



# Rationale

## for a New Library/Arts Building at the University of Regina

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## Context

The University of Regina has expanded to nine faculties and 25 academic departments, which have established reputations for excellence and innovative programs leading to bachelors', masters', and doctoral degrees. From 6430 students in 1974, the University now has 12,343 graduate and undergraduate students. Faculty and staff of the university now number over 2000 people.

## LIBRARY

All students, staff, and faculty of the University (including those at remote locations) are legitimate users of the library, as are alumni and members of the general public who pay a \$25 annual fee if they wish to use the library and its collections. The library has a complement of 71 staff to serve approximately 15,000 primary users.

## Collection size

- acquisitions budget of approximately \$3 million
- over a million books, pamphlets and journals (1,039,723 print volumes)
- over a million items in microform
- over 85,000 electronic titles
- a growing collection of recordings and materials in other media
- Archives collection consists of over 1,500 linear metres of records in various formats and over 15,000 photographs

## Reader spaces

- seating for 604 readers, including group and individual study spaces
- 134 computer workstations with full office productivity software

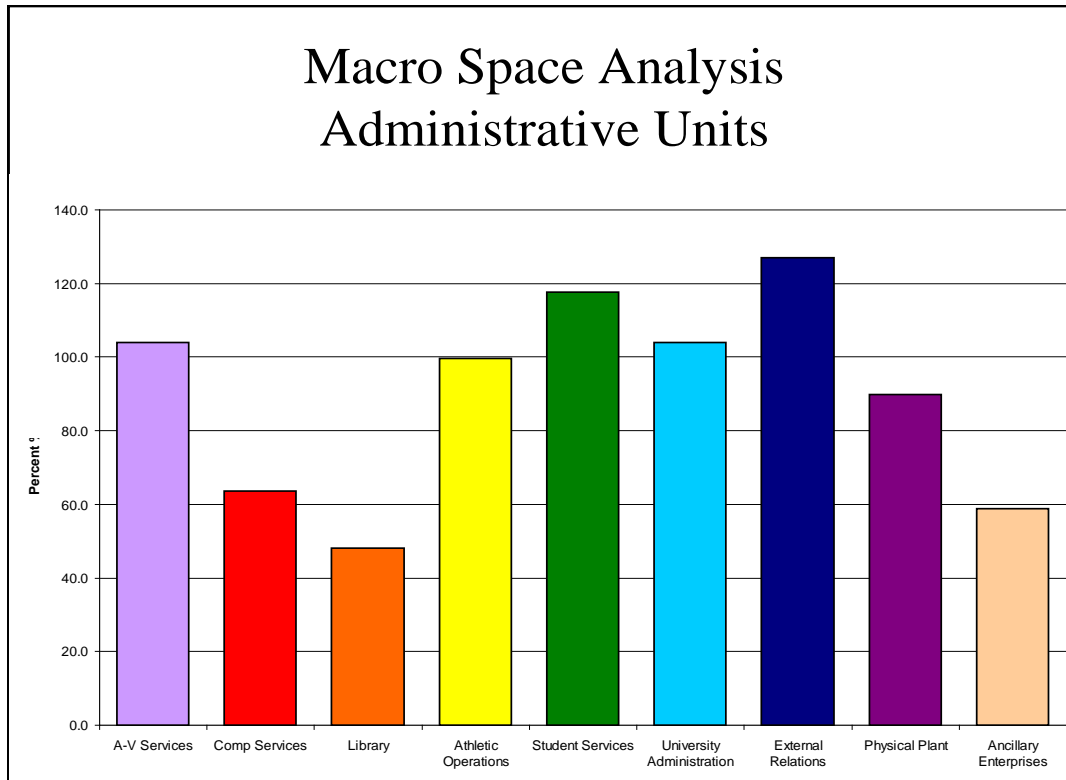
The library's collections, in-building services, and the building itself are very heavily used, as the **annual averages** from the past six years shown below illustrate:

|                                                    |         |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| • turnstile count into building                    | 524,262 |
| • circulation of print materials                   | 162,221 |
| • renewals of circulation of print                 | 45,526  |
| • in-building use (not checked out) of print       | 104,199 |
| • in-building library instruction sessions         | 127     |
| • number of people served during group instruction | 2,605   |
| • in-building reference questions answered         | 14,091  |
| • interlibrary loan requests filled for UR clients | 12,087  |

Stacks are at full capacity. In order to make room for new acquisitions, materials must be discarded every year. On average, the library discards over 10,000 volumes a year in order to make room for new materials. Although the library's electronic collections have increased steadily, the library continues to add thousands of print materials every year. The library added almost 24,000 print volumes to the collection in 2005/06. Even with aggressive de-selection, the library's collection is growing between 8,000 and 15,000 volumes per year. This exacerbates the lack of capacity in the stacks, in many cases causing damage to

remaining materials and creating an unsafe user and staff environment as materials are left on the floor, on book trucks in aisles, or on top of shelved materials.

The Council of Ontario Universities' standards for library space (measuring stacks, reader seating, and services) indicate that the Dr. John R. Archer Library is below 50% of where it needs to be to serve the University of Regina. For a facility that serves the entire complement of students, faculty and staff of the University and is so heavily used, it is clear that the lack of space is severely hampering not only the provision of existing services but is also impeding the development and delivery of new services. The library – and by extension the University – is falling farther and farther behind.



As volumes are de-selected and new materials are added, it is necessary to shift the collection to accommodate growth in different call number ranges. Shifting costs vary from library to library, but 10 to 25 cents per volume is considered standard. When stacks are at full capacity, as are those at the University of Regina, cost per volume shifted is higher, with some estimates ranging as high as \$40 per volume shifted.<sup>1</sup> In the summer of 2007, approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the library's 1 million physical volumes were or are in the process of being shifted. The costs of de-selection are also very high from the standpoint of labor, as well as loss to the overall value of the collections. It is clear that de-selecting and continually shifting materials in the library's stacks is costing the University a great deal of money – money that could be far better spent providing more and improved collections and services to the University community.

<sup>1</sup> Data presented by Karen Neurohr, Assessment Librarian, Oklahoma State University, June 23, 2007 at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.



## FACULTY OF ARTS

The Faculty of Arts is the largest of the University's nine faculties. With approximately 2000 undergraduate students, 200 graduate students, 170 faculty and staff members, a further 70 sessional lecturers, fourteen departments and another six non-departmentalized programs, it is also the most complex. Arts currently delivers approximately 32,000 credit hours of teaching, almost twice as many as the next largest Faculty. It has close relations with Campion College, Luther College, and First Nations University, with which it collaborates on a number of academic programs.

Together with the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Arts forms the "heart" of the University. Every University of Regina student takes at least several courses in the Faculty. The "health" of Arts affects, in a real sense, the health of the University as a whole.

From its first home on the fourth floor of the University Library building, the Faculty of Arts has spread out over three buildings: Administration-Humanities, Classroom, and College West.

In Administration-Humanities, the following departments and programs of the Faculty, and offices of institutes associated with its programs and faculty members, are located:

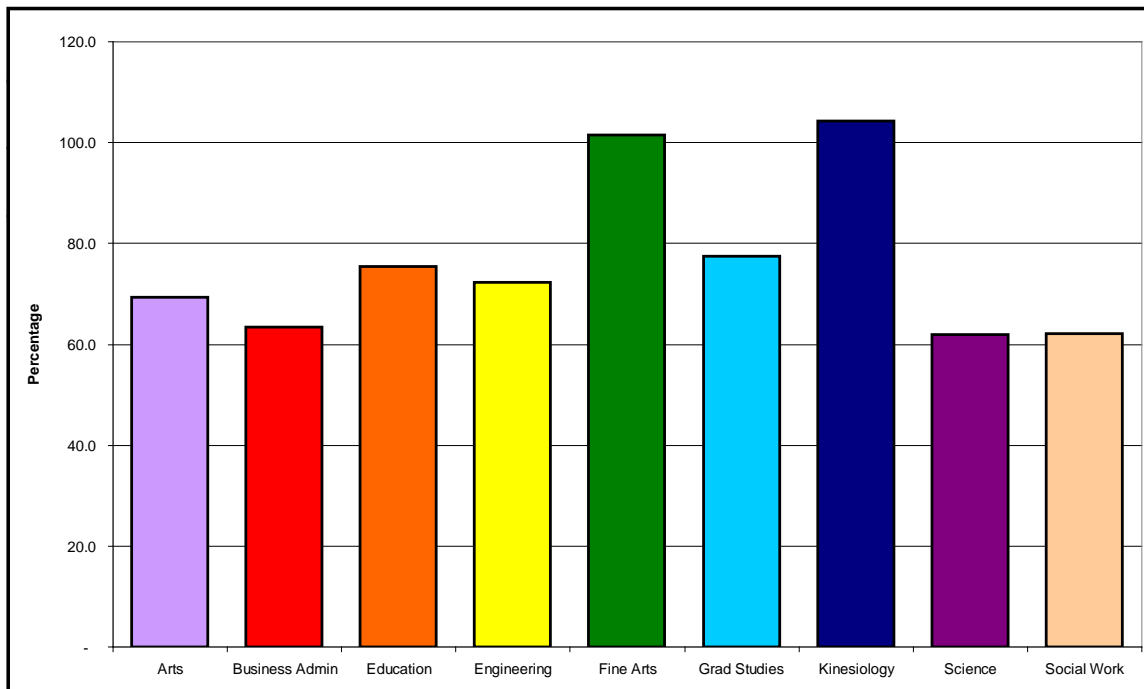
- Centre on Aging and Health
- Department of English
- Department of French
- Health Studies Program
- Humanities Research Institute
- Department of History
- Department of International Languages
- School of Journalism
- Department of Philosophy and Classics
- Department of Psychology

In the Classroom Building, the following departments and programs of the Faculty, and offices of institutes associated with its programs and faculty members, are located:

- Canada Research Chair in Geomatics and Sustainability
- Canada Research Chair in Social Justice
- Office of the Dean
- Department of Anthropology
- Department of Economics
- Department of Geography
- International Studies Program
- Department of Justice Studies
- Map Library
- Police Studies Program
- Centre for Peace, Justice, and Security
- Department of Political Science
- Department of Religious Studies
- Department of Sociology and Social Studies
- Student Services Office
- Women's Studies Program
- TERRA

In the College West Building are facilities associated with the Clinical programs of the Department of Psychology.

Recent studies provided by Physical Plant make clear that, like the Library, Arts is under-resourced. The graph below indicates that Arts is below 70% of its space needs as defined by the Council of Ontario Universities' standards.



Apart from the clinical space on the main floor of College West, Arts has seen no new space constructed or developed for it since the Administration-Humanities Building opened some 35 years ago. In that three-and-a-half decades, the Faculty has more than doubled in size, and vastly increased the number of programs it delivers and the number of credit hours it teaches.

The Faculty labours under the difficulties posed by being so spread out. Collegiality and cohesiveness suffer as departments become isolated from one another. Inequities arise from department to department in terms of space allocation and secretarial support.

Equally important is the planned future of the Administration-Humanities Building. Should this building become, as envisaged, one that houses only administrative functions, the 10 academic departments, centres, and programs of the Faculty of Arts currently located in it will have to be relocated.

Relocating them, together with some or all of the Arts departments, centres, and programs currently located in the Classroom Building, will provide a contiguous home for the Faculty for the first time since the 1960s. It will allow the Faculty to rationalize its departmental structure, consolidating the support services provided to individual departments while emphasizing the need to address student recruitment and retention on a Faculty-wide basis.

## CONCLUSION

Both the Library and the Faculty of Arts play a central role in the life of the University of Regina. The long-term health of the University and its ability to recruit and retain high-quality students and faculty will be far better served if the combined library/arts building proposal is put forward as the University's top priority for a new capital project.