2017 Summer Library News

DeWitt Wallace Library

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Last month I wrote about “Our Community as Creators.” Continuing on that theme, I want to address some comments that have been made regarding our summer project for Level 2 of the library. This project will result in realizing many aspects of a vision we shared four years ago. Vision 2020 was written when we were celebrating the 25th anniversary of the DeWitt Wallace Library. Now, four years later, it is especially helpful in connecting current students, faculty, and staff to our aspirations for the library spaces.

Read more >>

Summer Remodel - Level 2 Project

For those who have ventured into the library lately, visitors may have seen the empty shelves on levels...
Beginning immediately after finals, we are undertaking the following projects this summer:

- New carpet on level 3
- Renovation on level 2 - to include 4 group studies, 3 gender neutral bathrooms, one 30 seat active learning classroom, an instruction lab for Archives, 2 offices for entrepreneurship, and reading spaces and seating for 150 (link to floor plan?)
- Replace the elevator in July-August
- Replace furniture and add an electric fireplace to level 1 north reading room

The renovation on level 2 includes the removal of all the book stacks, installation of new lights, more power, and as mentioned above, plumbing for additional bathrooms. All this means that the library will be quite noisy and there will be disruptions. We intend to keep the library building open and accessible, although we will be retrieving books rather than allowing visitors to enter the stack areas during some of the construction period.

During the summer, we will continue to process interlibrary loan requests and will be open for Reunion Weekend. In addition, during July 9 - August 4, we will be extending hours two days a week to accommodate the NEH funded faculty workshop for visiting scholars hosted by Philosophy. See our Library Hours for exact days and times.

It is our hope that all the work will be completed by mid-August and we will be ready to greet the new class, new faculty, and returning members of the community. We will host an event to celebrate the new spaces sometime close to the start of school and will look forward to showing off our new spaces.

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**Piloting Change in Book/Media Allocations for 2017-18 Fiscal Year**

The Library Staff is piloting a new book and media allocation model for the 2017-18 fiscal year. The pilot, approved by the Library Media Advisory Group in Spring 2017, is an effort to better meet the needs of faculty selectors and to alleviate needless steps and stress in our annual library collection development process.

Many years of data and experience have led us to come to the conclusion that our current process for purchasing book and media materials for the collection is not meeting the needs of faculty nor our collection development priorities. We find that faculty are often rushing to place book and media orders at the end of the fiscal year. Several departmental library book and media budgets are often left underspent and the collection as a whole suffers. We know that faculty wish to do an excellent job of choosing resources, but busy schedules, multiple demands on time, and occasional departmental stressors (e.g. job searches, reviews, etc.) can make this difficult.

During the pilot faculty will be encouraged to select books and media without the added pressure of trying to spend a particular dollar amount each fiscal year. This means that we will not use a formula to allocate library collection funds for each department. In order to ensure that each department has equitable opportunity to select resources, we will set a soft spending guideline of $8,500 per department annually. We will send regular reminders to departments encouraging them to select materials for the collection and also alert the Library Representative if the department comes within $1,000 of the
and our Research & Instruction Librarians in particular, will continue to select materials for the collection across all disciplines. We will assess the pilot at the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year.

We do encourage all faculty to select materials for the collection and we are happy to provide training on our online ordering tool, OASIS. Please contact Katy Gabrio or your Liaison Librarian to set up a training time.

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**Faculty & Staff Loan Period extended**

Suggestions were brought forward in 2016 advocating of lengthening our lending periods for faculty. The point was made that research does not follow a semester-based timeline and extending the loan period to one year could increase faculty use of our collection. We are pleased to announce our Faculty/Staff general collection loan period will change from 120 days to 365 days. Special collections will retain their shorter loan periods. This change will be implemented this June.