

# The Bookless Branch: Changing Times For Cornell's Engineering Library

## What Came Before

In 2009, the Advisory Committee to Re-Envision the Engineering Library released it's final report:

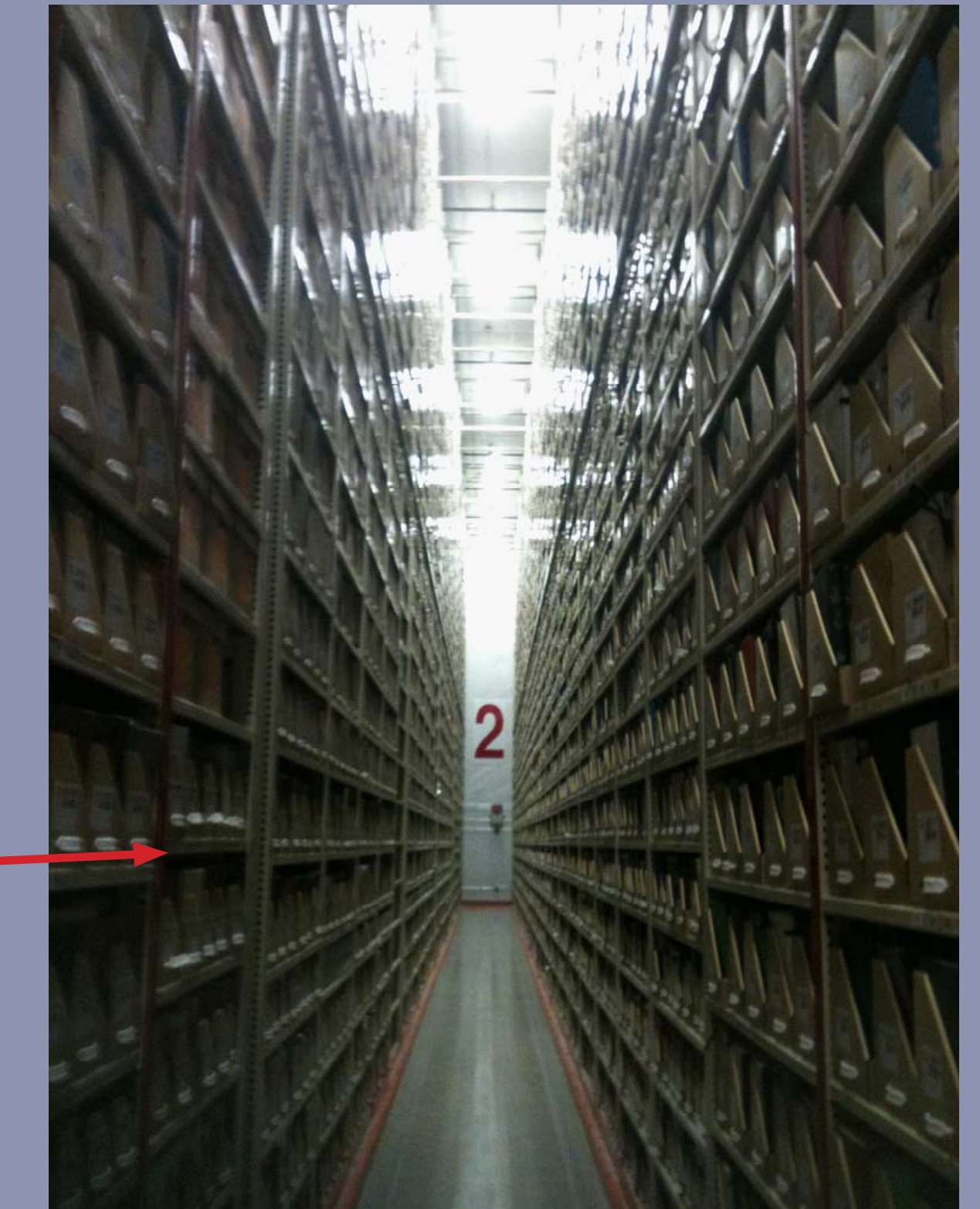
- Demand for print sharply down
- Demand for electronic resources up
- Cost of circulation point for print books high
- Physical space and computing in demand

**Conclusion: Close down the physical collection at the Engineering Library by end of summer 2010.**

## The Print Collection

Collection disposition:

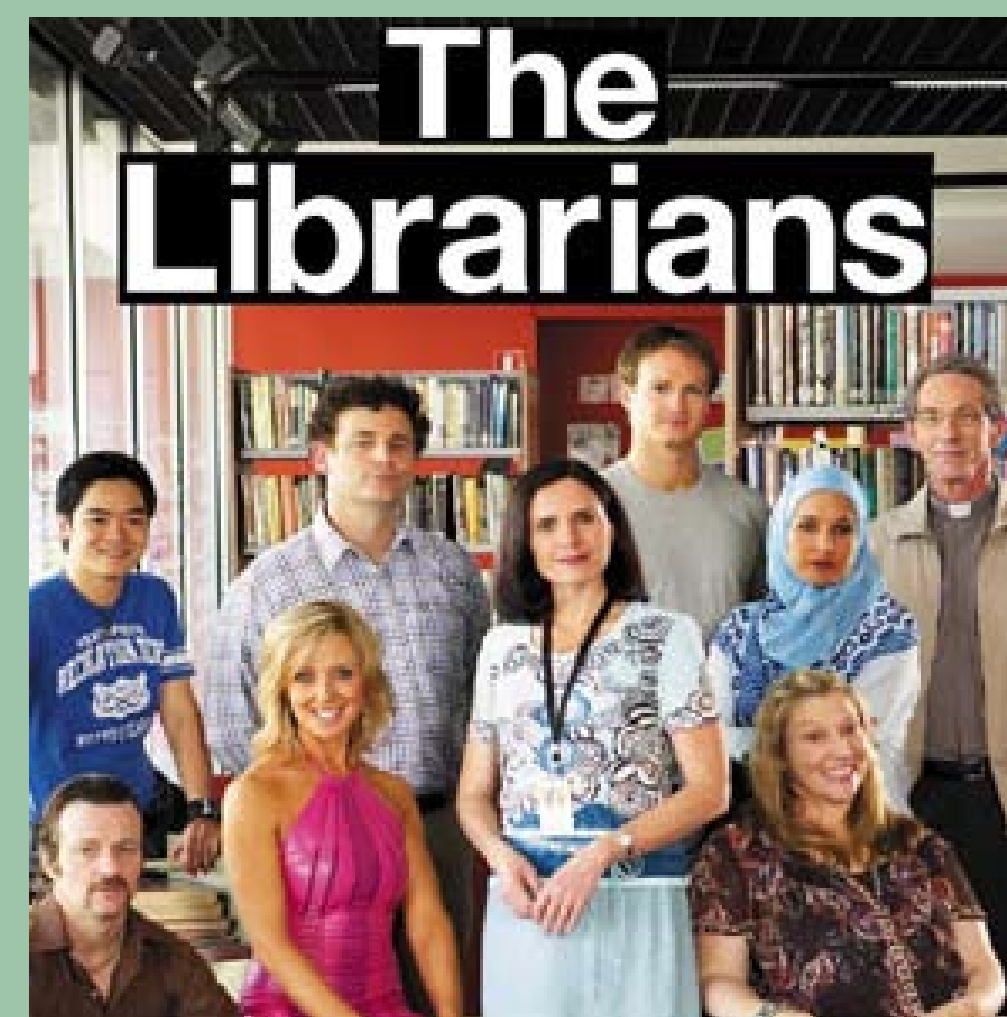
- Nothing thrown away
- 25,000 highest-use books sent to other on-campus libraries
- 145,000 books sent to off-site Library Annex
- All but ~50 print serials converted to e-only (of 800 total subs.)
- Still buying print books on-demand



## Staff

Of 9.5 FTE prior to the transition:

- 2.0 = Librarians (remain on-staff)
- 0.5 = Director (split with Math Library)
- 2.0 = Took early retirement offer
- 4.0 = Re-employed elsewhere at CU library
- 1.0 = Returned to school



## The Dividend: More and Better Electronic Resources and Services

Banking the savings from closing down the physical collection, we were able to reinvest in new resources and services:

- Able to purchase important engineering resources, some we had never been able to afford before (i.e. ASTM Standards on line, SAE Digital Library, OnePetro, journal backfiles, etc.)
- Developed new online library/search function with resources selected by librarians
- ...and integrated it into new website

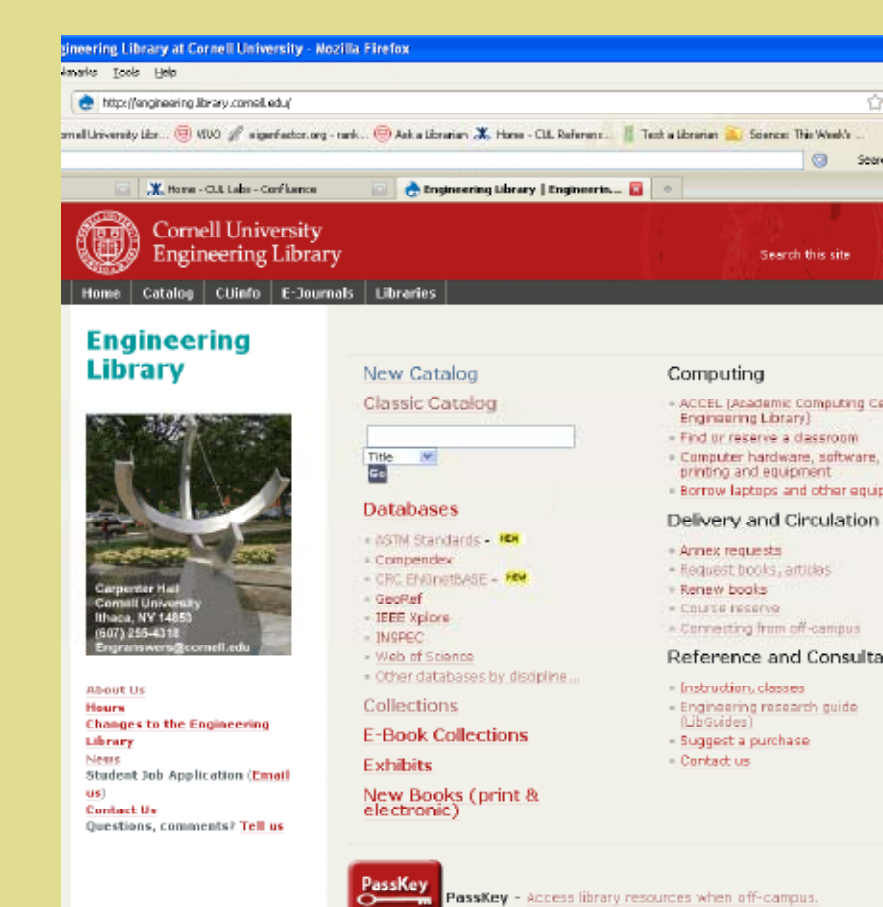
## Physical Space & Computers

Reading room:

- Open 24/7 with keycard
- 112 desktop computers
- 5 group study rooms (previously 2)
- Old circ area now open-plan lounge space
- Old stack space now grad student offices
- Eng. librarians still on-site, available for consultation



Before...



After...

