been replaced by the paradigm of ‘just in time’ access and information delivery.

There are many external factors forcing transformative change in libraries, such as shifts in scholarly communication and how research is published and disseminated, technology that allows users to access information without intermediation, user demands for access to new types of scholarly information (e.g. data sets, multimedia resources), and accelerated globalization. Learners and researchers have new demands due to the complexities of blended learning, experiential learning, distributed learning and the concomitant need for mobile content delivery, increased focus on research data management and data mining, and increased options for disseminating research.

This all translates to changes in user demands for space and services, including decreased demand for print collections. The topic of collections can be difficult to tackle even though most faculty and students know how much they rely on online access to information resources. “Decreased demand for print collections” does not mean that books are not required in the library. What this phrase does mean is that not every item in the library’s collection needs to be front and centre in library spaces. The University Library intends to remain a responsible steward of its print collections through implementing alternative storage solutions and participating in a regional shared print archiving network. This will allow for the transformation of library spaces to meet the needs of students, staff, and faculty in today’s digital information age.


Background

Library Spaces

The need for capital change and reconfiguration was recognized during the time of the university’s first integrated plan. Since 2003, the transformation of collections, services, and the work of library employees has unfolded hand-in-hand with capital renovation and refurbishment under the leadership of a capital steering committee, chaired by the Provost.

In planning since 2004, Library Transformation Phase I was completed in 2007. This involved shifting collections on the first floor of the Murray Library, which freed up space for the establishment of the University Learning Centre, including space for the Math and Writing centres.

Library Transformation Phase II was completed in 2009 and involved relocating library employees from the ground floor to the 6th floor of the Murray Library. The Circulation Desk and Reserve Collection were relocated from the first floor to the ground floor, situating these services in a more user-friendly location. New student spaces and bookable study rooms were developed on the ground floor as well as a café/lounge.



New spaces and facilities continue to be added to the library system. Completed in September of 2011, the Collaborative Learning Lab on the first floor of the Murray Library is a state-of-the-art classroom equipped with technology, equipment, and flexible furniture designed to accommodate multiple learning and teaching styles, including lecture, collaboration, discussion, and group work. In particular, the technology enhancements have helped the library in its efforts to develop a distributed and e-learning approach for library instruction through the use of technology for audio and video capture that can be streamed and incorporated into new and various instruction models. The concept of this innovative space is to bring the activities of teaching and learning into the Commons where learning occurs naturally through collaboration, study, and interaction with peers.

In 2013, we moved into the Leslie & Irene Dubé Health Sciences Library, bringing much needed and enlarged spaces to the academic health sciences building and allowing us to reconfigure some collections and learner spaces across the library system. In the first full year of operation in its new location, the Health Sciences Library recorded an additional 128,000 visits over the previous year. In February 2015, with funding from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, library donors, and library reserve funds, we brought changes to the Veterinary Medicine Library.

However, other parts of our facilities across the library system remain firmly frozen in the 1970s.

Library Collections


We have taken steps to reconfigure collections over the years to allow for the refurbishing of library spaces.

As part of Library Transformation Phase II, print journals were removed from the Murray Library in order to create space on the 6th Floor for library employees. These print journals were either moved to storage in the General Purpose Building, removed from the collection if there was comprehensive and stable archival online access, or moved to another library location. The materials located in the General Purpose Building can be requested by library users and delivered to the library location of their choice.

We have also successfully implemented publicly accessible compact mobile shelving in the Leslie and Irene Dubé Health Sciences Library. This resulted in collections occupying much less space than if they were sitting on regular static shelving and allowed for the consolidation of health sciences journals into a single location.

The University Library has also undertaken major collaborative collections work through the Council for Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL). Academic libraries across western Canada (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia) have developed a shared print archive network (SPAN) where each participating library agrees to retain the physical copy of certain online-available journals so others can withdraw the journals from their collections. This allows libraries to reduce their collections footprint with the assurance that the physical copies are still available within the region. There are dozens of programs such as this around the world.

Our contribution to COPPUL SPAN has involved our commitment to be the archive holder for 521 journals (approximately 28,000 items), which are in storage at the General Purpose Building.



Altogether there are about 76,000 items in in the General Purpose Building. We filled 145 retrieval requests from this storage location for the period May 2015 to April 2016. This reinforces the dramatic fall in the use of print journals not just on our own campus but across western Canada.

Library Transformation Phase III

Library transformation remains a university priority and this capital project is continuing with the goal of bringing the entire library system up to a standard expected of a U15, research intensive university.

Since early 2015, a capital steering committee under the leadership of the Provost has been planning for the next stages of the transformation. Two working groups of the steering committee have also been established to focus on library spaces and collections, recognizing that:

- We need to develop and present a coherent vision for the physical spaces of the University Library.
- Ahead of any refurbishment of library spaces we need to consolidate and reconfigure library collections.

The Facilities Planning Working Group is comprised of academic, library, student, Gwenna Moss Centre, office of the Vice-President Finance and Resources, and Facilities Management representatives. In November 2015, this group created a high level vision document for the architectural design, space planning, and configuration of the library system. The vision includes principles for shaping University Library spaces and proposed space attributes and themes.

Vision and Principles for Shaping Library Spaces

Vision Statement:

The University Library creates a sense of community and fosters connectedness to enable and enhance learning and discovery in all areas. The library promotes engagement through collaboration, both formal and informal, to aid learners, teachers, researchers, and scholars in achieving their academic and research goals. Accessible physical library collections are consolidated primarily in three locations with smaller, targeted, high-use collections in other locations.

Principles:

- Meet the diverse information and programming needs of library clients through flexible, multifunctional spaces
- Create inspiring spaces and innovative services to cultivate creativity and inventiveness
- Offer specialized areas to encourage learning through experience and innovative research
- Provide spaces to meet diverse user needs, with a focus on inclusivity
- Include a range of spaces that will encourage private study and learning (“me” space), small group learning and collaboration (“we” space), and large group community space (“us” space)
- Provide abundant user-friendly technology and IT resources, along with support for using personal devices, to allow for effortless access to information and virtual libraries
- Ensure safe, welcoming, and comfortable spaces through user-focused furniture, equipment, and design
- Utilize access to natural light for maximum effectiveness wherever possible



Proposed University Library Space Attributes and Themes

The University Library is a single distributed library. As they do now, library spaces will continue to vary in size and in service levels. Working within the space principles outlined above, revitalized library spaces may include some or all of the following attributes:

- Maker spaces and visualization suites to provide opportunities for research and learning through experience
- A research commons for debate, discussion, and collaboration among grad students and faculty
- Spaces and services to help students to de-stress and decompress
- Functional spaces for public events and receptions
- Display/exhibition spaces (curated by the library or in partnership with other units)
- Research and specialized learning support such as a centrally located office for the librarian, math and/or writing help, and requisite client services functions

Library spaces will have a focus on collaborative learning and knowledge creation. They may act as a primary location for collections and/or provide targeted, high-use collections as appropriate; they may be co-located with student/faculty support services, reception/public events space, and/or student space as appropriate.

Collection Reconfiguration and Storage

A significant proportion of prime library space currently consists of static shelving that houses print collections. As previously noted, we will need to consolidate and reconfigure library collections ahead of any refurbishment of library spaces.

We are undertaking a multi-faceted approach to reduce the collections footprint throughout the library system. One of the approaches is to place more materials into storage. For example, we will be increasing our capacity in the General Purposed Building by replacing the static shelving with compact mobile shelving. We are also investigating other possible on campus storage solutions. Any material in storage will be able to be requested by users and delivered to the library location of their choosing.

We are also withdrawing duplicate materials from the collection. First, we are looking at duplicates within our own collection. We engaged a consultant who provided detailed information about the location and usage of our monographic collections (i.e. not journals). We are therefore able to identify and retain multiple copies of high-use materials and ensure that we retain at least one copy of lower-use materials. Second, we are participating in the next phase of COPPUL SPAN, which started with archiving journals in western Canada and will now move to archiving monographs.

Finally, we will be utilizing publicly accessible compact mobile shelving in order to densify the collection in public areas. As is the case currently, the majority of the collection will be located in three locations: Leslie & Irene Dubé Health Sciences Library, Murray Library, and Science Library. Other library locations will provide targeted, high-use collections as appropriate. The detailed collection analysis undertaken with the assistance of a consultant will allow us to identify low-use materials best located in storage and the high-use materials best located on compact mobile shelving in publicly accessible areas.



Next Steps

Since November 2015 the Associate Deans of the University Library have attended the Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee of Council, University Student Council, and a number of faculty councils to discuss the draft vision.

The steering committee has also endorsed the development of a master plan for University Library spaces that builds on the extensive Murray Library master plan developed in 2013. This master planning process – involving extensive consultation with faculty, staff, and students – will occur over the next number of months with an anticipated completion date of December 2016. While waiting for the results of the University Library master plan, the Engineering Library will be undergoing an interim refresh to respond to student demand for increased positive study and collaborative work space.

The vision of library transformation is to create inspiring physical spaces for learning, collaboration, exploration, scholarly discourse, and knowledge creation. The transformed library will deliver the physical spaces, services, and collections that meet the needs of faculty and students and align with the educational and research mission of the university.