

Proposal to Consolidate Reference and Current Periodicals Collections

This proposal has been formulated by:

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Two of the top priorities for physical spaces developed in the University Libraries strategic planning effort are to create a safe, comfortable and logically arranged physical library environment and to implement the Modernization Master Plan for Newman Library. Combining the two reference collections and the two current periodical collections and placing them strategically in the building can advance both of these goals.

The present two reference collection/two current periodicals collection arrangement was implemented when reference services were provided for humanities/social sciences/general reference on the second floor and science on the fourth floor. With the opening of Torgersen Hall, reference services were combined into two general reference desks, one on the first floor and one in the library tower of Torgersen Hall. Humanities/social sciences/general reference and science reference services are now combined. The collections that support these reference efforts should also be combined to promote ease of access and reduce confusion and frustration for patrons and library employees. A weeding program currently underway, will reduce the size and complexity of the reference collections and allow for smoother integration of the collections. Combining the current periodicals collections will expedite service to the collection by library personnel and allow an attractive, comfortable current periodicals reading room to be established.

Placement of these two important collections in Newman Library is crucial to establishing a logical arrangement of the overall collections and to forward the goal to implement the Modernization Master Plan. The scenario being considered is:

Combine the collections into one A-Z reference collection and one A-Z current periodicals collection and move one to the second floor new wing and one to the fourth floor new wing. This would help solve our immediate problems.

- Advantages: Consolidated reference and current periodicals collections will reduce confusion for users and reference personnel in directing users around the building. Fewer location codes will be maintained by technical services and fewer irregularities in shelving locations will increase the accuracy and ease of shelving/reshelving.
- Disadvantages: There will still be two floors to which to direct patrons for segregated collections in Newman Library but less confusion what will be found in each location. An A-Z stack collection will not be possible. Additional shifts of the collection will be necessary when the main entrance moves to the second floor.

Window of opportunity: Since a combined reference collection and combined current periodicals collection are approximately equal in size; and either collection will fit on either floor, the main hurdle will be having a moving crew on hand to accomplish the move. The moving crew assembled to clear the second floor for Summer 2001 renovations could serve in this capacity.

The cost estimates for shelving for this scenario, supplied by Chris Peters is \$6,400.00.