Changes to the Engineering Library  
Fact sheet: December 2010 update

Work to re-envision the Engineering Library has been proceeding on several tracks simultaneously, thanks to the combined efforts of the Advisory Committee — which includes students and faculty members — and the team of the Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences libraries (EMPS).

This process is informed by the Physical Sciences Library (PSL), which is one year ahead of Engineering in the transition to a virtual service model. We have learned that the transition will not be over when the books leave the building and that an online library is dynamic and evolving.

Increased Online Access
Enhancing the electronic collections is one of the top priorities for the transition, and we have made considerable progress in this direction. About a dozen new databases have been added since the start of the transition, with several more coming soon.

New databases include:

- ASTM Standards – 12,000 standards developed for safety of materials in products we encounter daily, of interest to engineers and architects
- SPIE Digital Library – for optics and photonics
- SAE Digital Library – for automotive, aerospace, and green-technology research; used by student teams designing racecars, autonomous vehicles, etc.
- ENGnetBASE – CRC ebooks
- Morgan & Claypool Synthesis Digital Library of Engineering and Computer Science – lectures on electrical engineering, computer science, biomedical engineering, and synthetic biology
- OnePetro – for geology and petrology
- SpringerMaterials – physical and chemical data in materials science
- KnowItAll – fully searchable 1.3 million chemical spectra for materials and environmental sciences

For a full list of new and “coming soon” databases, see http://engineering.library.cornell.edu/node/5727.

Funds to start this process have come from gift money and endowment income directed to the Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences libraries by the University Librarian, in addition to savings from paper journal cancelations and adjustments to the annual allocation of the materials budget. We have made a good start addressing some of the most obvious needs, but there is more to be done in the next fiscal year.

The synergy and cooperation of the three libraries is critical. There is considerable cross-college and department usage, for example, the online resources we buy for chemistry are crucial for chemical engineers as well, and vice versa. All three libraries are moving aggressively to enhance online resources. The approval plan for books has been converted to a patron-driven e-book plan. This gives faculty and students the opportunity to access a wider spectrum of books but we purchase only those titles that are going to be used—a win-win situation that has put more material in front of our users and saves money. Our e-resources are warmly embraced and heavily used.
Print Collection and Access
We continue our considerable efforts to plan for the relocation of the physical collections. This summer we began to cancel journals in print when online access is available effective for calendar 2011 subscriptions.

The Advisory Committee recommended that Engineering Library books that have circulated in the last five years be retained on campus with the remaining books and all print journal holdings sent to the Library Annex. About 20,000 volumes will go to Uris Library, 3,000 will move to the Math Library, and 1,500 will move to Mann Library to join related materials in these collection. A committee to plan for the collection move is preparing to adjust catalog records and the move logistics. The collection move will take place quickly and economically after the end of finals in spring 2011.

Study Space and Computing Services
We have been working with the Engineering College on computer access and study space issues. The College has commissioned a space-use plan for the entire college. A survey of undergraduate needs will take place in early spring 2011 and will figure into this process. In the meantime, the Library is tracking the number and type of seats being used.

Outreach
The Engineering librarians are engaged in transitioning to an online-only service model and planning for the relocation of the physical collection while also reaching out to student groups to keep them informed of the coming changes and solicit input. So far, our users seem happy with the Advisory Committee’s recommendations. More events to reach out to faculty and students will take place in spring semester, and the planning for this is under way.

Finally, this transition could not take place without the hard work by dedicated library staff from across the whole Library but especially the staff of the Engineering Library. Their efforts, much of it behind-the-scenes, will be appreciated by all the future users of the library.