

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**  
**Office of the Director**  
**Box 352900**

June 19, 2000

TO: ad hoc Committee for Library Facilities Master Plan

FROM: Betty G. Bengtson  
Director of University Libraries

SUBJECT: **University Libraries 10-Year Facilities Master Plan: A 2000 Update**

Since the University Libraries Master 10-Year Facilities Plan was created in 1994, the Libraries needs and priorities have undergone several changes. The purpose of this memo is to document the Libraries current priorities for facilities and how those priorities have changed over the last 6 years.

**Original 1994 10-Year Facilities Plan**

Beginning with the 1994 10-Year Facilities Plan, the University Libraries has presented a vision of a library system which occupies fewer, more consolidated locations, and includes as a cornerstone, electronic distribution of many services to the scholar's desktop in faculty offices, dorm rooms and the home. At that time we said "...the wisest course seems to be to plan caps on the sizes of hard copy collections housed in the on-campus libraries." We suggested that a large portion of the collection could be housed at an off-site location.

In 1994 five projects were proposed:

- Suzzallo Renovation
- Fine Arts Library (new facility consolidating 3 existing libraries)
- East Asia Library Expansion
- Health Sciences Library Expansion (or a new facility)
- Natural Sciences/Natural Resources Library (new facility consolidating 3 existing libraries)

**1997 Update of the 10-Year Facilities Plan**

With the 1997 update of the Plan we presented the same long-term vision and were more specific about a remote shelving facility based on confirmation by Steve Swant, of the Capital and Space Planning Office, that space at Sand Point would be available for library collections.

In 1997 the following projects were proposed:

Suzzallo Renovation

Fine Arts Library (new facility consolidating 3 existing libraries)

Natural Sciences/Natural Resources Library (new facility consolidating 3 existing libraries)

Health Sciences Library Expansion

Remote Shelving Facility (Sand Point)

The East Asia Library Expansion was removed from our project list. Instead we planned to assign additional shelving space to the East Asia Library in the Kane Hall Auxiliary Stacks when collections space became available at Sand Point.

### **Current Priorities for Libraries Facilities**

Due to the growing collection shelving crisis in the Libraries, a remote shelving facility has become the Libraries' highest facility priority. The severity of the situation is illustrated by the recent decision to add no new materials to the East Asia Library; all new EAL materials are shelved in the Allen Library B2 level which is closed to the public. The 1994 facility plan cited several campus libraries where shelves were at 85% to over 100% capacity (85% is considered operationally full). Since that time collections have increased in all locations and the situation is even more acute. Suzzallo/Allen is essentially full also and can no longer absorb volumes transferred from other locations.

During the past year discussions have been held with the Health Sciences schools, Health Sciences Administration, and the Provost about a new facility for the Health Sciences Library. The Health Sciences deans have expressed their support for the idea and John Coulter, Executive Director of Health Sciences Administration, has worked with the Libraries to identify potential sites for a new library. There also has been some exploration of sources of funding for a new facility. At the same time the Libraries has given very preliminary consideration to combining a new Health Sciences Library with the proposed Natural Sciences/Natural Resources Library to create a Health and Life Sciences Library.

At this time the highest priorities for Libraries facilities are:

Remote Shelving Facility (at Sand Point or other convenient location)

Fine Arts Library (new facility consolidating 3 existing libraries)

Health Sciences Library (new facility)

Natural Sciences/Natural Resources Library (new facility consolidating 3 existing libraries)

Or

Health and Life Sciences Library (new facility including the present Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Fisheries/Oceanography, and Forest Resources libraries)