Dear University Students, Faculty, Staff and Visitors;

July 1995 marked the beginning of Columbia University’s Butler Library Renovation. Our goal is to materially improve your library experience here and make Butler a library for the 21st century.

Toward this end, we are now installing the infrastructure for future modernization efforts, so that we can relocate and expand library services, integrate future technologies, improve seating, open entrances to every tier of the stacks, and create reading rooms and services supporting the undergraduate curriculum as well as a graduate and research library. With this first phase continuing through 1997, we will update you on a bi-monthly basis with Renovation News. We look forward to working with you.

Thank you,

Elaine Sloan
Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian

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**Phase I—An Overview**

Phase I encompasses: the installation of a new mechanical, electrical and telecommunications infrastructure throughout the building to allow future floor-by-floor modernization of air-conditioning, heating and lighting; a face-lift of the stacks, starting on the lower levels; the creation of a new technology infrastructure to house the components for new state of the art computer telecommunications; the reclaiming of spaces for future reading rooms; and the renovation of the entire first floor of Butler (below campus ground level), where technical processing and cataloging operations will be consolidated from locations throughout the building. Throughout the renovation, the library will remain open, services will be maintained and all books will remain accessible.

**During the coming months, there will be several times when the workers must work in each location.** As a result, from time-to-time you will likely find work in progress causing some disruption in your area (see areas affected at left). It is impossible to achieve the renovation without this periodic inconvenience. Demolition, followed by the less disruptive installation and finishing of risers will take place intermittently over several weeks in each location.
New mechanical and electrical risers and shafts are being installed now. These run vertically through the building, in eight perimeter and six interior locations on each floor of the library, and in the east and west sides of the stacks (see section and plan at left). So far, the demolition and removal work has been completed for perimeter risers 1 to 5, and is underway for risers 6 to 8. Please note that the 1st floor (below campus ground level) is the site of major construction, and should be avoided if possible.

Harkness Theater was demolished over the summer (see photographs below), and the Book Sale Room is now closed for demolition. The Book Sale is still active however, and will take place in front of Butler this spring. In addition, the corridor ceilings on the 5th floor have been opened in order to receive telecommunications conduits.

We will post signs notifying you of disruptive activity in advance. To find out when your favorite spot in the library will be affected by work, check “The Week’s Work” signs posted in the entrance lobby and elevator waiting areas on the 2nd floor. There you can find additional copies of this bulletin, which is also available at all departmental libraries.

Feel free to send your renovation comments or questions to Aline Locascio, at (212) 854-1641 (email: locascio@columbia.edu), or Kris Kavanaugh, at (212) 854-7754 (email: kavanaugh@columbia.edu). Every effort will be made to keep interruptions to a minimum. We all look forward to the successful completion of this project and appreciate your patience.