Dear Colleagues,

The Oviatt Library Faculty has been informed by Dean Mark Stover and Provost Harry Hellenbrand that there is a good probability that we will be making some substantial renovations and programmatic changes to the Library in the upcoming years. The first anticipated change will affect the first floor of the Library, which we are planning to convert to a learning commons environment. Due to the redesign of the first floor, we will have less space for the library’s print collection. In essence this means we have to make decisions about the collection. Realistically, we will do one of the following with individual books:

- Remove completely from the collection (in cases where they are dangerously outdated)
- Remove from the collection and replace with electronic versions
- Move to the main browsing collection (2nd and 3rd floors)
- Move to the Automatic Storage Retrieval System (ASRS)
- Keep on the 1st floor in the Core Reference Collection

Rest assured that the Oviatt Library Faculty will carefully examine the existing Reference Collection to determine which materials should stay in the Reference Room and which can be moved to the above alternative locations. A learning commons approach and its new space configuration affords us the opportunity to rethink our strategies towards collection development and plan a future where we have an array of different formats, including print and electronic. While we have a very large collection of print reference materials we have seen a drop in usage of these by our students over the past 10 years. We continue to see a rise in use of, and demand for, electronic versions of our titles. Our collective goal is to create a core collection of print and electronic titles for our Reference Collection. Please let us know if there are specific resources you feel strongly need to be kept in the Core Reference Collection, for example items you use for class assignments or vital resources in your field.

Again, please be assured that we are undertaking this process thoughtfully and with your, and your students’, needs in mind. Please also be aware that we are making sure to contact all our stakeholders, including faculty and students, to gather input on the proposed changes to our Library. The Library Faculty Senate Committee is aware of the upcoming plans.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please do not hesitate to contact the Reference & Instructional Services Department.

Sincerely,

Lynn Lampert
Reference Collections and Services Coordinator

Susanna Eng-Ziskin
Chair Reference & Instructional Services