

FROM THE LIBRARY

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Letter from the Librarian ▫ September 2005



“The Library is in a post-constructionist era!”



Happily, this quip by a Library staff member is true. The five-year Hawthorne-Longfellow (H-L) Library renovation project is finished! During Phase I, completed in fall 2001, the main and lower levels and Special Collections were modernized. In Phase II, which just ended, similar upgrades were achieved on the 2nd and 3rd floors: installation of a sprinkler system, new ceilings, lighting, carpet and paint. The hated timers over the stacks lights were removed, creating bright, attractive spaces for browsing the collections and studying. Improvement highlights include:

- **Student Study Spaces:** As new technologies have transformed pedagogy, students have demanded spaces for collaborative small group work where they may explore digital research materials, side by side with traditional books, develop web-based projects and engage in other group learning experiences. Several changes have been made to respond to this need:
 - ◇ Four new student group studies were created on the 3rd floor, near Nixon Lounge, replacing six faculty studies.
 - ◇ The Pierce Reading Room on the 2nd floor has been reduced in size to create a more intimate environment to support use by small groups. A new clear glass wall brings sunlight and the lovely vista of trees into the central 2nd floor reading area.
 - ◇ New soft seating has been ordered for the area between the 2nd floor exhibit cases, with assistance from the Friends of Bowdoin Fund, and other new furnishing will be placed in Pierce, and in front of Special Collections.
 - ◇ Wireless coverage on the 2nd and 3rd floors has been upgraded and additional power/data jacks have been installed.
 - **Faculty Study Spaces:** The Library should provide a variety of research spaces for exclusive faculty use, in similar fashion to the diverse types of spaces provided for students. While many faculty members work continuously and productively in individually assigned carrels, over many years others have reserved carrels only to find they never used them, sometimes for an entire semester. Some faculty members told us what they really need is a secure place in H-L for laptops, purses and coats while browsing the stacks, and some shelves to store checked-out materials for future consultation. Others only need a carrel for a short period, to complete a chapter, a conference presentation or a grant proposal. In response, and to compensate for the conversion of six former faculty carrels into the new student group studies, we have made these renovation and policy changes, with the endorsement of the Library Committee:
 - ◇ A **new Faculty Research Room** has been created in the north area of Pierce Lounge, which is available to all faculty members on a first come, first served basis. It will be furnished with a combination of new desks, a large consulting table and soft seating for 6-8 faculty members. Faculty will be able to store research materials or personal items in lockers and on open bookshelves. Swipe cards for room access are available at the Circulation Desk. Those desiring continuous access may have their college I.D. cards appropriately programmed by notifying Eugenia King at eking2@bowdoin.edu.
 - ◇ Two existing faculty studies are reserved for open assignment, on an experimental basis for the year. This means if you have a book galley or a grant proposal or any type of short-term project, you will be able to reserve these studies for a few hours or for several days or weeks at a time on a first come, first served basis. Contact Judy Montgomery at jmontgom@bowdoin.edu.
- Through the combination of the two open assignment studies and the Faculty Research Room, there will be 8-10 individual spaces available each semester to all faculty members. Previously, only the first 30 people who signed up for studies received them, and the needs of all other faculty members could not be accommodated.
- To date, faculty responses to these changes have been very positive. Eight people have voluntarily given up their assigned studies and several people have made helpful suggestions about the Research Room and have reserved the assignable studies for brief periods. Judy Montgomery and I would welcome your thoughts about these changes.
- **Special Collections & Archives:**
 - ◇ Storerooms were relocated to the building interior, to provide protection from exterior wall condensation problems, and compact shelving was installed to increase storage capacity for rare books and manuscripts.
 - **Administrative Spaces:**
 - ◇ All 2nd and 3rd floor administrative offices received sprinkler systems, new lighting, and paint. The Fessenden Room received new seating and window treatments and technology infrastructure is being upgraded there and in the 3rd floor Technology Seminar Room.

Watch for new furniture on the 2nd and 3rd floors of H-L later this fall. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge your patience with the noise and disruptions to collection access and services that accompanied construction periods over the last five years. To thank you, and to give you the opportunity to tour and celebrate our newly renovated spaces, please join us for an **Open House/Wine and Cheese Reception, Thursday, October 20, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**, H-L Library, 2nd floor.

Sherrie Bergman
Librarian