LEVELS 5 and 6 of ROBERT W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY BUILDING
NOW OPEN FOR USE
Stacks Temperature Cooler for One Week to Protect Affected Books

All three floors affected by the Labor Day weekend leak in the Robert W. Woodruff Library building now are open for use.

Faculty, students and staff were able to resume using Levels 5 and 6 as of 5 p.m. Mon., Sept. 8, said Charles Forrest, director of facilities management and planning for Emory University Libraries. Level 4 re-opened for use last week.

“We are glad to get students, faculty and staff back into those spaces for study and research,” Forrest said. “Our team in the libraries continues working hard to get the collections on those floors re-shelved as quickly as possible.”

Re-shelving of Level 4, 5 and 6 books -- call numbers HM-LT; N-NX; P-PR; and PS-Z – is progressing, 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. We expect to have most of the re-shelving completed by next week. We appreciate everyone’s patience as we get that accomplished.”

A small area of five or six study carrels on Level 6 remains closed for restoration work, but is expected to open as soon as repairs to carpet, baseboards and walls are complete.

Bring a sweater, jacket or sweatshirt to the stacks this week – the temperature is being kept in the mid-60s to prevent books from molding, said Ann Frellsen, collections conservator in the Emory University Libraries Conservation Lab.

“The books on those floors experienced high humidity for three days,” she said. “We need to be sure they have time to dry out. Keeping the temperature a bit cooler than our normal 72 degrees for about a week will accelerate the drying process greatly and protect Emory’s collections.”

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.

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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 completed water removal and drying of floors and shelving today. Most of the collections on those floors escaped water damage during the incident. Approximately 2,300 books are being treated for water damage, 78 percent of them (1,800) of them in-house by Emory University Libraries’ Conservation Lab team.

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Emory University Libraries (http://web.library.emory.edu/) in Atlanta and Oxford, Ga., are an intellectual commons for Emory University, Atlanta and the world. The nine libraries’ holdings include more than 3.1 million print and electronic volumes, 40,000-plus electronic journals, and internationally renowned special collections.

Emory University (http://www.emory.edu) is known for its demanding academics, outstanding undergraduate experience, highly ranked professional schools and state-of-the-art research facilities. Perennially ranked as one of the country’s top 20 national universities by U.S. News & World Report, Emory encompasses nine academic divisions as well as the Carlos Museum, The Carter Center, the Yerkes National Primate Research Center and Emory Healthcare, Georgia’s largest and most comprehensive health care system.