Butler Library’s New Look

September 8 marked the grand opening of the first newly renovated public spaces on Butler Library’s second floor. Much of the extensive work on this floor was performed during the summer months, during library hours, with minimal disruption to student, faculty, and staff services. In addition to the visible architectural changes, mechanical, electrical, communications, life safety, and HVAC systems have been fully replaced in all of the renovated spaces.

Immediately upon entering the main lobby, visitors will notice that it has been given a thorough facelift—ranging from a new security desk, to the rejuvenated “star” light fixtures, to the decorative painting and refurbishment of the vaulted ceiling here and on the grand staircase. The Library Information Office has moved across the lobby to Room 201; in its old location is the new coffee bar, Café Cappuccino. Next to the coffee bar, library patrons can relax and enjoy their coffee, catch up on e-mail or surf the Internet at the Columbia Net Computer Bar, and plug in laptops in the Lounge. One element of the comprehensive renovation in this space is a new paint job that highlights the original intricate ceiling details.

The Butler AcIS Computer Lab re-opened next to the Lounge with sixteen computers and two shared printers available to students. Fourteen computers in the adjacent Information Resources Training Lab are also available when that room is not being used for library instruction.

Renovation has also been completed in the first two reading rooms of the new Philip L. Milstein Family College Library. Room 202, to the east of the lobby, contains the beginning of the undergraduate book collection and includes new tables and study carrels, where students are able to plug in their laptops and soon will be able to access the campus network. Room 209 (formerly the College Reading Room) holds a continuation of the undergraduate book collection and the dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other materials in the noncirculating Milstein Study.
Collection. Adjacent to Room 209, Reserves has a beautifully refurbished space of its own, complete with improved computerized catalog access. Together with the Lounge and Computer Lab, these reading rooms comprise the newly expanded **24-hour Butler study space.**

Also open for the fall term are new locker rooms with 146 lockers in the north hallway (one of these rooms houses the new copy card vendor location), and completely renovated east side rest rooms on both the second and third floors. Nearing completion is the renovation of stacks 3 and 4, which will include upgraded lighting, mechanical and safety system improvements, and new reader service areas with CLIO terminals, copiers, book drop-off areas, and telephones.

Construction will continue on the second and third floors throughout the academic year. Every effort will be made to minimize interference with patrons' use of the building. Up-to-date renovation information will continue to be posted near the main entrance, near elevators on the second and third floors, and on the Web at: [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/butler_ren/tww.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/butler_ren/tww.html).

We all look forward to the successful completion of this project and appreciate your patience with the construction.