



INSIDE ARTHURLAKES LIBRARY

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

Arthur Lakes Library Shifts Forward in 2013

What was 14 months in the making, involved 14 staff members right-sizing 3 major collections and 17 student assistants moving 970,000 volumes onto 10,000 shelves over 5 floors? Answer: The Arthur Lakes Library's incredible leap forward into meeting the information, research and study space needs of its current and future users.

In January 2012, Library Director Joni Lerud-Heck stated the challenge facing libraries today. "Libraries are reinventing themselves. The 20th century model no longer works and the 21st century model is just beginning to be defined. Technology is radically and permanently changing our collections, services, staff and use of space." Currently the Library space is used for much more than housing books. Library space now provides computer labs, meeting and workshop spaces, quiet and group study areas, lounges and a coffee shop for its users.

"Placing the last book in its exact location as stated in the original plan made us ALL very happy!"

—Lisa Nickum and Karen Pfiffner,
Government Publications

In response to the ever-changing landscape of the 21st century library, the Arthur Lakes Library Administration and staff posed the question, "What can we do to meet the needs of our users?" Incorporating requests from the Library's users, philosophies from the Library Program Plan and initiatives gathered from the Vision Committee document, a plan quickly surfaced to repurpose the Library space. Built-in flexibility of the repurposed space emerged as the top priority for the project planners.



Placing the Last Book in the Exact Location as Planned
Eric Weiss and Jim Mirabassi, Govt. Pubs Student Assistants

The planning process was lengthy, demanding and involved practically every Library staff member. The goal was to right-size the 3 main collections in the Library; Government Publications, Bound Journals and the book Stacks Collection. Initially, librarians convened to determine an approach to such a daunting project. This entailed identifying and removing items that are not relevant to the Library's collection development policies, removing items that are also available in electronic format with strong archival or regional backup and allocating space for those parts of the collections that are still growing.

The Government Publications area was the jumping-off point for the project. In 2010, Lisa Nickum, Government Publications Librarian began identifying then deciding what materials should remain or be removed. The collection was painstakingly reviewed keeping in mind current Mines academic programs, usage of materials and collection strengths in the other 8 regional libraries with Federal Depositories. Next, Karen

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Shift Forward



Pfiffner, Government Publications Technician, created a plan to delete the removed items from the Library catalog and spearheaded the shifting plan with 4 student assistants. This phase of the project was completed in April 2013, 6 weeks ahead of schedule, freed 1,248 shelves and paved the way for the next collection to be right-sized.

Like Lisa Nickum, Acquisitions Librarian Heather Whitehead sowed the seeds for the print journal phase of the project well in advance by purchasing backfile content, scoping regional libraries' journal holdings and identifying non-campus mission journals with outdated runs. Using lessons learned from Government Publications, Heather and Steve Katz, Head of Serials created the plan to weed the print journals which included consolidating then moving the collection to Floor 1M and the newly vacated space on Floor 1. Heather identified titles to be removed and Steve removed and updated catalog records as needed. Collections Management students physically processed withdrawn materials and removed small journal runs to a temporary location. Facilities Management staff removed big journal runs from the shelf and sent them to offsite recycling. Based on the currently subscribed list, Brittany Pfiffner, temporary Circulation staff member, calculated growth space for the next 10 years and measured and assigned shelf space for the bound journal collection. This process was completed in May 2013.

“I was surprised and pleased at how quiet and non-disruptive the journal stacks move was to our users.”

—Heather Whitehead, Acquisitions Librarian

Lia Vella, Reference Librarian and Christine Baker, Special Formats Cataloging Librarian were charged with reviewing books in the A-G call number range in the Book Stacks Collection. Using a thoughtful process, Lia and Christine were conservative about removing titles. Per Christine Baker, “I enjoyed getting such an in-depth view of our collection in these ranges. Not only was I able to obtain a big-picture view of what was already on the shelves, but I could identify subject areas in the collection that need to be updated with more relevant and current titles.” Once titles were identified for removal, Circulation student assistants pulled the items and processed them for withdrawal.

“The shifting project was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the history and organization of the library while also strengthening friendships with employers and coworkers.”

— Alyssa King, Student Assistant

Now that shelf space had been made available in the collections, the floor shifts could begin. The Circulation and Collections Management Departments hired extra student assistants for the summer and the journal floor shift began immediately following Commencement Day in May 2013. Led by Brittany Pfiffner, 8 students began the laborious process of physically removing the items from the shelves. Students worked in teams of 2 and soon a friendly, yet competitive camaraderie developed between the teams. Both journal and stacks floors shifts finished ahead of schedule and 2 weeks before the first day of school.

“We have a more usable and focused print collection and now have opportunities to improve our public space.”

—Lisa Dunn, Head of Reference

Students and Library staff alike reported that the collaborative process and the interactions between departments throughout the length of the project were very rewarding experiences. The project required intense coordination between those who removed items physically and those who removed bibliographic records from the catalog. This represents an immense effort from everyone involved as each item was touched at least twice. Public Services Librarian Patricia Andersen, sums it up neatly. “Enthusiasm remained high to get this done and working together for a common goal produced a strong feeling of accomplishment for everyone.” ■



Final Book, Final Day of Shift Forward, August 3, 2013
left to right: James Dang, Jim Derrickson, Brittany Pfiffner, Austin Cummings, Eric Sears

Spotlight on Staff

Welcome Christine Monroe

Service with a smile may be a cliché but not when applied to the Library’s new Program Assistant, Christine Monroe. Christine always maintains a friendly and resourceful attitude while juggling the many demands of her position. In addition to serving as the Executive Assistant to the Director, Christine manages and reports on the Library Budget, supports the Book and Brew Coffee Shop and “Inside Arthur Lakes Library” newsletter, coordinates event planning and student worker contracts and serves as a resource on process and procedures for Faculty and Staff members.

“Everyone at the Library was so welcoming and friendly. I am inspired by how everyone works together and keeps the Library’s interests at heart. I am where I belong.”

Originally from southern California, Christine Monroe graduated from the University of California-Irvine with a degree in Social Ecology. After her husband Vaughn’s enlistment in the Marines ended, they returned to Colorado. Christine began her career at Mines in the Office of Research Administration in November 2004. In 2006, she moved to the Mining Engineering



Department which offered the prospect of interacting more directly with students. Recruited by Library Director Joni Lerud-Heck in 2012 for an open Program Assistant position, Christine recognized a unique and versatile opportunity that blends her campus experience and work ethos. She seized the day and the Library staff feels very fortunate to have found her!

Outside of work, Christine is passionate about reading, practicing yoga, gardening, cooking, camping and fishing. She shares these passions with her husband Vaughn and son, Chazz. ■

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