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## 21st Century Library Update

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## 21st Century Library Update

By Meg K. Scharf

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Remarkable changes have taken place at the John C. Hitt Library since fall, 2016. This summer will bring more change as progress continues on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library.

The **Automated Retrieval Center (ARC)** on the “Student Union side” of the building is taking shape. The foundation is completed and the walls are going up. The first 3 robotic cranes have arrived for installation. The first three aisles of the ARC will be ready for book ingestion in fall 2017/winter 2018. A temporary bridge will be constructed so that library staff will be able to bring loaded book carts to the ARC in fall 2017.

Moving these books will enable the next phase of the project to begin. In 2018, the “back” of the building (“Student Union side”) will be demolished for the construction of a Connector building, which will connect the ARC to the current library building. Once the Connector is completed, books requested from the ARC can be retrieved by staff at the newly-located Circulation Desk, where they can be quickly picked up by faculty, staff, and visitors. During construction of the Connector, requested books will be withdrawn from the ARC by Circulation staff using the bridge. A video of the operation of the ARC has been prepared by its manufacturer, Dematic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QU1iZ2Cr32g>

Temporary walls will be erected on each floor during the Connector construction. Earplugs will continue to be available at the Circulation Desk.

Completion of the eagerly anticipated **5<sup>th</sup> floor Quiet Study Zone** is expected by fall 2017. In the coming weeks, carpet will be installed and walls will be painted. When it

opens in the late summer, 177 seats for individual, quiet research, reflection, and study will be available.

During summer semester, **sprinkler installation** on sections of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> floors will continue. Each section will be closed as work proceeds. Books in the closed-off areas will be made easily available: using the UCF catalog. In the catalog record, click on “Hold” in the lower left. You will be prompted for your NID and NID password, and your email. You will receive an email when your book is available for pick-up at the Circulation Desk. The “back” section of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor will open up in early May. During intersession, the “front” (Reflecting Pond side) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will be closed for sprinklering, followed by the front section of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and both sections of 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. It is expected that the sprinkler work will be completed by July 31. Check the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library page for updates at <http://library.ucf.edu/21st/>

Smaller areas on 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors will be closed for short periods during the summer to accommodate the installation of additional **electrical outlets**. Work locations will be listed at <http://library.ucf.edu/21st/>

Work on the **restrooms** on the “Student Union side” of the building will continue through the summer. 4<sup>th</sup> floor is completed, and will be available when that section of 4<sup>th</sup> floor is reopened. Construction is moving forward on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Once that is completed, work will begin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor “back” restrooms, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> floor restrooms. Upon completion, the restrooms will be upgraded and more accessible to all library visitors.

Work on the **elevators** will begin in July 2017, one car at a time, ensuring that elevators will continue to be available. A new interior and smoother operation will be the result when the elevator work is completed in September 2017.

Each of the building’s **stairwells** will be upgraded, starting early in summer 2017. They will be closed, one at a time. New railings and new flooring on the stairs will create a safer environment.

Please check <http://library.ucf.edu/21st/> for updates throughout the summer. Signs in the building will also point out closures and noisy areas. Please let library employees know if we can help you during this time. We apologize for the noise, dust, and inconvenience, and look forward to welcoming you to improved library facilities!