July 2014

The Valley Library of Oregon State University

Melvin R. George

The Delpha and Donal Campbell University Librarian

Follow this and additional works at: http://commons.pacificu.edu/olaq

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

project. The uncertainties of Ballot Measure 5 led the campus to accelerate the design work for the new addition and get it under contract as soon as possible. Phase 1, new construction, began in April 1991 and reached substantial completion in December 1992. L.D. Mattson, Inc., of Salem was general contractor. The new addition has three major components, the South Lawn Addition (85,505 square feet), the RoofTop Addition to the 1966 building (29,438 square feet), and the Kincadi Addition (20,195 square feet).

During the 1992-93 fall-winter intersession, many collections and service points were shifted to new or temporary locations in the new addition. The building was closed while this move took place and reopened at the beginning of Winter term 1993, prior to the beginning of renovation. A few words about moving books: By the end of the project, every book in the building had been shifted at least once and some two or three times. All book shifts were meticulously planned by university stacks supervisors; library staff and student assistants provided the labor. We estimate that this strategy saved as much as $300,000 over the cost of specialized library moving services, but the strenuous work took its toll; later shifts were broken into shorter schedule increments and used greater numbers of student assistants.

Renovation began in March 1993 and was completed in October 1994. General contractor was S.D. Deacon, Inc., of Portland. In order to maintain services and access to collections, the renovation was conducted in two stages of approximately nine months each. The Knight Library was re-dedicated with a full academic ceremony on October 14, 1994. The keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Berdahl, president of the University of Texas, Austin.

What will the future bring? If it is any indication, a new service was being developed in the building even before the renovation was complete: the Knight Library Information Technology Center. ICT is a 92-station networked microcomputer access facility funded by a new $50 per term student technology fee. Fast-track design and construction allowed the new service to open in January 1995. Preliminary discussions are now underway for a 60,000-square-foot vertical expansion over the South Lawn addition. Approximately 30,000 square feet would be dedicated to technology access and digital media production—up to 500 individual workstations, plus rooms for technology-dependent study groups and interdisciplinary research teams. An additional 30,000 square feet would provide for patron seating and future growth of print collections.

We are proud of the Knight Library facility and are happy to provide individual or group tours. For further information, call (541) 346-3056 or send email to bonamici@oregon.uoregon.edu.

The Valley Library of Oregon State University

by Melvin R. George

The Delpha and Donald Campbell University Librarian

No, we are not the only library in the valley. The new OSU library is named by a $10,000,000 gift from the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation.

The Valley Library constitutes a major expansion and refurbishing of the OSU Kerr Library. (The Kerr name will move to the University Administration Building). The expansion adds 140,000 square feet to the existing 182,000-square-foot building and provides upgrades to meet seismic codes, make the building more energy efficient, and change the aesthetics of both exterior and interior.

The Valley Library will serve as the central service point for the OSU's information services network. Its major feature is the second floor information commons, which adds to the library reference staff additional consultants from the computer center, the media center and telecommunications. The aim is to create a space in which students and faculty can be helped to manipulate a full range of materials to create multimedia presentations that incorporate text, graphics, sound and motion. The staff at the consultation desk will work with students in the surrounding computer laboratory, which will provide 150 computers and network "pops" for library users who need help in their work. Once users are confident of their skills, they can go to any one of the more than 2500 seats throughout the library that will provide full network access.

In addition to the consultation desk, the information commons will include a fully equipped multimedia classroom, the reference collection, and the circulation desk. The space also includes central photocopy services for the building, designed to house scanners and printers as well as photocopy machines. Also within the commons will be two rooms for users with disabilities and two preview rooms.

The fourth floor of the existing building will be given over to office, laboratory and work space, where staff from the library, media center, computer center and the telecommunications division will be grouped together in flexible quarters that accommodate functional teams and provide space to enable staff to provide more intensive consulting and guidance for students and faculty working on multimedia instructional packages and presentations. Space will be provided for a darkroom, sound recording studio, a small television studio, and for offices in which librarians, media consul-
tants and technical consultants can work with stu-
dents, faculty and staff members.

The new portion of the building is designed to
support compact shelving. In addition, the library
is completing an off-site storage facility a block
from the Valley Library to store seldom-used mate-
rials.

“We expect to house older journals in the compact
storage space on the same floor as the current
materials, and even older journals in the off-site
storage center,” says Karyl Butcher, Associate
University Librarian. “Altogether, we estimate that
the regular shelving, the compact shelving and the
off-site storage should house about 2,000,000 vol-
umes.”

We hope the new Valley Library prepares us to
reinvent library and information services as we
continue to introduce developing technologies to
serve the instructional and research activities of
the University. The merger of the library, com-
puter services, telecommunications and media ser-
dices came at the ideal time at OSU to permit us
to plan a central facility that leverages the contri-
butions of all Information staff members to better
support what the university is really about—the
preservation and evaluation of old ideas and the
creation of new ideas.

The traditional architecture of the Cas-
cade campus’s library (right) contrasts
strongly with the architecture of the Syl-
vania campus’s library (above).

Portland Community College:
Two Very Different Libraries
by Barb Swanson
Director of Learning Resources

Portland Community College opened two new
library buildings in two years. The new facilities,
on PCC’s Cascade and Sylvania campuses, were
made possible by the successful 1992 bond elec-
tion, which provided the college with close to $62
million for construction, equipment and building
maintenance. PCC has built eight other facilities on
and off its three campus locations and has
invested in needed maintenance and repair. The
college serves more than 80,000 students in a five-
county area.

The libraries were high on PCC’s list of priorities
and had been for many years. The college had
grown dramatically in the 1980’s and library space
was half what it needed to be for its student
enrollment. It was typical for students to sit in hall-
ways or study in their cars rather than attempt to
find a seat in the library. PCC tried unsuccessfully
to secure money from state and federal sources to
correct the situation, but in the end, the local vot-
ers came through.

The new buildings offer study space for 11 per-
cent of the students and include a number of small
rooms for group study. (These are highly used by
students.) Each also was designed for expanded
services and the use of new technology. Each cen-
ter also has model classrooms for bibliographic
instruction, computer labs for students, and multi-
media production areas for faculty. A fiber-optic
network provides access to electronic journals and
links the libraries with the Internet, PORTALS dat-
abases, and regional catalogues.

See PCC page 20