

A library for the 21st century

McHenry turns a page



By **Gwen Mickelson**
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When Raul Flores's father was a boy growing up in Mexico City, he loved going to the library, immersing himself in the knowledge contained in the books there, delighting in the feel of the pages, savoring their smell.

His dad instilled in Flores that same reverence for a library's offerings. But as a 21st-century college student, Flores, 21, goes to the library for much more than books.

A third-year sociology major from Mission Hills, Flores might hit the library's Media Center to check out DVDs or videotapes for class, including movies such as *El Rojo Amanecer*, about the Tlatelolco Massacre in Mexico City in 1968. He might then sit at one of the terminals in the Information Commons and search online databases for sociological articles. After working for a while, he typically meets up with friends at the library to work some more, chat, and hang out.

As a generation born into the information age hits the books—or the Internet—campus libraries are adapting to the needs of a new, hyperconnected student.



UCSC students Christina Carabajal and Raul Flores connect from McHenry Library's reading lawn, which is part of the library's wireless network.

Libraries "are a lot more digital than they were in my parents' generation," says Flores. "Everything's a lot more interconnected."

Flores is part of a sweeping shift in how students use uni-

versity libraries and, in turn, how libraries are redefining their role on college campuses.

Today's undergraduates—most born between 1986 and 1990—have come of age with the Internet, Google, cell phones, e-mail, RSS feeds, blogs, podcasts, file sharing, text messaging, laptops, PDAs, and wireless access. And university libraries must adapt to meet the demands of this new, digital age—and the expectations of a new, hyperconnected user.

"When I became a librarian, you pretty much had to go to a library to find out what they had," says UCSC University Librarian Virginia Steel. "Now, with resources like Google and other online services, you can just link to the contents of a library from anywhere."

In January, for example, UCSC became the first UC campus to loan a shipment of books from its library to the Google Books Library Project, which is scanning books to

make the full text publicly searchable online.

But that doesn't mean that libraries, as physical presences, are disappearing.

UCSC's McHenry Library is not only moving its catalogs and collections to the Internet, but the building is being redesigned, expanded, and reorganized to accommodate new styles of learning, rapidly evolving ways of accessing and presenting information, a trend toward social gathering, and a shift in how libraries interact with their clientele.

At McHenry, a new annex has added 81,600 square feet of light-filled space in a modern, concrete-and-glass structure. Other renovations and enhancements include:

- ▶ An electronic research center with 60 stations to access library resources
- ▶ An instructional design center to help faculty make innovative use of technology in instruction and research
- ▶ A "cyber study" room and the Global Village café—an Internet café providing social gathering space and online access



The new addition invites study and contemplation.

- ▶ Distance-learning facilities, providing support for students and faculty at remote locations, such as Silicon Valley
- ▶ Wireless networking throughout the building and outside
- ▶ Additional electronic workstations and a number of group study rooms to foster collaborative learning

Learning through collaboration

"Students collaborate much more in their learning than they did in the past," says Joan Lippincott, associate executive director of the Coalition for Networked Information in Washington, D.C.

In her observation, students today may be learning with others in a group, and may also have friends who are just there hanging out.

"In my generation, you had a social life in the dorm or wherever and an academic life in the classroom or library," says Lippincott, who labels herself a baby boomer. "Today's students have a much more fluid arrangement of academic and social life."

Libraries are also trying to pay attention to learning styles that depart from the traditional model of solitary reading, says Erika Linke, president of the Association of College and Research Libraries and

The Dead live on at UCSC

Scarlet begonias or a touch of the blues, you'll find it at UC Santa Cruz.



At the Fillmore: Bob Weir and Mickey Hart of the Grateful Dead explain why the Dead's archive is coming to UCSC.

This past April, the Grateful Dead announced that it would donate its vast and colorful archives to a campus that opened the same year the collection was started.

Documenting the history of the band from 1965 to the present, the Grateful Dead Archive will reside in the Special Collections area of UCSC's McHenry Library. The renovated McHenry Library will also include a room named "Dead Central," just inside the front door, where some items from the archive will be permanently displayed and other exhibits will rotate in and out. Other universities, including Stanford and UC Berkeley, vied for the archive. But the band thought UCSC was a perfect fit.

"We looked around, and UC Santa Cruz seems the best possible home," said Grateful Dead band member Bob Weir. "If you ever wrote the Grateful Dead a letter, you'll probably find it there!"

Library staff expects the processing of the archive to take at least two years, though parts of the collections will be debuted in stages as processing progresses. The archive includes business records, correspondence, photographs, tickets, backstage passes, flyers, posters, shirts, press clips, and awards. Framed photos by renowned photographers and unreleased videos of interviews and TV appearances will be available for viewing. The archive will also feature large stage backdrops, stained-glass pieces, props from live performances, and an extensive collection of Deadhead fan mail and gifts.

Because of the monumental size and scope of the archive, a fundraising campaign has been launched to support it and to endow a permanent Grateful Dead archivist position, according to Christine Bunting, head of Special Collections at the University Library.

► For information, including how to support the archive, visit library.ucsc.edu/speccoll/GD_archive.html, e-mail grateful@ucsc.edu, or call the UCSC Library Development Office at (831) 459-5870.

► For the complete story on the Grateful Dead Archive, visit www.ucsc.edu/news_events/text.asp?pid=2142.

associate dean of University Libraries at Carnegie Mellon University.

"Education today is characterized by people working together to collaborate," Linke says. "We're acknowledging different styles of learning, inquiry, and study."

For second-year UCSC community studies student Andres Rodriguez, UCSC's library is a far cry from the one he frequented in his hometown of Woodland.

"In college, people use it to socialize with other people," says Rodriguez, 20. He often uses the library for group study sessions for midterms and finals.

That's not to say McHenry, UCSC's Science & Engineering Library, and other, off-campus libraries aren't still quiet places for study and contemplation. But now, library staffs are creating both quiet zones and areas where people can be noisier, says Lippincott.

'Library 2.0'

Fifty to 100 years ago, libraries were designed around particular structures and schemes for organizing information, says UCSC's Steel.



Below left: Student Raul Flores makes use of the library's bank of computers. Above: With large expanses of glass forming a major element of the building's construction, light is almost as much a presence as walls in McHenry's new addition.

"But with the advent of the web, people expect a more responsive and flexible type of structure," she says. "They've gotten used to ubiquitous Internet access."

To respond to the demand, UCSC Library staff decided last spring to embark on a "Library 2.0" initiative adapted

from a program developed by a North Carolina librarian.

"There were a lot of new technologies such as instant messaging, wikis, blogging, and RSS feeds, and this was a way to get everyone on the library staff up to speed at the same time and think of ways to use these new technologies that were emerging," says Sue Chesley-Perry, digital initiatives librarian for both McHenry and Science & Engineering.

Now, librarians go where the students are, says Perry. For example, many librarians have Facebook pages to make themselves available for questions. And several librarians who teach research workshops for specific classes are using a blog instead of a web page.

Despite the many new technologies, books still have an important place in research, learning, and teaching.

"In my classes, I tell students how to find the different databases and how to use them," says Brij Lunine, a UCSC lecturer in writing. "But I still make my students get into the stacks because you often find the best stuff next to the book you were looking for."

Student Flores agrees that, despite the shift to an online research model, a physical library is still an important part of the culture.

"It sounds corny, but I'd like to see my kids come to an institution like this," says Flores, gesturing to the vaulted ceilings and book-filled shelves at

McHenry Library.

Libraries' rapid shift from print to electronic media has raised a host of complex questions around intellectual property, ownership, licensing, and preservation. While those issues will have to be solved, that's part of the excitement of being a librarian at this particular juncture, says UCSC's Steel.

"We're poised between the old and the new, and every day brings with it new, interesting problems to think about," she says. "The whole information environment is changing so rapidly. It's really exciting to be part of this."

Photographer Phil Carter, 20, is a junior at UCSC, majoring in community studies.

The \$700,000 challenge

UC Santa Cruz has been awarded a \$700,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation toward the construction and modernization of McHenry Library. In order to receive the funds, however, the library must raise \$3.5 million by October 1, 2009.

That's because the grant is designed to assist UCSC in raising the balance required to complete its capital campaign goal and the funding of the library expansion project.

"This is an amazing opportunity to help us raise the funds we need to totally transform McHenry Library and make it a 21st-century destination for a new generation of library users," said University Librarian Ginny Steel.

Private donations must be found to support the many aspects of UCSC's library project not covered by state funding. This includes such amenities as the planned Global Village Café, the reading lawn and gardens, new furniture, information technology, media equipment, and public art for the building.

The Kresge Foundation is a private organization that supports communities by building the capacity of nonprofit organizations in the fields of health, the environment, arts and culture, education, human services, and community development.

► For more information, visit library.ucsc.edu or contact the UCSC Library Development Office at (831) 459-5870.