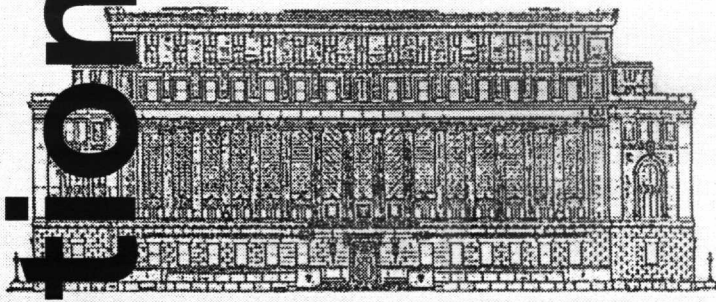


Renovation News



Butler Library Renovation

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Phase I Renovation: Hitting the Halfway Mark

September/October In Brief

- Final finishes on FCU risers 5–8
- Work on electrical risers in all stack tiers
- Work in mechanical shafts on floors 1–6 including east side men's rooms
- Installation of cable in fifth floor south and west corridors and 524 Telecommunications room
- Installation of new Fan Coil Units (radiators) in second floor Main (north) and east entrances.

Welcome back to all returning students, faculty, and staff, and a special welcome to new library users. In this first *Renovation News* of the 1996–97 school year, we'll update you on the progress so far, tell you what's going on now, and give you an idea of what's to come. But first, for those unfamiliar with the Butler Library Renovation, a quick primer.

In July 1995, major renovation of Butler Library began. The goals of the multi-phase plan are to upgrade the infrastructure to accommodate cutting-edge library technology as well as improve the comfort level for both library users and collections; relocate and expand services; create reading rooms and services supporting the undergraduate curriculum as well as a graduate and research library; improve seating; and open access to every tier of the stacks. In addition, the exquisite architec-

tural detail and finishes of the original 1934 design will be maintained when possible and refurbished when necessary.

Remarkably, much of this renovation happens in a "live" environment since the library needs to remain open with full services provided. As a result, construction teams work around staff and users, making every effort to minimize noise, dust, and clutter. There's bound to be the occasional inconvenience, but the end result of a more comfortable, efficient facility surely justifies the means.

Phase I Accomplishments

The goals of Phase I, scheduled from July 1995 to December 1997, are focused primarily on the renovation of Butler's first floor to accommodate the consolidation of technical processing and cataloging operations; installation of a

new mechanical, electrical, and telecommunications infrastructure to allow future floor-by-floor modernization of air-conditioning, heating, and lighting; and construction of a new telecommunications technology center on the fifth floor.

As of September, the design/construction team has adhered to the ambitious schedule. Following are some of the accomplishments at the mid-way point of Phase I:

- **First Floor Renovation:**

Demolition in the north and east is complete, and new construction is well under way.

- **Basement:**

Old mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment was removed and replaced with equipment with expanded capacity. Butler stack ductwork was cleaned, and the stack air-conditioning system is installed and operational. We hope you are among the many people who enjoyed the comfort of air-conditioning in the stacks this summer thanks to some of the new equipment. We've been told that it's a pleasure to have to wear a sweater in the stacks from time to time during warm weather.

- **Risers:**

There are more than 75 locations throughout the building where risers (vertical pipes that carry electrical wiring or conduits, ventilation ductwork, water lines) have been installed. For the most part, the visible construction activity in public areas has been related to riser installation.

Full installation of the eight perimeter Fan Coil Unit Risers—including furniture removal, demolition/ chopping/ drilling, pipe installation, testing, fire protection, insulation, floor slab replacement, and

general finishing will be completed this fall. Work on electrical risers in the stacks will continue. Construction of the M-1 mechanical shaft, including removal of floor slabs, is complete. Installation of duct and piping on floors 1–6 continues.

Construction schedule is 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with lunch from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.

Avoid areas where there's work when possible.

Check "This Week's Work" signs posted in entrance lobby and elevator waiting areas on the second floor to find out what areas will be affected by construction activity.

Current Activities

Work will continue on the renovation of the first floor, and the installation of the mechanical shafts. Final finishes on risers 5–8 will occur in September and October.

Goals of Future Phases

Upcoming work in the overall renovation will move from "behind the scenes" infrastructure activities and risers to changes that have a more immediate impact on user services. An illustrated exhibit has been installed in the Butler lobby, showing the long-range plans for the renovation. Planning is under way for the next phase of the project, which will focus primarily on undergraduate services. We will

be keeping the user community informed as the plan develops.

Among the changes you'll see in future phases are renovated stack floors that will be more comfortable for people and collections, with temperature and humidity controls, improved lighting, and expanded study areas. Seating throughout the library will be significantly increased with more efficient and comfortable configurations, including numerous study tables, open carrels and group study space. There will be a new reserves reading room and circulation desk near the main entrance on the second floor. The third floor will become the center for Reference and Information Services, and will house the Electronic Text Service, state-of-the-art workstations, and an instructional classroom. Changes in floors 4–9 follow suit, with expanded and improved study areas, seminar spaces, and graduate research reading rooms (which hold frequently consulted materials that do not circulate) for quiet research by graduate students.

The Butler Renovation is happening under our very noses, with minimal disruption considering the magnitude and scope of the work. The renovated library will place Columbia on the cutting edge of library service and technology. We are grateful for your patience and flexibility during the course of this exciting transformation.

Please feel free to direct your comments or questions to:

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