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A new look | Mann Library is relocating stacks to make space for the communication department, which will eventually move to the fourth floor.

Mann Library Makes Space For Communication Dept.

By KATE MONSON

Sun Contributor

Changes are coming to Mann Library.

The Department of Communication is moving into the library's fourth floor, and to make space for the department, Mann Library consolidated its stacks onto its second and third floors this summer.

The library based its plans to move around stacks on a study that assessed factors like the reduced need for stacks space and the need for more functional office space, according to Peter Schrempf, program manager of Capital Projects and Facilities Services. The study was conducted in conjunction with Mann Library, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Human Ecology and the Central Library Administration in order to make sure the spatial needs of the colleges were being met, he said.

According to Ezra Delaney, assistant dean of Capital Projects and Facilities Services, the plan will address the needs of both Mann Library and the communication department.

"This [project] is done in conjunction with the plan to consolidate the library onto three floors and really provide them with what they need to make improvements there on collaborative space and student study space. And so this project is going hand in hand with the needs of Mann Library," Delaney said.

This summer marked the first phase of this plan, and more changes will occur on the second floor this fall. For example, the modular offices currently located on the east side of the second floor will be removed to make room for more book stacks and for the expansion of the floor's study and collaborative work area.

One third of Mann Library's print collection was also relocated to the Library Annex to accommodate the space constraints this summer. Mann librarians chose the books and journals that were not browsed or checked out in the past 10 years for relocation.

According to Mary Ochs, director of Mann Library, students may request to have any of the annex items delivered to a campus library, with an average wait time of 24 hours or less.

Although print materials are added to Mann Library's collection every year, many of which still experience high circulation, Ochs said she has noticed an overall decline in the use of print material in favor of the libraries' e-resources.

"Faculty, students and staff can access online journal articles from anywhere, anytime, using their net IDs. Whether they are in a Collegetown apartment, an office on the Ag Quad or in London on study abroad, this ease of access is a huge convenience for Cornell researchers," Ochs said in an e-mail.

However, she said she does not foresee any plans to further reduce the stacks collection in the near future.

The space reallocation effort will also open up the entire fourth floor of Mann Library to the Department of Communication, which is now located in Kennedy Hall. The fourth

floor is currently closed to the public and construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2014, ideally reaching completion in fall 2015, according to Schrempf.

Delaney said the plan addresses the department's lack of appropriate space.

"The offices are a hundred square foot offices, [faculty] can't meet with students in their offices. The configuration of [Kennedy] is very difficult," he said. "So as we did analysis of their needs, it became clear that this building would need to be fully renovated and then that's when we started looking at other possible options."

Schrempf echoed Delaney, adding that there were ways to utilize the library's space more effectively.

"We're actually able to build in a lot more flexible space, a lot more collaborative space for the faculty to interact with the students and for students to interact among themselves," Schrempf said.

Additionally, because construction will be confined to one floor and can be scheduled during breaks and off-hours, disruption caused by the construction will be minimal, Delaney said.

"I think we're getting a better space and a more efficient use of space, and at a reasonable cost," he added.

"The plan will address the needs of both Mann Library and the communication department."

Ezra Delaney

Kate Monson can be reached at kmg54@cornell.edu.