April 2, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

The coming months are going to be very exciting at the Oviatt Library. As you may remember, we sent a letter out to you back in August 2012, detailing how the Oviatt is scheduled to undergo some substantial renovations to its first floor in order to build our highly anticipated Learning Commons.

In order to prepare for the upcoming construction slated to begin this summer, we are now entering the first phases required to transform our Reference Room into a Learning Commons. This phase necessitates making more room available on the first floor for different types of seating and computing configurations. For the last 9 months, librarians have been painstakingly going through our print reference collection to determine which materials should stay on the First Floor, as part of our new Core Reference Collection, which should be moved to alternate spaces like the main browsing collection on the second and third floors and the Automatic Storage Retrieval System (ASRS), and which should be removed entirely. The end result of this process will result in a thoughtfully curated, core reference collection for our first floor, to complement all our digital reference offerings online.

Please note that we are about to start the process of moving the Reference items out of the first floor, in anticipation of the renovation, which will start in earnest after May 24th. We are moving books from the reference room early in this process, in case we encounter unexpected processing issues and to be sure we are ready when construction commences. The items that we are going to ultimately keep in the reference collection will be temporarily housed in our ASRS. If you want access to any of those items, you will be able to make requests at the Circulation Desk.

Please know that we are aiming to do all of this with as little interruption to our students and faculty as possible. We greatly appreciate your patience over the next few months as we move into the critical construction phase of our transformative learning commons project. As you can imagine, any undertaking of this size will undoubtedly pose some challenges. Rest assured, everyone at the Oviatt is working very hard to identify and overcome any issues that may arise in the timeliest ways possible.

Please visit the following site for updates regarding our renovation process: http://library.csun.edu/transformation

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

Sincerely,

Lynn Lampert  
Chair, Reference and Instructional Services

Susanna Eng-Ziskin  
Reference Services and Collections Coordinator