<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Current Use &amp; Perception of the Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Guiding Principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Role of the Library on Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Proposed Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Next Steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

In April of 2005 the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign engaged Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott (SBRA) to develop a strategic vision and prepare a conceptual framework for the reinvigoration of the Main Library as a principal academic resource for the University. The role and projected space use of the connected Undergraduate Library was included as an integral part of the planning process. The result of this undertaking is to determine the potential of the existing buildings in meeting the Library’s vision and to identify their role and use in the realization of the goals and mission of the University.

This report:

• Provides a road map for key actions needed to revitalize the buildings in the future.
• Informs on-going design decisions.
• Identifies strategies for ‘next steps.’

The Main Library building, designed by Charles Platt and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2000, was planned and built between 1923 and 1927. The building first was occupied in 1926. The stack core at the west side of the building was designed for future growth and has been expanded repeatedly over the years to accommodate the growing collection. The adjacent Undergraduate Library, designed by Richardson, Severns, Scheeler & Associates in association with Clark, Altay & Associates, was completed in 1969 and is connected to the Main Library by a tunnel.

The Main Library and the Undergraduate Library are located at the heart of the University campus and they provide essential spaces for learning and research. Although both building designs were appropriate for their times, the configuration of space no longer fulfills the needs of the campus community. Significant changes in the nature of information formats (which now feature many digital publications) and in the way in which faculty and students work as well as significant increases in the size of the collections and growth of the faculty and student population leave the Main and Undergraduate Library buildings outdated and more a hindrance to research and scholarship than the help they should provide. As one campus scholar put it, the buildings are now dirty windows to discovery that obscure a hidden treasure.
**Process**

The study was conducted by a project team consisting of University Library administrators Paula Kaufman, Robert Burger, Beth Sandore, Karen Schmidt, Jeff Schrader, Capital Planning Architect Jean Ascoli, and SBRA personnel Sarah Felton and Geoff Freeman.

The process consisted of an interactive and visionary series of meetings and workshops. Between May and December 2005 the team met five times. In addition, meetings and workshops were held with Library faculty and staff to gain a comprehensive understanding of the long-term goals and needs of the Library. Members of the Library’s Long-Range Advisory Committee (comprised of non-Library faculty) also participated in these discussions.

Based on those workshops and on the review of information from multiple sources of already-existing materials provided by the University (including extensive review of the Graduate and Undergraduate Survey analyses),
Current Use and Perception of the Library

- Public engagement and a sense of purpose on the first floor are lacking.
- There is no space to exhibit and celebrate the collections.
- Spaces for public services are not flexible and are dispersed.
- The Library is highly compartmentalized and fragmented, both physically and organizationally.
- The stacks are overcrowded and difficult to access.
- There are not enough places to view or work with material in the main stack core.
- The collection is not adequately housed.
- The connection with the Undergraduate Library is a valuable asset that should be enhanced.
Guiding Principles

• The knowledge environment will continue to change and the present structure (boundaries) of knowledge will disappear.
• The intersection across traditional disciplinary boundaries will be drivers in research and learning.
• The Library will be a global access point, available 24/7 and service-intensive.
• The Library is an intellectual environment that equips students with intellectual tools and assists in the development of critical thought processes.
• The Library will continue to be a repository for tangible materials
• The Library will house a physical collection managed for optimum efficiency for storage and access.
• The Library will continue to take its material stewardship responsibilities seriously.
• The Library space will be focused on the user experience
• Library/technology services will be seamless and transparent.
• Visibility and accessibility to value added features will be achieved through strategic mergers and consolidations of collections and services.
• The Library is a place of scholarly community created through a technologically flexible environment that connects resources and people.
• Some Library services will be delivered physically and virtually by Library faculty to faculty, students, and staff where they do their work, wherever that may be.
Role of the Library on Campus

In the future Library public services will continue to expand outside of the Library spaces with both services and content available everywhere on campus. In a very real way, the entire campus will become the Library. The Main Library and Undergraduate Library buildings will act as gateways to these services. The Main Library will remain the centerpiece of this concept of a diffused, engaged, University Library.

It is its collections and experts that make the UIUC Library distinctive. Accessibility and celebration of the collections are essential to the aspiration of UIUC to become the leading public research university in the world. The Main Library will be the institutional repository for the majority of the collections. IDEALS will be the University’s digital content repository.
Recommendations

Strengthen the public engagement at all entries

- Create an introductory “gateway” to the Library by opening up the space on the first floor to the East of the main staircases, including such features as café and exhibition space.
- Create an inviting stairway from the newly developed café area down to the basement level to provide a more direct and visible connection to the Undergraduate Library.
- Install a public service desk/information desk in the East entry hall of the first floor to provide immediate assistance and information to anyone entering the building.

Improve access and use of print collections

- Replace study carrels along the north and south walls of the stack core with scholarly stations to view material; these spaces will serve all stacks users.
- Remove shelving from the first addition to the stack core on the second floor, dedicating that space to a circulation desk and immediate circulation needs.
- Remove shelving from the first addition to the stack core on the third and fourth floors to create group study spaces and comfortable seating. This will enhance the connection between and East and West wings of the building.
- Establish shelving capacities for the main stack core to provide accessibility and manageability of the collections.
- Assess and improve environmental controls and air conditioning needs.
- Use a glazing system on the second, third, and fourth floors between the study areas and the stacks to provide a visual connection between the two spaces.
**Recommendations**

*Dedicate one side of the first floor and three floors of the North wing for a Special Collections Library and exhibit space*

- Special Collections will incorporate Rare Book & Manuscripts, University Archives, Maps, Illinois Historical Survey.
- Special Collections will have direct access to the stacks on the first, second, and third floors.
- Exhibit space and additional reading room space will be located in the northeast portion of the first floor.

*Create Learning and Scholarly Commons*

- The Learning Commons, currently under construction on the upper level of the Undergraduate Library, will be a service-intensive laboratory, offering a continuum of services from the discovery of information through use of information for short term projects (within a semester).
- The Scholarly Commons on the northeast part of the first floor and on the second floor of the Main library is a re-conception of the traditional reference room. It will be a service oriented and technologically integrated place for scholarship and is envisioned to be a gateway to in-depth research from which a user can consult as advised and directed with subject specialists on longer term projects.

*Consolidate technical, bindery and digital services in the basement level*

- Create an environment that allows the easy interaction of staff engaged in acquisition, receipt, cataloging, and binding preparation for materials in all formats.
- Provide flexible technology space to support digitization services.
Concentrate library administration on the fourth floor.

Develop the third and fourth floor for Library faculty offices, graduate student carrels, and study areas.

- Provide technology resources to enable users to use both digital and print resources.

Improve vertical circulation.

- Add two stairs in the first addition of the stacks to meet the critical need for additional egress from the stack core.

- Add an open stairway from the first floor to the basement level to provide a more visible and direct connection to the Undergraduate library.

- Add two additional staircases in the courtyards to provide a direct visual vertical connection between the heavily trafficked North/South corridor on the first floor and the research and learning spaces of the second floor Scholarly Commons.
Proposed Plans

The plan diagrams on the following pages indicate the Main Library and the Undergraduate Library proposed space allocations. A Preliminary Summary Program identifying proposed space allocations is included in Appendix B.
Proposed Plans
Proposed Plans

Main Library
Proposed Third Floor Plan

Main Library
Proposed Fourth Floor Plan
Public Engagement - Exploded Axonometric Featuring Library Upper Level, Main Library First Floor, Main Library Second Floor
Next Steps

The report has been written as a guide to developing more detailed feasibility studies and future projects. Its recommendations include comprehensive renovation efforts that will affect all aspects of the Library’s operations and result in many secondary projects. This work is extensive and of a magnitude that will require implementation over a number of years. The next step is a comprehensive study that includes an infrastructure evaluation of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in the building, a structural analysis, a building envelope analysis, and a code analysis.

Conclusion

The University Library is one of the world’s great libraries, home to rich collections and expert librarians and staff. If it is to remain a destination library, a place to which scholars travel from around the world; if it is to provide a competitive edge in recruiting and retaining excellent faculty in all disciplines and reflecting the dynamic essence of our institution; and if it is to remain vitally important to the work of UIUC scholars and students in the twenty-first century, then this great library building must be revitalized. This conceptual framework report provides the vision for this building that truly reflects the treasures and potential it holds.