LEVEL 4 OF ROBERT W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY BUILDING RE-OPENS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
Opening is Three Days Earlier than Expected
Levels 5 and 6 May Re-open Tuesday, September 9

Students, faculty, staff and other library users can resume using Level 4 of the Robert W. Woodruff Library Building beginning 7:30 a.m. Fri., Sept. 5. This is three days earlier than anticipated, says Emory Libraries Facilities Coordinator Amanda Welter.

“We are glad to welcome everyone back to Level 4 sooner than we expected,” Welter said. “The fourth floor received the least water damage, so we were able to restore it quickly.”

All spaces of Level 4 are accessible except for three sections of shelving in one corner of the building. That area still needs time with a dehumidifier, so it will be roped off. Re-shelving of Level 4 books -- call numbers PS through Z -- continues, said Melanie Bunn, circulation, stacks and storage leader for Emory University Libraries.

“If you can’t find a book on the shelf, check the re-shelving area,” Bunn said. “If you have any trouble locating a book, visit the Circulation Desk on Level 3 for help.”

The tentative re-opening date for Levels 5 and 6 has been moved from Mon., Sept. 8 to Tues., Sept. 9, Welter noted.

“We will inspect these floors on Monday to determine if they are ready for Tuesday use; the latest information will be posted to the Robert W. Woodruff Library building’s website at http://web.library.emory.edu/ by late Monday afternoon,” Welter said.

A fire sprinkler system valve failure over Labor Day weekend temporarily closed Levels 4 through 6 of the Robert W. Woodruff Library building’s stack towers. Crews have been working on water removal and drying of floors and shelving since the Sun., Aug. 31 incident. Most of the collections on those floors escaped water damage. Approximately 2,300 books are being treated for water damage, 78 percent of them (1,800) in-house by Emory University Libraries’ Conservation Lab team.

The cause of the leak is under investigation, said Charles Forrest, director of facilities management and planning for Emory University Libraries.

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“We don’t really know why the valve failed; this kind of failure is extremely rare,” he said. “In the meantime, the sixth floor valve where the leak originated has been repaired. Modifications have been completed for the valves on fourth, fifth and sixth floors to ensure that this kind of leak doesn’t happen again.”

Emory faculty, staff and students may request undamaged books from Levels 4 through 6 in the following manner:

☐ Visit the Circulation Desk on Level Three of the Robert W. Woodruff Library building.
☐ Make your book request in person.
☐ Books will be retrieved and ready for check-out within a maximum of two hours of the request time.
☐ Damaged books – a portion of those with call numbers PA through PQ2600 -- are unavailable for check-out. At this time, most of those are noted in Euclid and the DiscoverE search tool with the word “REPAIR” appearing in the “Location” box. Damaged books will be unavailable for three to six weeks.

The subject areas of books housed on the affected floors are business, social science, political science, education, fine arts, languages, literature and the sciences. Call numbers are HM-LT; N-NX; P-PR; and PS-Z.

For updates as floors open for use again, visit the Robert W. Woodruff Library building’s home page at http://web.library.emory.edu/ and click the “Level 4 through 6 Update” link. E-mail updates will be distributed around campus, as well.

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