

The Foggy Notion

News of the Hastings Law Library

August 2005

While you've been working away at your summer job, or perhaps just on vacation, here in the Library we've been "movin' and shakin'", with most of the focus on the moving part.

As you have seen or heard, the space you previously knew as the Library is gone. David Seward, the CFO of Hastings and one of the leading figures in the development of the new library plans, spoke to this *Foggy Notion* reporter about what the new Library will look like in 2007. But first some background info...

The Disappearing Library

About the time the 2Ls and 3Ls were finishing up exams, the Library staff was notified that due to the high price of construction, the planned renovation of 200 McAllister had to be put in the fast lane. By condensing a two-year project into 15 months, the contract bids would be more in line with what was available to spend. With a \$25 million project, condensing the work makes a difference.

The State of California approved a seismic upgrade and retrofit of this building and (thanks to voters) are funding almost \$23 million of this project. That will be enough for the basics, but in order to re-design the new Library, and handle the non-code changes, the College is running a capital funding project and they are hoping for

sufficient donations to build a beautiful new state-of-the-art Library.

A Look into the Future

The year is 2007, and as you walk into the new 200 McAllister building, the first thing you notice is a sign telling you how to get to the Library. The elevators are in the same place but, thankfully, the bathrooms are not. Instead, upon arriving at the 4th floor, the elevators open onto a wall commemorating the alumni who made the redesigned library possible.

Exit the elevators and turn right (like before), and you will immediately see the 4th floor open space. Lots of light, comfy chairs, and waist-high shelving for better visibility; this area is more of a public space, for meeting friends and studying in groups.

The Circulation and Reference desks are more or less in the same space as they were in 2005. Nearby is an atrium up to the 5th floor allowing light (via a "light shaft" on the 5th floor) to create a sense of openness and air.

To the left as you exit the elevators, where the Library's workroom is currently located, is the new computer lab. So if you want to print something quickly, or just check your email, you no longer have to take two separate elevator rides to the 6th floor.

The Copy Center and Micrographics Room are still on the 4th floor, Library

staff is now on the 5th floor where the majority of book stacks are, and the Rusty Dobbs classroom has moved to the 6th floor.

There are built-in study carrels on the 5th floor which have been modernized with proper electrical outlets and lighting. Also, both the 5th and 6th floors have been outfitted with a new fire sprinkler system. In fact, the fire and alarm system has been upgraded throughout the building.

More study rooms have been added throughout the new Library. Noise on the 5th floor is slightly less than the 4th, and the 6th is quieter still. This is helped by the installation of carpeting through-out the new Library.

The new Library has the same amount of shelving as in 2005, perhaps a bit more. Even though all of the book stacks were widened for ADA access, additional space came by shrinking the Faculty Library to about 1/3 of its former size.

A major difference is noted in the addition of a heating and cooling system. There used to be student complaints every year about how hot the Library was in the summer and how cold the Library was in the winter. Your concerns were heard and the result is an actual air circulation system. New lighting has also enhanced the overall functionality and desirability of the Library.

The Library of Today

Where has it gone?: A portion of our collection has been put in “retrievable storage.” This means you won’t have the opportunity to browse the shelves yourself, but if you are interested in a particular book that you’ve found through

the Library’s Catalog, we can page that book from the “retrievable collection” and you can pick it up the following day.

Gold Reading Room houses materials needed for 1-Ls to complete their LW&R assignments including all of the primary Federal and California law, and the relevant finding aids (e.g., Shepard’s, indexes, digests, encyclopedias).

The **First Floor Library** has been organized to support the legal research needs of all Hastings students. The Library’s primary Circulation and Reference Desks will be in the **First Floor Library**, along with the reference collection, course reserve, popular legal treatises, and primary legal materials.

Library Catalog: The Hastings Library Catalog allows you to search for specific titles in our collection, or to browse our collection virtually. You can search by author, subject, or keyword, and once you narrow your search to a specific book, you can click on the call number to see what other titles are filed next to it on the shelf. Usually books nearby are in the same subject area. Access the new web-based Catalog through the Internet at <http://hopac.uchastings.edu>.

Need help? Ask us:

Consult a librarian for advice in planning your library research; the Hastings Librarians are good sources of information on how to use the various research tools (such as subscription databases) available in the Library.

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