

Frequently Asked Questions about Your New Library

1. Why is Utah State University building a new library?

Over the last ten years, library collections have continued to grow and exceed available space in the existing two facilities. At the same time, life safety issues in the Merrill Library have become paramount, with major concerns around seismic stability and emergency routing. Due to these space constraints and safety issues, the Utah State Legislature provided funding for a new, state-of-the-art facility that will allow all university library functions to be housed under one roof at the heart of campus.

2. How is the new library building being funded?

The Utah State Legislature appropriated \$40 million for construction of the facility. Funds for furnishings, fixtures, and equipment are inadequate, thus a campaign to raise additional funds from private donors is currently underway.

3. When will the new library building be open?

Construction of the new library building is scheduled for completion in August of 2005.

4. Where will the new library be located?

The new library building will be integrated with and expand the existing Cazier Science and Technology Library extending to the north and east and uniting all library functions under one roof.

5. What will the new library building be called?

Combining two named buildings into one presents an interesting challenge, so the new library does not yet have an official name. A committee, made up of members of the University community, is currently working on a recommendation that will be sent to the President and Board of Trustees for a final decision.

6. What will happen to the Merrill Library building?

The Merrill Library will be torn down sometime in spring semester 2006.

7. Can you provide information on the robotic technology that will be incorporated in the new building?

The new Library will house an automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS), the first of its kind in a Utah library! This system is critical to housing the current collection and allowing for future growth of the library collections. Items will be stored in shelving units in a five-story rack structure that has four aisles. A robotic crane will operate in each aisle, accessing the shelving units. The crane will deliver the appropriate shelving unit to a station in the circulation or serials work areas where a staff member will pick the requested item from the shelving unit and bring it to the respective service area for delivery to the patron. This automated system is accurate, fast, and cost effective; it allows for increased storage at a lower cost per book than traditional library storage. This new technology will enable us to maximize the use of space in the new facility, covering the anticipated growth of our collections for the next 25 to 30 years. Visit <http://library.usu.edu/Index/Newlib> to view a short video demonstration clip. You will be able to watch the ASRS system work from viewing windows located in the third and fourth floor study lounges.

8. Will all the books be stored in the automated storage and retrieval system?

No. Items that will be stored in the ASRS include the bound journals and microforms, as well as lesser-used items in the circulating book collection. Newer and more frequently used books will still be housed on open shelving on the third and fourth floors.

9. If materials are in the ASRS, does that mean I won't be able to browse them?

No, you will still be able to browse materials that are housed in the ASRS. The materials will be stored on the shelving units in call number order. At your request, we can deliver an entire shelving unit, containing approximately 250 items, to you to browse at your leisure in a designated browsing area on the second floor.

10. How will I request an item that is in the ASRS?

It will be easy to request an item. You will simply click on a "select" button that will accompany the online catalog record of every item housed in the ASRS. Whether you are in the Library itself, an office on campus, or a dorm room, you will request your item online and, in most instances, the item will be waiting for you at the service desk by the time you get there.

11. How long will it take to retrieve an item from the ASRS?

Depending on the number of requests that have been sent to the system at the same time, we expect that it will take 1-2 minutes to retrieve the item that you requested.

12. What other features will the new building offer to its users?

The new Library is being built with leading-edge and innovative elements in every corner of the facility. One of the most anticipated features of the new Library is the expansive Information Commons that will house 150 computers with online resources and productivity software for one-stop research. For those who seek collaborate spaces, the Library will offer over 30 group study and project rooms, a café with a canyon-view patio, and multi-media suites for digital audio/video production. Wireless access and laptop computer checkout will cater to visitors who prefer the freedom to roam the building for that perfect space to sit and be inspired.

For faculty members looking for teaching/learning resources or peers with whom to exchange ideas, the new Library offers a Faculty Seminar Room and the Faculty Assistance Center for Teaching (FACT). For hosting cultural and social events, the multi-purpose auditorium will provide a welcoming venue. Additionally, the new Library will house a Geographic Information System workroom, an expanded art books area, a new books browsing area with reading loft, and a radio frequency identification (RFID) book-tagging system to allow for express self checkout of books and rapid inventory control.

But perhaps the most important feature of the new building will be the quality library staff and reference librarians who will stand ready to help at convenient service desks throughout the facility. The entire library staff is eager to welcome users to the new feature-rich facility.

13. What are some of the aesthetic features of the new building?

The facility is being built with such inviting elements as a grand four-story glass atrium, abundant natural lighting, inspiring mountain views, sleek architecture, and modern décor. The library will feature attractive furnishings and comfortable seating throughout the building.

14. What will happen to the Hatch Memorial Library Room in the old Merrill building?

The Hatch Room will be moving and will make its home in the new Library. The room includes book collections on architecture, religion, art history, and gardening dating from 15th to 19th centuries. The room holds a leaf from one of the original Gutenberg Bibles, the first printed book in western history, and boasts 16th century décor with English oak linen-fold paneling and bookshelves, Italian and Flemish decorative art, furniture and more. On one side of the room is a fireplace dating back to 1664 and in the center of the room stands a refectory table at which Henry VIII is purported to have dined. In the new Library, the Hatch Room will be more accessible and visible.

15. Will there be a café in the new building?

Yes, a 50-seat café with a canyon-view patio will serve light meals, drinks and snacks, and will offer a full service coffee bar making it a great place to relax, meet friends, or study.

16. When will the new Library be dedicated?

A dedication is being planned for the fall of 2005. If you wish to receive an invitation and information about the dedication events, please contact Kim Winger (kim.winger@usu.edu or 435.232.6347).

17. Does the Library still need to raise funds?

Yes. The State funding covers the cost of constructing the building; however, the allowances for furnishing, furniture and equipment are inadequate. The Library is engaged in a capital campaign to raise funds for outfitting public areas. A long-term goal is to build the endowment for the acquisition of library materials.

18. What fundraising activities are underway?

The occasion of a new Library presents a unique opportunity to leave a legacy for future generations of Utah State University students. For gifts of \$250 to \$1000, there are opportunities for funding the purchase of furnishings including chairs, tables, and study carrels. For gifts of \$5,000 and above, donors can name study rooms and other spaces within the new building.

Gifts will be recognized with a commemorative plaque on the item or space funded. Naming opportunities represent a special way to recognize family members, special friends, or a remembered loved one.

The Faculty Senate created a Faculty Library Endowment; efforts are currently underway to increase participation. Through donations or payroll deduction, faculty members, staff, and others may donate to a fund designated for the purchase of library materials including both books and journals.

For those interested in learning more about giving opportunities, please contact the Library Administrative Office at 435.797.2631.

19. How can I get involved with helping the new USU Library?

Friends of Utah State University Library is an informal organization that recognizes the central role of the University's library in the education of students. The group provides financial and program support for the libraries. The Friends hold a series of meetings and activities during the year and sponsors a popular lecture series during the summer on the Utah State campus. Anyone interested in Friends of Utah State University Library should contact Trina Shelton 435.797.2631.