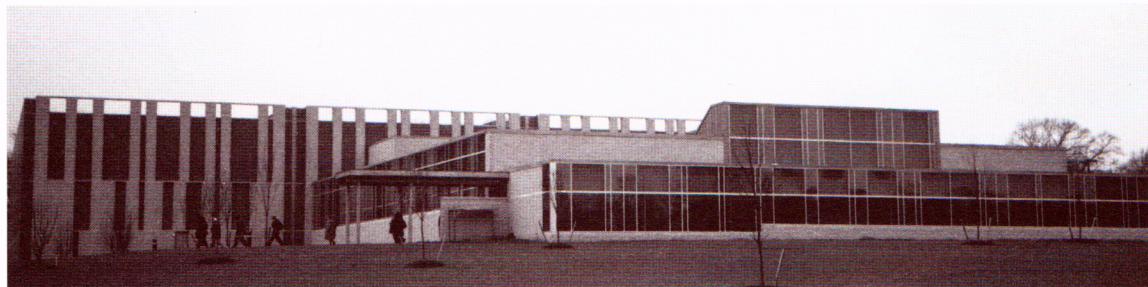


Research Collections and Preservation Consortium (ReCAP) Shelving Facility



The ReCAP Shelving Facility

Columbia University Libraries is pleased to announce the opening of the Research Collections and Preservation Consortium (ReCAP) Shelving Facility on the Forrester campus of Princeton University in Plainsboro, New Jersey. The ReCAP facility was designed, built, and is operated by a partnership of Columbia University, Princeton University, and The New York Public Library. This state-of-the-art high-density shelving facility will house 7.5 million book equivalents in three modular units that comprise the Phase I construction. This facility can expand to fifteen modules and shelve 37.5 million book equivalents.

WHAT WILL RECAP DO FOR YOU?

At Columbia, as at most large research universities, overcrowding of the library stacks has been a persistent problem. Over the past years, we have used three off-site shelving facilities (Annex, Prentis, Bronx) to provide access to lesser-used volumes that were moved from on-campus collections. This provided temporary relief. However, since we acquire more than 140,000 volumes per year for the Columbia Libraries,

overcrowding of the stacks has remained an ongoing concern. ReCAP offers a long-term solution for effective housing, preservation, and access to these collections.

Books and other materials shelved at the ReCAP facility will be retrieved, delivered, and available typically within 24 hours of request on business days. You will be able to request materials located at the ReCAP facility directly from a form linked to CLIO records. In addition, articles and other materials may be obtained through digital document delivery that will post scanned materials to you via a secure Web site. There is also a reading room at the facility if you wish to consult large amounts of materials before selecting them for borrowing. Please note, however, that while materials are in the process of being transferred to ReCAP from Prentis, Annex, and Bronx off-site facilities, there may be brief delays in availability.

WHAT WILL RECAP DO FOR BOOKS?

The ReCAP facility is built with long-term storage, retrieval, and preservation in mind. It provides excellent environmental conditions designed to extend

the useful life of our collections. Temperature is set at 50 degrees Fahrenheit, relative humidity is 35 percent in the main shelving areas and 35 degrees and 25 percent relative humidity in the film vault. Many of the items being sent to the ReCAP facility may be fragile or brittle. Favorable conditions and careful handling will preserve their availability.

WHICH LIBRARY MATERIALS WILL BE AT THE RECAP FACILITY?

Books and other materials kept at the Facility will come from three sources. Whenever possible, library selectors have worked with faculty to identify criteria for selection of materials that will be shelved at the ReCAP facility. First, we plan to move all materials currently housed at the Annex, Prentis, and Bronx facilities during the next three years (1.3 million volumes). Second, more than 1,000,000 lesser-used volumes from our libraries will be transferred during the following years, giving us much needed stacks space. This will include monographs and backruns of journals. In addition, archival, manuscript, and microform materials will also be transferred to the Facility.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION
SYSTEMS (AcIS)

CENTER FOR RESEARCH
ON INFORMATION ACCESS
(CRIA)

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING
INITIATIVE AT COLUMBIA
(EPIC)

FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE VP
FOR INFORMATION
SERVICES AND
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Books and other materials are shelved by size in high density shelving.

FAST FACTS ABOUT RECAP FACILITY

ReCAP: Columbia University, Princeton University,
The New York Public Library

Location: Princeton University Forrestal Campus,
Town of Plainsboro, New Jersey

Opened: January 14, 2002

Current Capacity: 3 modular units to house 7.5 million book equivalents

Potential Growth: 15 modular units to house 37.5 million book equivalents

COLUMBIA LIBRARY SPECIFICS

Transferred: 400,000 items by May 2002

Phase I Goal: Transfer 2.5 million items by June 2007

Turnaround Time: Next business day for books located at ReCAP. Possible delays
in availability of material while in process of transfer to ReCAP.
Next-day electronic delivery of articles and book chapters.

ReCAP Web Site: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/recap/>

ReCAP E-mail: cul-offsite@columbia.edu

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