Library staff continue moving books as part of paging system

BY MARICELA GOMEZ – POSTED ON FEBRUARY 9, 2015

Staff at Pollak Library have continued the book paging system implemented last semester, but it hasn’t gone entirely without a hitch.

Although the book paging system is provided for faculty and students to gain access to the books on Pollak Library South, Interim University Librarian Scott Hewitt said the renovations have caused issues for students and faculty.

Namely, it leaves faculty unable to personally look for books, and the paging system, meant to bring books from the damaged floors to make them more accessible, is limited by weekday working hours.

“Paging is usually during the week, it’s usually within three hours,” Hewitt said. “If it’s on the weekend, it might take an additional day or two.”

Using checkout and paging statistics, the library determined that history and literature books were most requested by students, Hewitt said.

Staff are now in the process of transferring books on those subjects from the library’s south side to the former computer lab in PLN 30.

The objective is to have at least 90 percent of the books in the south side of the library relocated to the northern side by the start of the Fall 2016 semester, Hewitt said.

So far 70 percent of the books have already been moved to the north side of the library, but the staff will continue the process of moving books onto the second floor through March, he said.

Ten percent—or at most 8,000 books—of the southern collection are shelved in the basement, Hewitt said.

The library has also continued the renovations on the first floor of the north side of the library by putting new carpet, elongated tables, whiteboards and colorful chairs, Hewitt said. Most of bookshelves were removed from the first floor to integrate light in the library.

Last semester, library staff began implementing plans to increase student seating on the side of the library open to students.

In the short-term, that meant increasing seating through the first four floors of the library by condensing books onto fewer shelves to make room for students.

There are additional long-term plans to renovate the library as a whole, but those plans hinge on university approval, Hewitt said.

With the short-term improvements in place, however, the library should prove to be a more comfortable space for students, said Anthony Davis Jr, interim associate librarian.

“Overall, with the new arrangement of books, carpeting, and furnishings, we hope students find the first floor north to be a more comfortable and inviting way to experience the Pollak Library,” Davis said.

The renovations and paging system were implemented after a 5.1 magnitude earthquake struck March 2014. The quake, which was epicentered in La Habra, caused $6 million in damages.

Pollak Library South was closed after the quake, which damaged drop ceilings and the ventilation system.

Floors one, four, five and six on the south side of the library will be closed for at least another two to three years while repairs are being made.

TAGS: Anthony Davis Jr., CSUF Pollak Library, scott hewitt