Dear Faculty and Students,

The Bass Library project team is moving forward on two fronts: on one hand, developing a plan for the post-renovation collection, and on the other, finalizing the schedule and design for the space renovation. I am pleased to update you on this important work.

Collection Development

A team of librarians is working to design—with faculty input—a post-renovation Bass Library collection that will support the Yale College curriculum across all subject areas and promote student engagement with print materials. We are exploring ways to build a dynamic collection that will also serve as a gateway to other library collections and services. Jae Rossman, our director of Area Studies and Humanities Research Support, and Assessment Librarian Sarah Tudesco are leading this effort.

Jae and Sarah, and their colleagues, have reviewed the current collection’s 104,000 titles to identify those placed on reserve in the past ten years, acquired in the past five years, or checked out by an undergraduate in the past five years. The resulting list—approximately 35,000 titles—will be a starting point for building the new 61,000-volume collection. The team will also design a review and renewal process to ensure that the collection continues to evolve with the undergraduate curriculum.

The collection development group is eager to collaborate with faculty and
receive your recommendations for the collection. We would like to know what
titles are on your current syllabi, so we can make sure print copies are in the
collection. Please share these and any other recommendations using
the collections request form or by emailing your subject librarian. You may send
us a list of titles or a copy of your syllabus.

In addition, interested faculty can find the complete Bass Library Title List on the project website with an option for marking titles you recommend retaining on the shelves in Bass versus moving to Sterling.

Renovation Schedule and Design

As I announced last month, we have revised the project schedule to minimize the inconvenience to students. Our goal continues to be a soft opening of the space by Aug. 28 and a full opening by Oct. 1. We will close Bass immediately after exams end on May 8 to begin moving the books to Sterling and preparing the space for construction. Construction will begin on May 21, the day after Commencement.

Updated floor plans are now posted on the project website, reflecting the modifications I shared in my Feb. 7 update. As I indicated then, post-renovation seating in Bass will increase by approximately 25 percent. These plans also reflect students' expressed desire for different kinds of seating and more individual seating, as well as power outlets near most seats.

The planning group is now finalizing furniture choices, with a deadline of April 1 for placing orders. Approximately 65 percent of the existing furniture will be retained; the new furniture will replace worn items and provide new seating options.

The renovation will create a more open upper level, allowing more natural light through the space (a preference strongly expressed by students in our ethnographic study) and greater visibility of existing architectural detail like the vaulted ceiling and the glass-walled small-group meeting rooms.

The upper level will feature smaller sub-collections selected and presented to engage students with the physical books and to serve as a gateway to library
collections and services. These sub-collections will include the existing graphic novel collection, topical book displays modeled on the successful Reading Resilience Project, and a model research collection that will draw books and related materials from across the library system on a different research topic each year. Faculty and students will collaborate with librarians to create the model research collections.

Ongoing updates

In the coming months, Sarah Tudesco, who is leading the Bass Library project team, will provide occasional project updates. **If you would prefer not to receive these messages, you may unsubscribe at any time using the “Update Your Preferences” link at the bottom of this email.**

Additional project details and communications can be found on the project website at [https://guides.library.yale.edu/bass2019](https://guides.library.yale.edu/bass2019).

As always, we are happy to receive your questions and comments. Please feel free to email Sarah at sarah.tudesco@yale.edu or me at susan.gibbons@yale.edu.

Sincerely,

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