



AURARIA LIBRARY VISION DOCUMENT

SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

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Section 1: Library Overview

The mission of the Auraria Library is to connect individuals with ideas that support inquiry, creativity, and practice among the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Colorado Denver, the Metropolitan State College of Denver, and the Community College of Denver. The unique presence of the three institutions on one campus requires that Library collections and staff expertise are highly diverse, both in subject and in level – from doctoral studies to vocational training. Increasingly, technology fosters information discovery and delivery through online navigation tools which enable ‘anytime, anyplace’ access.

Traditionally, the academic library has been viewed—and planned for—as a place where information is held and managed, and where staff help give access to that information. The past decade has seen two developments that challenge planners to think of the library as serving a much broader educational role.

First, rapid changes in technology, especially the growth of the World Wide Web, have made it possible to discover information in virtual, as well as physical, space. Time formerly spent searching for authoritative sources can now be invested in evaluating and interpreting information. The second development is a change in how students learn. Collaborative work has become common, and the importance of social space for learning and teaching has become fully appreciated.

These national trends in academic libraries and higher education predict increasing expectations for authentic learning activities which are both relevant to students’ everyday life experiences and also considered within a larger global context. Growing student and faculty engagement in preservation, interpretation, and production of local knowledge predicts increasing need for Knowledge Age facilities and expertise, including repositories for historical and contemporary documents, images, interviews, stories, documentaries, etc. – which both reflect and extend libraries’ traditional roles.

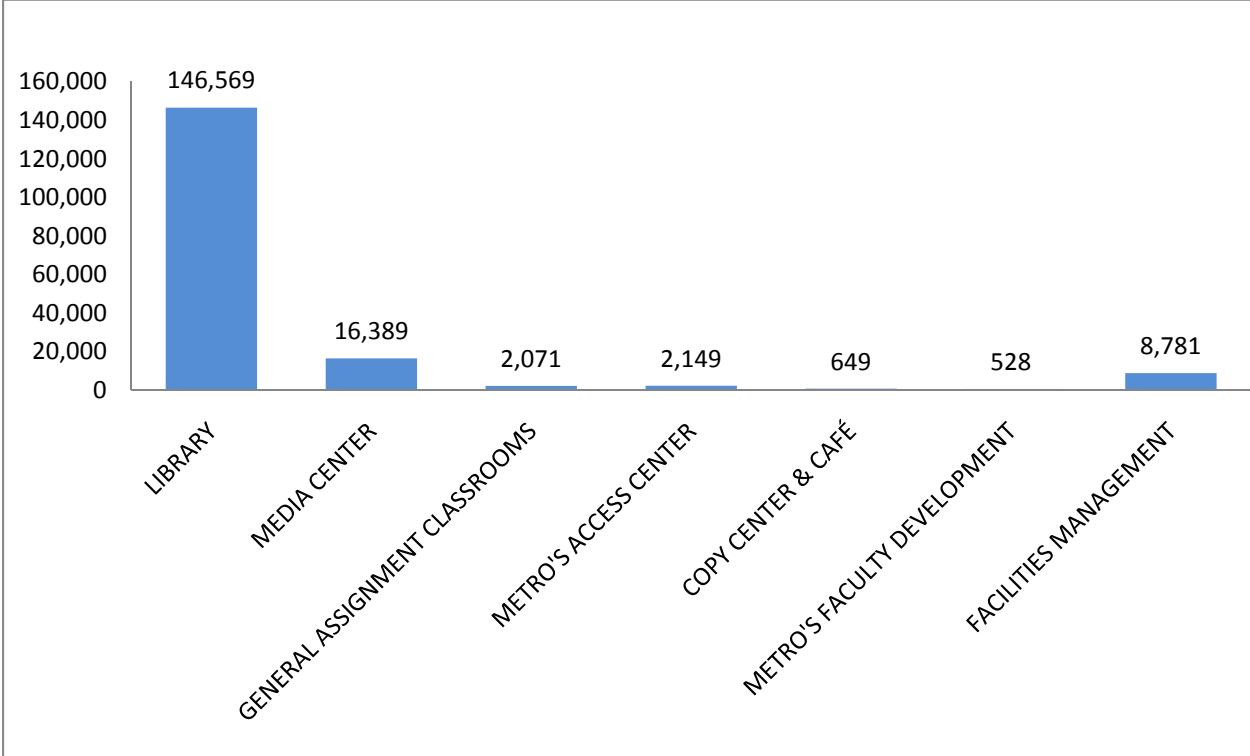
BUILDING DESIGN: THE LIBRARY AS PLACE

The Auraria Library, constructed in 1976, is an award winning building designed by renowned architect Helmut Jahn. The facility satisfies a variety of purposes, ranging from solitary study to collaborative learning. It is open throughout the year for approximately 85 hours a week. The building was originally designed to serve a maximum of 15,000 students, today the Auraria Library serves 50,000 students. During peak time periods, all of the less than 1000 seat options in the library are taken, leaving many students to sit on the floor. The furniture that does exist is outdated and has heavy wear and tear.

The Library building is primarily a two-story flat roof structure that is cast-in-place concrete with an open floor plan; columns are on a 30’ x 30’ grid. There are two courtyards cut out of the center mass of the building. The north courtyard is roughly 3100 square feet and the south courtyard is roughly 4700 square feet. The main floor and the second floor are about 83,000

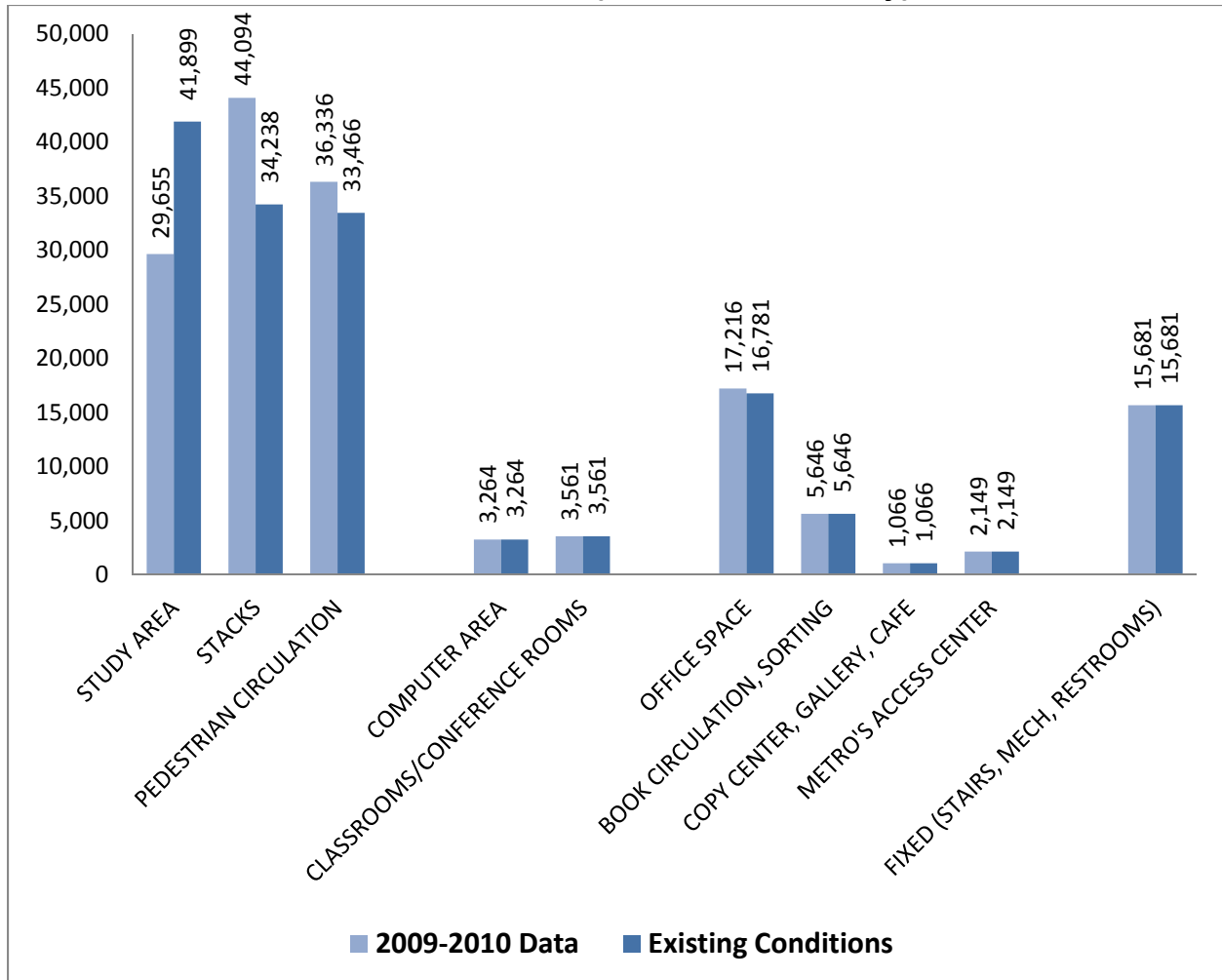
gross square feet each. There is a partial basement level running along the eastern portion of the building comprising 21,000 gross square feet. Most of the basement level is currently occupied by the Auraria Media Center with smart classrooms and studio spaces for television production classes. The main two floors have open ceilings revealing the mechanical and structural components of the building. The interior space has a floor to floor height of 14'-0" and a clear floor to bottom of structure height of 12'-3 1/2". The exterior skin of the building is primarily glass with angled white sheet metal louvers on the south and west sides of the building.

TOTAL LIBRARY ROOM AREA (All Floors) = 177,136 SF



Of the 157,000 square feet of total room area (assignable and non-assignable) on the main two floors, only about 50,000 square feet (SF) is in traditional walled building space. This breaks down to: 22,500 SF of office space, book circulation/sorting, and library staff area; 16,000 SF of fixed mechanical rooms, stairs, and restroom areas; and about 7,000 SF of classroom, conference space, and computer areas. The remainder of the building has an open floor plan with roughly 42,000 SF of dedicated study area, 34,000 SF of stack space for collections, and 33,000 SF for pedestrian circulation (since these areas are not walled the spaces bleed into each other and often times portions of the circulation space is used for informal seating and studying). These totals represent the existing conditions in the Library; recent changes from the 2009-2010 data have resulted in an increase of 12,000 SF of study area and a decrease in stack space and pedestrian circulation space.

TOTAL LIBRARY ROOM AREA (Floors 1 & 2 Only) = 157,751 SF



EXISTING PROGRAMS: THE LIBRARY AS SERVICE AND RESOURCE

The Library offers a variety of research, learning, and teaching services, including consultative assistance from 23 library faculty, 32 classified staff, and 3 exempt professionals via e-mail, phone, in person, or online chat. Instructional services include customized disciplinary sessions in the Library's two state-of-the-art classrooms. Specialized electronic database education sessions are delivered to campus faculty throughout the year. Supplemental curriculum materials are available through electronic reserves. New initiatives intend to energetically increase access, creation, and use of digital collections, including unique local special collections, through partnerships that bridge campus and community.

Resource collections support information, research, and curriculum needs. The Library owns 900,000 volumes and licenses 295 databases and 60,000 full-text electronic journals in the local collection. Through several consortial purchasing arrangements, the Auraria Library and the Anschutz Health Sciences Library hold many common resources. In addition, no fees are charged for interlibrary loan services between the two Libraries.

Acquisition decisions are made consultatively, in alignment with strategic priorities of the colleges and departments of UC Denver, Metro State, and CCD. Most of Auraria Library's electronic resources are available remotely on a 24/7 basis to members of the Auraria Campus. Among the most heavily used databases are *Web of Science*, *LexisNexis*, and *Academic Search Premier*. In addition, the Library provides access through the Prospector service to 20 million books, journals, DVDs, CDs, and videos in other Colorado and Wyoming libraries. Resources held by libraries throughout the United States may be obtained through the interlibrary loan service.

Heavy use is made of the approximately 170 computers available to the public throughout the building. Most of these are on the first floor.

Auraria Library Service Statistics – 2008/09

		University of Colorado Denver	Metropolitan State College of Denver	Community College of Denver
Library Circulation Checkout Statistics	Undergraduate	40,415	57,763	9,480
	Graduate	17,569	n/a	n/a
	Faculty/Staff	12,057	10,704	1,225
Interlibrary Loan Borrowing Statistics	Undergraduate	1,319	2,485	497
	Graduate	2,026	n/a	n/a
	Faculty/Staff	2,858	1,322	148
Auraria Library Instruction Classes		169	293	183
Library Instruction Student Count		3,581	6,160	3,550
Reference Desk Transactions		9,872	19,394	5,039
Electronic Reserve Course Page Hits		17,381	34,786	2,306

PROJECTS COMPLETED WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS

- Relocate bound publications and journals, relocate government publications, reduce resource collection, create collaborative study area, create quiet study area: completed Summer 2010 with ongoing elements
- Pilot collaboration of UCD's Open Tutoring Lab and the Library: launched Fall 2010
- Front door switch: completed Summer 2010
- Reduction of service points; created new help desk locations for tech help, research help, self check-out and ask us counter: completed Summer 2010
- Reserves/Circulation Desk (Suite 109) redesign: completed winter break 2009/2010
- Faculty Reading Room (Room 126) remodel: completed Fall 2009
- Computer Lab (Room 245) update and remodel: completed Summer 2009
- New carpet throughout building: completed in 2008
- William Sharpless Jackson, Jr. Enhanced Learning Center (Suite 111/112): completed November 2007

Section 2: Master Plan and Library

TREATMENT OF THE LIBRARY IN THE 2007 MASTER PLAN

As part of the 2007 Auraria Campus Master Plan there was a recommendation to replace the current library facility and relocate the library to a new building where the existing Plaza Building is today. This was recommended as the planning team thought that the existing facility was +/- 100,000 square feet short of the study and stack space needed for expansion over the next twenty years. It was determined that the facility had little to no expansion potential because of the inadequate electrical and networking capabilities. Also contemporary library design practices call for a much higher floor-to-floor height than the current building provides. The study also recognized the need for more collaborative learning space including additional breakout rooms, expanded computer commons, and increased study carrels.

Section 3: Visioning Process

The need to create space for growing collections has traditionally been the single strongest motivator for library renovation and construction. However, as the exponential growth of e-journals and e-books erodes this traditional reason for expansion, library directors, chief academic officers, and campus planners can respond to other strong (re)design motivators. For instance, some libraries have made space for campus teaching and learning operations, such as academic computing services, centers for teaching and learning, and student writing and tutoring centers.

Since the 1990s, campus planners have also recognized the importance of social study space in libraries. As a consequence, space is often allocated for group study, food services, and informal socializing. Especially in the last decade, space planning consciously supports emerging student learning and faculty teaching patterns, which are increasingly technology-enabled and collaboration intensive. This is frequently expressed through the concept of a learning commons, which brings students together around shared learning tasks.

Achieving the full educational potential of library space will require a planning process which is not dominated by a concern for information resources and their delivery. It should incorporate a deeper understanding of the independent, active learning behaviors of students and the teaching strategies of faculty meant to support those behaviors. Ultimately, to better understand the potential for the library as education space, planning partnerships shaped around substantive questions of teaching and learning should be created with faculty and students. Such conversations are the best means by which library space can be brought strongly into line with the core learning and teaching missions of the three institutions on the Auraria campus.

EXTERNAL REVIEW

An external review was conducted of the Library in August of 2010. The external review report identified several strengths and weaknesses in the physical space of the Library. The report states that while there is broad acknowledgement of the pressing need for renovation of the library physical space, some recent improvements and aspects of the library were seen by the External Review Team as successes. This includes the recent renovation of two classrooms for information literacy sessions, an increase in space available for seating (although no additional furniture is yet available) as a result of sending low-use print volumes to offsite storage, and the purchase of moveable whiteboards to encourage student collaborative work. In addition, the team commented favorably on the existing artwork and gallery space, the access to natural light and overall flexibility of the open plan architecture of the building.

Members of the team were concerned that the initial impression of the library does not project a friendly feeling; the building has a somewhat vacant feel and has an unwelcoming atmosphere, partly due to drab colors and uninviting furniture in most areas. The external review committee met with many groups who all, particularly the students, noted the lack of seating, lack of power (for electricity to power laptops and other devices), and the difficulty of finding one's way around library (at least in part because of poor signage). Also noted was the lack of adequate group study space. While the main floor has become a de facto group space, where students feel free to talk together, the second floor is designated as quiet space. Unfortunately, due to the openness of the building design, noise can easily filter up to the second floor during busy times.

Recommendations from the external review report for improving the physical space of the Library are:

- Continue with current planning process and, in addition, make it an urgent priority to deal with the lack of seating and the lack of electrical outlets;
- Explore the appropriate balance of group and quiet space;
- Improve signage; and
- Involve faculty, staff, and students in planning space that is welcoming, and conducive to academic work, including both group work and solitary work.

STUDENT OUTREACH

An online survey of library patrons was conducted in the fall of 2009. The results of the survey found that students would like to see the following changes to the Library:

- Private group study rooms or grouped study furniture is desired
- Increased study carrels and space for individual study
- More computers
- Improved environment
- Additional power outlets for laptops
- More seating options and tables
- Study areas with soft lounge furniture
- Create an eating area with self-serve beverages and healthy snacks

- Enforce quiet noise level on the second floor

Additionally the survey found that the Library was the student's favorite place to study, ahead of home, computer labs, and study rooms. Students revealed that classes are requiring group work, presentations and audio/visual assignments. Forty-two percent of users surveyed meet outside of class 1-3 times per week. Those who would prefer to meet in a group study room are looking for a closed room that accommodates 3-4 people, is quiet, has laptop plug-ins, a projector/screen and a whiteboard. Over half (59%) of respondents indicated an interest in a writing center. Eighty-eight percent of respondents use a laptop; however there were substantial complaints about the small number of available computers. Survey respondents replied that improving computer issues (more computers, more plugs) and environmental factors (better furniture, less noise, private study rooms) would have the most impact on their productive use of the library.

FACULTY OUTREACH

Two meetings with faculty members from all three schools and library staff were conducted in July and August of 2010. At these meetings the group discussed what features of the Library faculty members utilize and which features could be improved. Existing strengths and potential weaknesses identified were:

- Ceilings are dark and recessed, lightening them could brighten up the space
- Fabric could be used to lighten up ceilings and help with sound issues
- Faculty uses online journals often, many from their offices
- Exterior is in poor condition, needs new windows and the louvers do not seem to help with shading or heat reduction
- Need more seats and electrical outlets
- More tables as well as some smaller tables
- Contained study rooms that still allow site into the space for safety/security reasons
- Need space for solo learners
- Zone similar study types together for increased way finding, also group similar types of furniture together
- Navigation and way finding needs to be improved
- Space should be allowed for a gallery or installation of works instead of having it throughout the building
- Faculty often use reserves to place copies of course materials to be made available to students who do not purchase books or for those who cannot secure a copy before class begins – continuing the reserve service is important
- Provide more access to electronic books
- A section of the library could be secured to allow students a place for a 24 hour study option
- A faculty room has recently been added to allow staff a place to go to escape the often overcrowded student areas and is an important element to retain
- More views to the outdoors would enhance the building

- Media Center in basement does not connect to main Library, this is very confusing and difficult to navigate – what happens to the space in the future
- Exterior sidewalk on 11th Street side is needed
- Access to food and drink is important
- Hope to recognize cultural connections that reflect the student populations in the design

The faculty expressed an overall impression that the Library provides many valuable resources and services to the faculty, staff and students of the Auraria Campus. Online access to journals and electronic resource materials is highly utilized. Continued and even expanded access is a high priority. Many of the opportunities to improve the Library identified were related to the overall experience one has in the space. The Library today is perceived as dark and confusing. Creating a brighter and more open atmosphere would improve the quality of space in the Library. This improvement plus grouping uses and study types into zones would also improve way finding. In addition to the need for more seats, tables and dedicated study areas, the faculty hope that the Library can serve as a place that reflects and celebrates the cultural and artistic connections that coincide with the diverse student population on campus.

Section 4: Future of the Auraria Library

Within the framework of higher education and academic library trends described earlier, the Auraria Library facilities' design project addresses needs and seizes opportunities aimed to better achieve the Library's strategic goal to "Engage your mind. Enrich your future." The campus has for three years carried a new Library/Study Center project on its five year capital construction list totaling 380,000 square feet for \$157M. Given the lack of state funding for higher education and capital construction projects, it is unlikely that this project will be funded in the next five to ten years. Additionally, as noted in the discussion on the Master Plan, there is no project on the list that would address the relocation of departments currently within the Plaza Building which was the intended site for the new Library/Study Center. As the Library needs to serve its patrons and account for continued student and faculty growth, a vision needs to be established that allows the Library to better utilize its existing space. It is possible that in 15 years time the existing building does not provide enough needed space and a new building must be considered. However, the campus believes that through adaptive re-use of the first floor and creating a more traditional library environment on the second floor, the foreseeable and future needs for the building can be addressed.

Creating a vision and establishing a phased renovation plan for the existing building will further the organizational program, as expressed in the library's strategic mission "to foster intellectual growth, academic success, and life-long learning for the students, faculty, and staff of Auraria's diverse urban campus" (adopted March 2010). Given the economy, this project avoids construction of an entirely new building. It also responds to results of student surveys conducted in fall semester 2009 which emphasize enhanced electrical and technical resources

and improved learning spaces. This initiative reflects the importance of digital resources, as evidenced by usage statistics which show steady increase in both Library website traffic (1,118,147 visits in 2008-2009) and Library facility traffic (798,147 visits in 2008-2009). Finally, retaining the current location in the center of the campus aligns well with the Library's strategic vision "to be the heart of the learning experience."

1. The 1st floor space of the Library should be re-purposed to increase overall seating capacity, necessitated by the exponential growth in student bodies on the tri-institutional campus – nearly three times the numbers originally projected. In addition, collaborative learning, integrated services, and way finding strategies will be designed and implemented, as never- or seldom-used print books, bound journals, and government documents are moved to the Library 2nd floor, transferred to PASCAL remote storage (on the Anschutz campus), or migrated to digital format. In response to findings from a fall 2009 student survey, the number of electrical capacity (including electrical outlets) and group study options (including collaborative technology-enabled furniture) will be increased. In addition, to promote new efficiencies, seven public service desks will be integrated into a single service area convenient to the Library entrance. Close proximity will permit easy referrals for technical assistance, research consultation, or materials pick up.
2. The 2nd floor space of the Library will continue the long standing tradition of 'library as place' for resources and reflection. The vast majority of the Library's 900,000 item print collection will be housed there, amidst individual carrels and group study rooms, on this 'quiet' floor.

Additionally, the Library is looking for ways to increase the amount of computers and related technology in the building without the building becoming a big lab-like environment. Spaces for storage and easy access of technology check-out must also be incorporated into the services desks.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Auraria Library seeks to evaluate opportunities to improve the functioning and service of the Library by addressing program goals and needs in the following 5 areas:

- Study – Improvements in Opportunities for Studying and Learning Environments
- New – Create New Programmatic Areas for a Unique Learning Center
- Amenities – Improve the Amenities to Enhance Educational Learning Opportunities
- Operations – Improve the Operational Aspects of the Library Program
- Building – Improve Systems and Features Throughout the Facility

Areas that have been identified as potential opportunities for program and facility improvement to support the Library and an enhanced learning center for the future serving the study and associated learning needs of the AHEC campus are listed below:

Study - Improvements in Opportunities for Studying and Learning Environments

- Create numerous enclosed study rooms
- Replace and increase the number of study carrels
- Replace and increase the number of study tables and chairs
- Replace and increase the number of student computer stations
- Add soft seating study options
- Increase power outlets at various study locations
- Consider creating a 24/7 accessible study area

New – Create New Programmatic Areas for a Unique Learning Center

- The Center for Colorado and the West at Auraria Library – Create a Center for Colorado and the West at Auraria Library (CC&W) as a campus and Colorado resource on the history of Denver, Colorado, and the West. The CC&W will consist of 14 themed areas highlighting various themed topics of historic significance. Each themed area will include: study seating, themed relevant artifacts, themed computer aided resources, themed written materials and texts. The CC&W also needs access to a lecture/presentation area and a special exhibit area which may be considered in conjunction with improvements suggested in the Amenities section below.

Amenities – Improve the Amenities to Enhance Educational Learning Opportunities

- Develop a coffee shop replacing the coffee cart and possibly include outdoor space
- Replace and enlarge the gallery exhibit area(s)
- Develop a special events area

Operations – Improve the Operational Aspects of the Library Program

- Evaluate reference, technology, and assistance desk locations for optimal access, service provision, and flow
- Consolidate staff office locations
- Improve working environment ambience; eliminate offices that are dark and undersized. Consider re-introduction of windows into room 118 (a staff area). The office and work areas for technology staff on the second floor need to be redeveloped to provide a better configuration of space, a small server environment, easy communication and circulation among staff and security
- Consider restricting homeless access and presence

Building – Improve Systems and Features Throughout the Facility

- Evaluate opportunities for a greener environmentally sustainable facility
- Correct HVAC system deficiencies
- Improve lighting throughout the facility for task and ambient benefits

- Improve electric power to support facility Improvements
- Improve courtyard access and utilization
- Improve way finding throughout the facility
- Explore removal of the lowest level of louvers to help increase views and daylighting in to the first floor of the building

UTILITY CONCERNS

The current Library building has reached its maximum capacity in many ways. A statement of existing conditions report conducted in 1999 revealed that there is limited space for the addition or expansion of the existing structure. Space needs must be reassessed to allow flexible adaptation of current uses into new functions. The restroom facilities need to be reconfigured and upgraded to meet current codes for accessibility. Perhaps the most limiting factor is the need for additional computing areas, which affects items both inside and outside the building. Computing areas normally have demanding cooling needs which in turn must be provided by the central chiller plants. Currently there is not capacity to effectively accommodate the newly imposed loads and these would have to be upgraded. Wire management throughout the building also poses some problems and has limitations. The need to route the necessary cabling and infrastructure would involve core drilling into post-tensioned slabs, which would limit the number of penetrations.

The current floor loading capacities utilize a 150 pounds per square foot (psf) live load at all locations, except the stairs which were designed for a 100 psf live load. The roof was a designed for a 30 psf (snow) live load. There are no provisions for either vertical or horizontal expansion in the existing structural frame. Several pier and column locations were checked around the floor plan as well as the roof joists and beams. The purpose of that check was to determine if the roof had the capacity to support a vertical expansion. As a result of the study, the conclusions are:

- The roof joists could support a classroom floor loading that is a 40 psf live load and a 20 psf partition load. Higher loads are not possible.
- The columns and piers could support a new lightweight roof structure over the present roof plus the loading noted above but only if the structure was supplemented with braced frames that were capable of supporting the entire lateral load.
- The roof beams could support the same loading as the joists, but several locations would require external reinforcing.
- A complete analysis was not accomplished, but should be accomplished prior to pursuing a vertical expansion.

Several concerns about existing utility supplies were discussed in the report. The current chiller system, air handling system, and steam system that provide cooling and heating to the building have little room for large scale expansion of the library. Also, a humidification system could improve the air quality throughout the building. The electrical system is also near capacity. A recent estimate from AHEC Facilities Management identified the need for three additional 45 KVA transformers, three TVSS modules, new circuit breakers, transformer ground, six power

panels, receptacles, and line feeds to connect the new equipment. Cost for this upgrade was estimated around \$150,000. This cost estimate does not include IT costs.

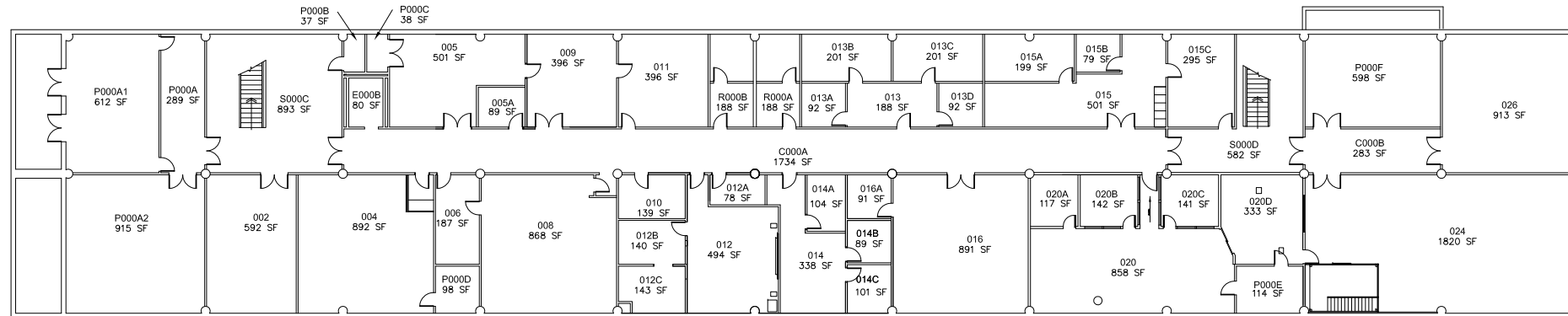
PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING

To achieve these desired outcomes, a master planning process commenced in January 2010 when master planners from the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC), UC Denver, and Metro State began to meet with graduate students in a UC Denver architecture studio course exploring Library design options. In addition to master planners' presentations, students were informed by library documents and fall 2009 student survey results.

In a meeting held on March 25th, AHEC and UC Denver master planners met with the Library Director to chart next steps. Participants agreed to advance two concurrent planning activities during the next three months. A collaborative *charrette* session will be conducted by an architectural firm to generate optimal design solutions while integrating the aptitudes and interests of a diverse group of stakeholders. Concurrently, campus planning and executive committees will be apprised of this project. This effort will produce a concept design complete with renderings and models including cost estimates that will permit successful private fund raising activities to commence under the leadership of the Library Director in consultation with the Library Development Board.

With fundraising leadership from the Library Director, Library Development Board, and Head of Community Relations, the projects will be largely funded from private sources. However, infrastructure, such as 'green' window treatments, improved HVAC, energy efficient lighting, and expanded 1st floor restroom facilities must be the responsibility of AHEC and/or tri-institutional schools. Funding sources could include state sustainability grants or a modest addition to the annually negotiated library operating budget MOU. An overall funding strategy will need to be developed when the project scope is defined and phases identified. The project may also result in infrastructure upgrades which need to be defined and a funding source identified.

Section 5: Existing Building Floor Plans



Auraria
Higher
Education
Center

DENVER, COLORADO

BUILDING:
LIBRARY

1155 10th St.
Denver, CO

PROJ. #	ISSUED	REVISION RECORD
	01/01/98	
AHEC	01/19/06	
AHEC	05/29/08	
AHEC	06/05/08	
AHEC	10/17/08	
AHEC	11/09/09	
AHEC	02/03/10	



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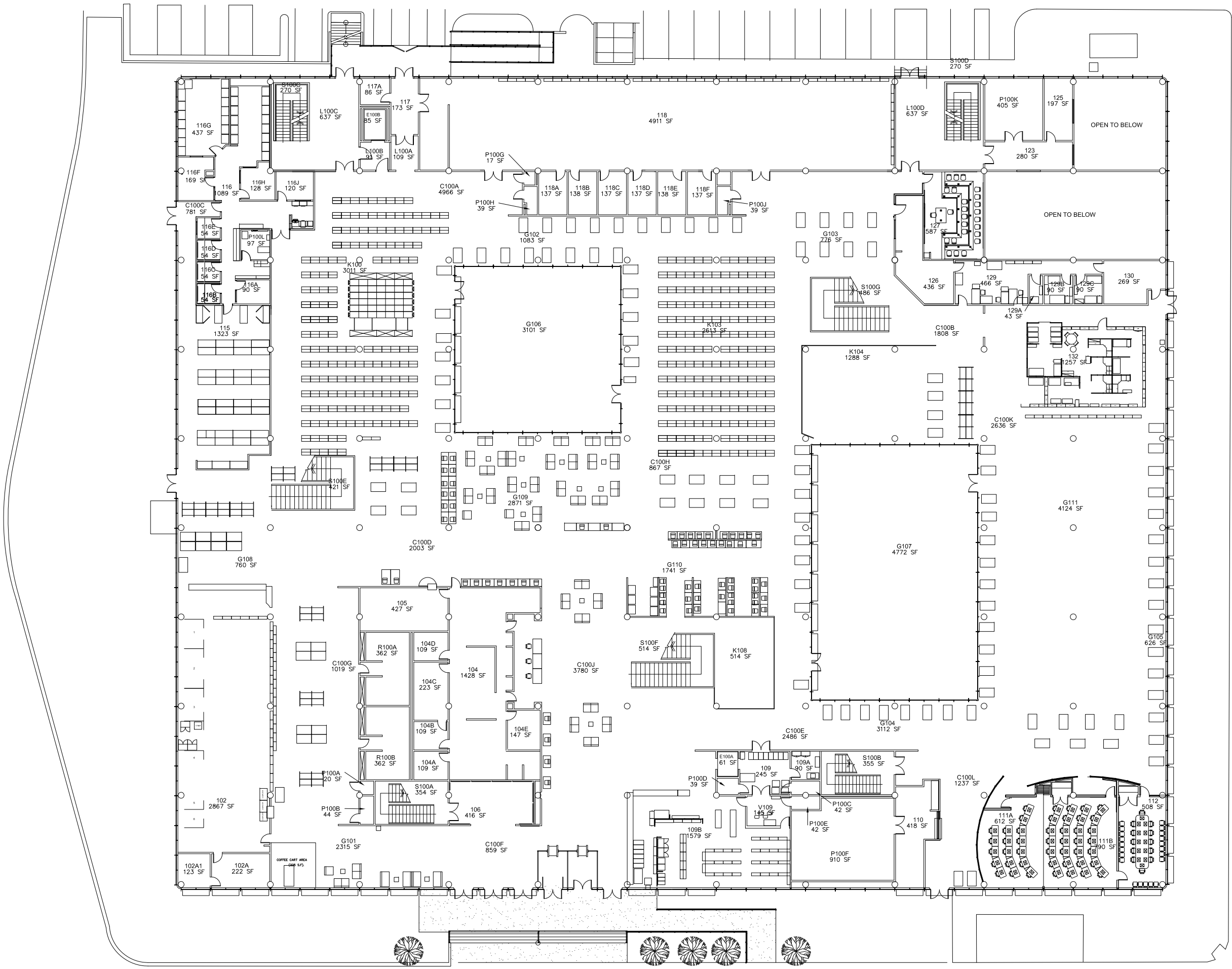
Auraria Higher Education Center

DENVER, COLORADO

BUILDING:
LIBRARY

1155 10th St.
Denver, CO

PROJ. #	
ISSUED	01/01/98
REVISION RECORD	
AHEC	01/06/06
AHEC	05/29/08
AHEC	06/05/08
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AHEC	02/03/10
AHEC	04/27/10
AHEC	05/06/10
AHEC	09/06/10





Auraria Higher Education Center

DENVER, COLORADO

BUILDING:
LIBRARY

1155 10th St.
Denver, CO

PROJ. #	
ISSUED	01/01/98
REVISION RECORD	
AHEC	12/22/04
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