Social Sciences, Health, and Education Library
NSM Meeting Minutes
October 31, 2011

Present: Mary Beth Allen, Kathleen Kern, Lil Morales, Nancy O’Brien, Lisa Romero, Lynne Rudasill, Beth Sheehan, Jeff Schrader (guest)

The group met with Jeff Schrader regarding facilities issues related to the new library services and collections to be located in the east side, first floor of the Main Library Building. A series of questions had been developed and sent to Jeff in advance of the meeting so he provided responses to each of those questions in addition to some follow-up discussion relating to additional issues.

Jeff pointed out that the plans for SSHEL are a midterm planning initiative that fits into the larger 30 year plans for the building. As a consequence major structural changes, such as building permanent walls, are unlikely to be considered for SSHEL. Instead, equipment, offices, and study spaces will be as modular and flexible as possible in order to address evolving needs and future technologies.

In response to a question about future uses of Room 146 where the AHS Library is currently housed, Jeff indicated that recommendations for that space should be directed to AUL Scott Walter.

A discussion of furnishings covered issues such as a similar appearance across the two spaces with a monochromatic scheme; the addition of lounge furniture similar to what is already in place in ESSL and other library locations; the likely repurposing of existing furniture such as the oak tables original to the building; and additional furniture to meet the needs of different study styles, such as small round tables, café height tables, and comfortable seating.

In regard to shelving, monochromatic cantilevered shelving will replace existing shelves in both locations. The Implementation Team will provide Jeff with linear feet of shelving needed for specific locations, as well as information about collections that need to be adjacent. Shelving should preferably be freestanding rather than placed against the walls. Consideration of low shelves is an option for improved sightlines and creation of more intimate study spaces.

In terms of flooring, there are many options available. Consideration needs to be given to the high traffic nature of the space on the first floors, and durability of flooring. A combination of flooring options is likely depending on the location and the need for sound dampening within the spaces. Also to be considered are the floor vents which provide air circulation and access to power conduits.

Walls will be painted white and woodwork will remain as is.
Space for staff, including offices, will be determined according to the position, percentage time of appointment, function, and the need for adjacencies. For example, circulation staff will need to be near the circulation service desk. For offices needing doors, the height of partitions will be 80 inches.

Collaboration rooms or group study spaces with walls may include plexiglass upper panels to address security issues and to add to the open feel of the space. Work stations and shelving should also be located so that the sightlines are clear.

Electrical work will be done in connection to service locations and furniture layouts, once those are determined.

The two spaces will both include service points but with different levels of service in each location. Specific arrangements within each location will depend on the forthcoming recommendations from the Services Working Group and the Collections Working Group.

Future meeting dates: The group will meet on November 14 and December 12.

(Summary compiled by Nancy O'Brien)