Changes to the Engineering Library
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the “re-envisioning” process?
The Advisory Committee to Re-envision the Engineering Library, in support of the university’s strategic planning, was asked to think about the future needs of faculty, students, and researchers in the Engineering College, and to consider cost-effective ways of providing services based on those needs. The committee of faculty, students, and library staff focused on enhancing the electronic collections, providing effective group and individual study space and computer access, and expanding the role of librarians.

What is going to happen to the Engineering Library?
Although no print collections will stay in Carpenter, the highest-used print items will be moved to other campus libraries. All bound journal volumes will be moved to the Annex, where articles can be scanned and delivered to the desktop. The ACCEL computer lab will remain in its current form and location in the near term, while the college undertakes a broader initiative to look at lab space, study space, and team space in the college.

Why are these changes being made?
Of the 183,000 volumes in the Engineering Library, only about 14% have circulated in the last five years; approximately 99% of library use consists of online collections. But the Engineering Library’s collection budget has been underfunded and many key resources in engineering are not available. By shifting support from the operation to the collection, users will gain access to many more online collections.

Will there still be librarians in the Engineering Library?
Yes, librarians will have essential roles in literature orientation and instruction for users, teaching support, online collection development, and identification of improved discovery and browsing tools. If you have any question about how to find materials, please contact the reference librarians at engrref@cornell.edu.

What's going to happen to the computer facility?
The college is committed to providing appropriate support for students and faculty. The ACCEL computer lab will remain in its current form and location in the near term, while the college undertakes a broader initiative to look at lab space, study space, and team space in the college.

What is the time frame?
The majority of the physical collection moving will be over the Summer of 2011. There will be some collection preparation work taking place during the year but there will be minimal disruption for users of the library during the academic semesters. A timeline has not been set for space reconfiguration.
Will the library and/or computing facility be closed during the process?
No, both the library and the ACCEL lab will be open throughout the removal of the collections.

Why do students have to go to Uris for reserve materials in 2011/12?
Uris has seating and staffing to manage reserve requests. If we don’t have to provide that in the Engineering Library, the staff and the facilities can be focused on literature instruction, collaborative learning, and enhanced discovery tools. For this coming academic year 2010/11, reserve materials will still be in Carpenter.

Will the study space and/or computing facility be open 24/7?
We recognize that’s of strong interest to library users, and the college will explore that option.