THE HESBURGH LIBRARY
RESTORING AN ICON: A GUIDE TO THE PHASE ONE RENOVATION
BY TARA O'LEARY AND JESSICA TROBAUGH TEMPLE, FOR NDWORKS

An Enduring Legacy
When President Emeritus Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., envisioned the future of the University of Notre Dame in the late 1950s, his aspirations included a research library that would “stand as a symbol of academic excellence and the pursuit of truth.”

From its inception, the Hesburgh Library (then Memorial Library) was designed to be one of a trilogy of iconic buildings—along with the Main Building and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart—that still define the Notre Dame skyline to this day.

When asked at that time about the role that the new library would play in advancing the University’s goals, Father Hesburgh said, “The Notre Dame Memorial Library will be the academic heart of a University destined to become a real center of excellence in higher learning in the very heartland of America.”

Today, some 50 years after the library’s dedication, this original vision still stands strong and serves as inspiration for future generations of scientists and scholars.

A Renewed Vision
The University has fulfilled its promise and commitment to that legacy. It has renewed vision that University leadership aims to carry that enduring charge well into the future. In the 21st century, students and faculty demand that libraries provide access to interdisciplinary and collaborative spaces, state-of-the-art technologies and advanced research expertise. Building on its long-standing history to support and foster rigorous scholarship, inquiry and research, the University will launch the first phase of a full-scale interior renovation of the iconic Hesburgh Library.

“The 50th anniversary events of the past year gave us the opportunity to both celebrate a remarkable past and build upon this foundation to create a leading research library for the 21st century,” said Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., Notre Dame’s president. “Given the ever-changing environment of the digital age, now is the time to make a transformational leap forward through a bold renovation that will keep the Hesburgh Library the centerpiece of Notre Dame’s intellectual pursuits and an enduring symbol of our academic excellence.”

“The Hesburgh Library has been a central and critically important resource for our faculty and students,” said Thomas G. Burish, University provost. “It has been inspiring to remember and reflect on the role the library has played in the University’s growth—but it is equally exciting to look ahead and commit to creating a library that can support new academic endeavors for decades to come.”

The project is set to commence Dec. 22, 2014, at the close of the academic term, and will address the changing needs of students, faculty and staff as they encounter new and evolving forms of scholarship in the digital age.

“The need for library spaces has not changed. It’s how we must use our library spaces and what expertise and services we offer our students and faculty that has changed,” said Edward H. Arnold, University Librarian, Diane Walker. “The mission of the library is, and always has been, to connect people to knowledge across time and space. In order to fulfill this mission we must evolve to meet the changing demands for teaching, learning and research here at Notre Dame.”

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The Paradox of Generosity
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Joyce Sports Research Collection
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New FurnishND launches
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The comprehensive project will begin with Phase One, The Entrance Gallery and 10th Floor.

Future phases will be completed over several years depending on future benefaction. “Since we’ll need to keep the library operating throughout the renovation, and so that we can raise funds as we go, the architects have mapped out multiple phases and projects for the work,” said Diane Walker. The master building plan highlights future phases and other renovation details and is available for download at renovation.library.nd.edu.

Recognizing the library as an important hub of campus activity, the first phase of renovation will center around an inviting and dynamic atmosphere. The overall plan also draws out other horizontal and vertical connections. Currently, the library offers minimal visual and physical floor connections. A lone stairway joins the Lower Level and the first and second levels, which are characterized by expansive floor plates that are as wide and long as the length of a football field. The addition of other sets of open stairs between the first and second floors will shorten the distance between library services and present a more connected, navigable infrastructure issues as well. This will include increasing access to power, improving HVAC systems and removing asbestos. When the building was originally constructed, few electrical outlets were needed. Today, as portable and mobile technologies have become the norm, the number of outlets needed per student has increased dramatically.

Future phases are dependent on benefaction and will feature a widened concourse with expanded seating areas, a Scholar’s Lounge and a Theodore M. Hesburgh Presidential Museum. Additionally, expanded and more visible space for Rare Books & Special Collections will provide a renewed presence for these unique and rare materials that support world-class programs across many academic disciplines.

Renovation will address basic infrastructure issues as well. Revamped workspaces for staff, a Grand Reading Room, Collaboration Hub, and Research Commons will join the recently added Center for Digital Scholarship, providing library patrons and employees with tools and environments to carry them into the 21st century.

An Inspired Future

In an interview for “Words of Life” by Bill Schmitz, Father Hesburgh remarked, “I wanted in 1963, and still desire today, for the [library] literally to stand for the future of Notre Dame as a place of unmatched intellectual achievement, free inquiry and providential contributions to (hu)mankind. Let the library be a place on this campus where that hunger for truth will keep getting stronger, supporting freedom and justice around the world, inspiring excellence, and prodding us to bigger dreams.”

“The University is proud to carry the legacy of the Hesburgh Library forward for the next 50 years and beyond,” says Father Jenkins. “Our renewed vision will revolutionize how we work together to advance teaching and research in the 21st century. The library’s transformation is a symbol of the University’s commitment to faculty and students as they create new knowledge and global solutions that contribute to a world in need.”
On Monday, Dec. 22, the Hesburgh Library will embark on the first phase of an extensive interior renovation.

In order to manage traffic flow and access to services and resources, Phase One construction of the new North Entrance Gallery and 10th floor renovation will be divided into two segments.

Phase 1-A will comprise the north end of the center core of the first and second floors. Construction will begin Dec. 22 and should be completed in mid-summer 2015.

Phase 1-B will encompass the southern half of the first and second floors, as well as the 10th floor. Work on these spaces will commence in the late spring and early summer of 2015, and be completed in late 2015 and early 2016.

Creating Connections

The renovation will kick off with the installation of a new north entrance to the library. As student housing and construction of the McCourtney Hall science and engineering research facility expands campus to the north, an additional entrance on the north side of the library will provide easier access for increased traffic from that section of campus.

The north entrance will also introduce a new axial design to the library's first floor layout, a step that will allow for a grand overhaul of the library's core, research service point and circulation area. Dubbed the "Entrance Gallery," the renewed space will encourage interaction and connection, with improvements that make the space more welcoming and user friendly.

Enhanced exhibits, clusters of informal seating and increased natural light will create community while providing easy access to more prominently located services and resources.

Making Neighborhoods

Transforming Learning Spaces

On the north end of the second level will be an appointed reading room for quiet, individual study. It will be glassed-in, allowing natural light to pass through. Currently walled off for office space, this new north view will overlook landscaped green space that will welcome those coming from nearby residence halls and other buildings. The new North Reading Room will provide an in-demand study space in advance of the Grand Reading Room, planned for the first floor in a future phase.

An overhaul of the 10th floor is the final element of this first phase project. All 10th floor materials will be moved to the lower level of the library, where they can be accessed throughout the renovation. In the post-renovation 10th floor, print collections will be relocated away from the existing windows, allowing for the flow of natural light into the space's open user areas. Improved spaces for quiet and contemplative work will include nooks with comfortable seating, a reading room and a graduate student enclave that features individual, assigned carrels.

The goal of the plan is to build spaces in the tower that support advanced discipline-specific research and the creation of communities of scholars.
Join us for an open house to launch Phase One of the Hesburgh Library Renovation. Say farewell to sections of the second floor, rows of wooden carrels and other familiar touchstones we’ve come to know and love.

Visit renovation.library.nd.edu for all the latest Hesburgh Library Renovation news.

WHEN: Wednesday December 10 4 - 6 p.m.
WHERE: Hesburgh Library 2nd Floor North

You’re INVITED!

PARDON OUR DUST.
The renovation website, renovation.library.nd.edu, has tools designed to help faculty, staff and students know how and when to navigate access to library spaces and services. There, viewers can also access the project vision, master building plan, schematics and news. Phases and Galleries sections will highlight before and after views, new floor plans and architectural renderings.

RENOVATION WEBSITE AND CONSTRUCTION NAVIGATION
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REN-ALERTS
While the library will maintain its current operating hours, Ren-alerts will inform users of library construction work that affects library accessibility or causes disruptive activities and conditions. Although the noisiest and dirtiest work has been scheduled for times when the library sees the least traffic, users are encouraged to subscribe to email or RSS mobile alerts or to refer to the site for up-to-date postings.

CONSTRUCTION MAPS
Site logistics and construction maps are also available online. They indicate which areas of the library are accessible during the course of the renovation, key dates and alternate traffic routes for users.

GALLERIES
Join us throughout the Phase One renovation story. Viewers can follow the latest progress in the story of transformation through photos, webcams and time-lapse photography. Photo galleries and panoramic 360s of the current interior let you experience the space one last time—while before-and-after comparisons and architectural renderings reveal the transformative vision soon to be realized.

COMMENTS
We will make every effort to inform the campus community about ongoing project timelines and milestones. Please offer feedback using the online form on the contact page of the renovation website, renovation.library.nd.edu.

RENOVATION.LIBRARY.ND.EDU