ALLAN PRICE SCIENCE COMMONS AND RESEARCH LIBRARY DESCRIPTION

The existing Science Library needs reimaging to remain relevant in an era of unprecedented integration among the sciences in academic research and education and in the rapidly changing nature of the way people use information technology to accomplish traditional library tasks. To respond to changing teaching, learning, and research needs the University is underway with the design for the first major renovation to the Science Library in twenty years and only the second significant update to the facility in its 45-year history.

Information technology has drastically changed the services and configuration of all libraries, but this is particularly true in the sciences. Up until the early 1990s, the curriculum and information infrastructure needed to support the scientific disciplines remained relatively stable. Now, in 2014, the world faces a new array of scientific problems and challenges that are significantly different than those that existed previously. Today’s scientific problems are very much interdisciplinary, requiring extensive use of advanced computing capabilities, access to the most detailed and current data, and facilities that encourage and support collaboration with teams of researchers on campus and throughout the global scholarly community.

As the university continues its substantial strategic investment in the physical and life science, we need a library that supports this direction. The remodeling of the science library to the new Allan Price Science Commons and Research Library is part of the renewed infrastructure necessary to support advanced research and problem solving in a variety of scientific disciplines. The facility is being designed to promote collaboration, experimentation, and investigation. It will further help to strengthen our tradition of interdisciplinary research by drawing students and faculty from across the scientific disciplines, centers, and institutes to a common space that includes the most sophisticated information technology and the rich collections that constitute the foundation for learning and new research.

Key Goals:

Outreach / Interaction /Community
Create a Price Science Commons that is the cultural heart and central to the UO science community and integrated (both virtually and physically) with the community as a whole.

Supporting Science Study and Research
Create a variety of study and research environments that allow for engagement, interaction, collaboration, and quiet study.

Services, Instruction and Content Visualization
Provide instructional spaces that support knowledge creation, foster the interaction of Price Science Commons staff, students, and faculty, and promote science literacy.

Information Resources
Facilitate access to information in all formats, providing support for ease of access to available resources, and engaging in active outreach to the UO community and beyond.

Environmental Enhancement
Design interior space with qualities that attract use and contribute to increase productivity.

Site Repair
Enliven and beautify the plaza (Onyx Green) and at the same time remedy on-going leakage problems.