Changes to the Engineering Library
Fact Sheet – June 28, 2010

The Engineering Library has been under review as part of the University’s and Library’s strategic planning process. Supporting the research mission of the College of Engineering requires enhanced electronic resources, especially electronic journals, but the Engineering Library’s materials budget is significantly underfunded. An advisory committee, established by the College and the Library, unanimously recommended that the Engineering Library focus on the provision of electronic resources and funds be reallocated from operations to online collections. The committee’s recommendations focused on three themes: enhancing the electronic collection, providing effective study space and computer access, and expanding the role of librarians. To accomplish these goals, the physical collections will be relocated, with the highest use material remaining on central campus, including reserves.

Please contact Steven Rockey (steven.rockey@cornell.edu), the Director of the Engineering Library, or Leah Solla (leah.solla@cornell.edu) Coordinator, Physical Sciences Library, with questions.

Process:
• **Review:** The University Librarian and the Interim Dean of Engineering appointed key stakeholders to serve on an Advisory Committee to Re-envision the Engineering Library. Members included faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, and librarians. Two focus groups were conducted to solicit input from graduate and undergraduate students, and the committee met four times in spring 2010. Their recommendation was presented to and approved unanimously by the Library Faculty Board. The University Librarian and the Interim Dean of Engineering accepted this recommendation, which the Provost approved in June, and the incoming Dean of Engineering concurred.

• **Planning and Implementation:** The Director of the Engineering Library will be coordinating the planning process for implementation. Open forums and information sessions in fall 2010 will give users an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the transition plans. Planning for enhanced electronic resources is already underway by the engineering librarians and some additional funds made available from the library’s unrestricted reserves. All physical collections will be completely relocated by the end of summer 2011. Users will have access to study space and computers throughout the process and after the physical collections are moved. The engineering librarians will remain on site to provide reference, collection development, and instructional services. We are committed to maintaining uninterrupted services during this transition.

**Key Recommendations:**

**Increased Online Access:**
• In recent years, the Engineering Library’s users have been primarily using electronic resources, and approximately 99% of the use of the collection is of online materials. Estimates place the Engineering Library materials budget as currently underfunded by about 25 percent; to fill that gap additional funding and reallocation of other funds will be required.

• The library plans to increase the number of online resources, including e-books, journals, technical papers, and reference materials.
Print Collection and Access:
- The highest-used print items will be retained in related libraries on central campus.
- All bound journal volumes will be relocated to the Annex, where articles can be scanned and delivered electronically to users. The current issues of a very limited number of journals not available online will remain on central campus.
- Course reserves will be moved to Uris Library, which can accommodate the activity and provide seating space. In the future, more reserve materials will be available online, allowing users to access them from anywhere.
- No print collections will remain in Carpenter Hall.

Study Space:
- Study areas in the Engineering Library will be available throughout the relocation of the collections.
- A need was expressed for study space – including more group study space – in the College after the relocation is complete, and 24/7 keycard access is desirable. A reconfigured space could allow for more seating, group study areas, collaborative learning facilities, and other services.
- The College will investigate possibilities and consult with the Provost about the use of the vacated space.

Critical Computing Services:
- The ACCEL lab is a very valuable service for graduate and undergraduate students. Students and classes will continue to be able to use the computer workstations at this time.
- A recommendation is that users of the computer lab would like to see its operating hours increased to 24/7.

Changes for Librarians and Staff:
- Librarians will remain on onsite in the College, and become even more visible and active members of Engineering, particularly as they steward the enhancement of online collections and improved discovery and browsing tools. Librarians will remain in Carpenter Hall for the present.
- Graduate students expressed a strong need for increased literature orientation and instruction. Engineering librarians will expand teaching support for classes and project teams across the College, and they will take advantage of additional opportunities to engage students through college-wide orientation, TA training, and department survey courses.
- There will be an impact on support staff as positions will be eliminated. This is anticipated to occur when the collections have been removed from the library facility in summer 2011. Staff members are now being provided with all of the support and resources available through human resources in identifying employment opportunities. As openings occur in the Library there will be an attempt to place support staff that are impacted in these positions.