The Grand Tour, Allan Price Science Commons & Research Library

Introducing UO's newest crucible for research and education in the sciences

A new library arises . . .

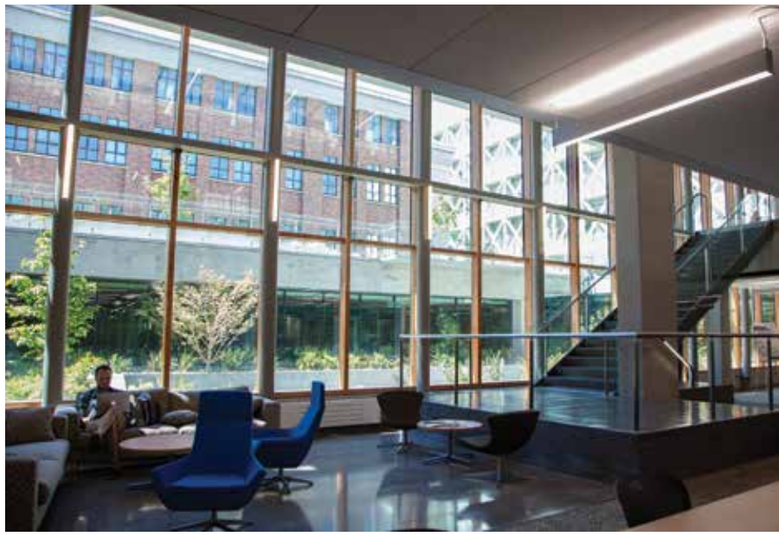
Our new science library is not only an academic asset to the university, but an architectural gem as well. It is expected to achieve LEED Gold certification. Soaring windows rise above the plaza at the heart of the Lokey Science Complex, welcoming students, faculty members, staff, and visitors. The science library has been expanded by more than 4,000 square feet. The grounds are landscaped with plant species native to Oregon. On the façade, UO's illustrious history of science scholarship will be highlighted every time sunshine or raindrops shimmer through the decorative panels—they depict the genome of the zebrafish (*Danio rerio*).

. . . and inside, the "old" library is born anew

Let there be light! Upstairs and down, science library users now can bask in the radiance of our nearest star.

"Before, this place was a basement, so natural light was a key component or driver within the project," says Chris Roberts '96, a senior associate with Opsis Architecture. "We worked diligently and collaboratively with the science library to make warm, welcoming spaces."

Not only is natural sunlight attractive; it creates a more conducive environment for learning.



Built by Andersen Construction, the Allan Price Science Commons & Research Library was designed by Opsis Architecture of Portland.

A SPARK OF INSPIRATION – THE FIRE OF INNOVATION

"RISE" by Susan Price, with assistance from John Rose, Randy Ortiz, and Sandy Tilcock. Created by Allan Price's widow as a tribute to his life and his legacy at the UO, this work hangs in the atrium of the Allan Price Science Commons & Research Library (PSC).

"My hope is that this artwork serves as a visual respite and motivational touchstone for students and faculty. May their big dreams and hard work continue to rise in this magnificent facility."
—Susan Price

The big remodel significantly increases the number of classrooms and study spaces in the science library. Total seating capacity has been doubled. Library spaces are transformed to better meet the needs of today's students and teachers.

The idea of the commons was a guiding principle of design. In the past, libraries often emphasized quiet spaces. But a new era in education has arrived, with new trends in teaching and learning. While the remodeled library still has quiet areas for individual work, it also provides numerous open spaces and group study rooms for the active collaboration that is required in today's college classes.

Yes, we've called it a "science commons"—but at the new library, each scientific discipline also gets its own special room. The PSC boasts six dedicated resource rooms outfitted for learning in biology, chemistry, computer science, human physiology, geology, and physics.

PSC features two wired classrooms that faculty members can reserve for their courses. Equipped with document cameras, flat panel monitors, projectors, whiteboards, and videoconferencing technology, these rooms are optimized to support the active learning techniques championed by UO's Science Literacy Program.

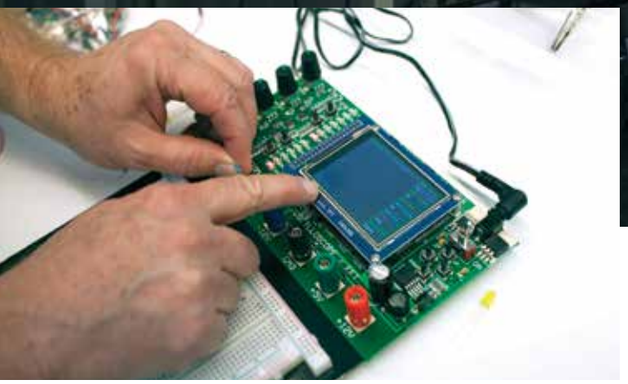
The anatomy of learning: the science library's discipline-specific resource rooms are stocked with hands-on study materials to help students master their class assignments—and also explore beyond them.

The science library maintains a large, circulating collection of videogame software. No surprise that this collection is very popular with students! But it's not just for fun and games. The videogame industry is big business—and the games are important sources for research in disciplines ranging from computer science to women's studies.

Our world-class collection of books on science still has a home on the shelves here. Just like students in eras past, today's Ducks can browse the library stacks for research sources, reading material, and intellectual inspiration.

Problem solving, formula writing, diagramming—even in this high-tech era, science students and teachers still do a lot of their work with pen in hand. PSC provides the space they need to make their mark. Whiteboards abound throughout the facility, and library patrons are even encouraged to write on the (totally erasable) study room walls.

Whenever fault lines shift, library patrons in the PSC will be among the first to know about it. The slinky seismometer uses electromagnetic induction to detect ground motion; it is sensitive enough to register a 6.0 earthquake occurring anywhere in the world.



The Robert DeArmond MakerSpace

In the new DeArmond MakerSpace our faculty, students, and staff can get their hands on some really cool tools for experimentation and innovation: everything from Arduino microcontrollers and 3D printers to soldering irons and sewing machines.

"Having the MakerSpace in the science library is a great opportunity to expand the world of research," says Dean Walton, science and technology outreach librarian. "It's about empowering and guiding people to use these new tools of learning."

The MakerSpace has great technology resources that science students can use for their projects and experiments. But it's not just for science majors—it is open to students studying any subject. Anyone in the UO community can use the MakerSpace to make and test a product prototype, express themselves with an artistic project, or just practice and attain new skills. With the latest technology at our fingertips, learning becomes more practical and more creative.

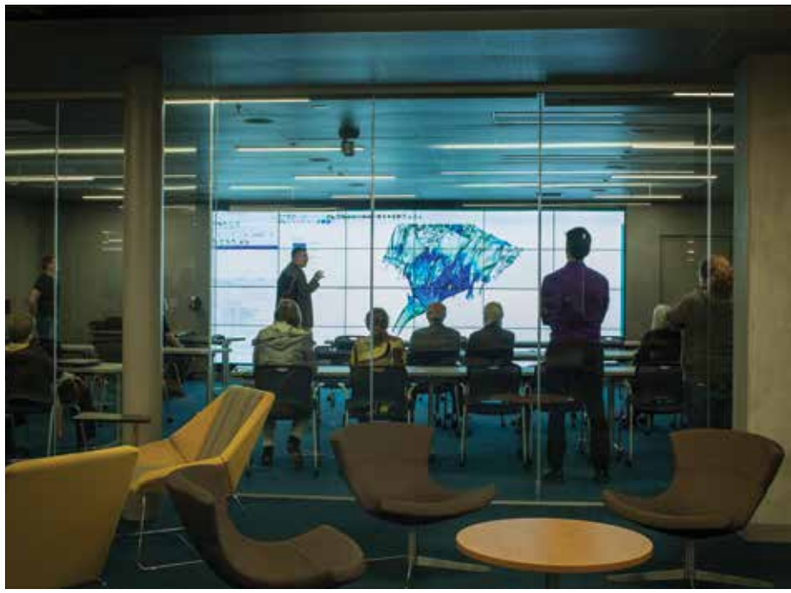
"We're already seeing an impressive increase in the numbers of people using this library," says Dean of Libraries and Philip H. Knight Chair Adriene Lim. "They're excited by the new services and technologies, and faculty members are quickly finding new ways to use them in their teaching and research."

The Visualization Lab

Big data calls for a big screen, and the one in the science library's new Visualization Lab can display an amazing 48 million pixels.

"The most efficient way possible to bring in data is through your eyeballs," says Hank Childs, associate professor of computer and information science. "Why do we need a viz lab? Because data is getting larger and larger. Scientific simulations, genomics, business data, humanities, you name it—there's all sorts of big data problems happening right now, and often they go far beyond what researchers can look at on their desktop displays."

No problem. Twenty-four high definition displays have been tiled and connected to create the viz lab screen—the first and only one of its kind in the state of Oregon.



Science + Coffee? Elementary!

Lara Nessleroad, manager of the math and science libraries, explains: "Throughout the multi-year design process, we asked for input from our science faculty and students . . . Every time, the word 'coffee' came up early and often—and sometimes users would move on to talk about other ideas, but then come back to remind us that also, they wanted coffee please, and a place to meet, talk about science, and drink it."

They asked and the library listened. UO's newest service point for caffeinated (and non-caffeinated) beverages is the Elements Ca-Fe, now open in the Price Science Commons and Research Library. ■

Thank You to all those whose generous financial support made this project possible

Lorry Lokey kick-started the science library renovation with an $8 million lead gift in memory of Allan Price, the former UO vice president responsible for unprecedented growth in private philanthropy from 2001-8.
Other major donors include Marcia L. Aaron, Patricia and John Bentley, Barbara Reed Cargill, Leona DeArmond, Rosaria Haugland, Jill and Phillip Lighty, Nancy and David Petrone, Darcy and Hank Tarbell, Julie and Keith Thomson, Ann and Tommy Thompson, and Lisa and Jon Stine.

In 2014, the Oregon Legislature approved $8.375 million in general obligation bonds to round out funding.

The Grand Opening

"Oregon was terribly derelict in the condition of the former science library. Now they are ahead of the world . . . One thing a university has to do is always be on the march for improvement, and that's why buildings like this get built. It is a gorgeous testimony not only to Allan, but to the growth of the University of Oregon."

—Lorry I. Lokey, Lead Donor

"This is for the students, for the bright spot that they are going to be when they finish their studies and go out into the world. Allan always said, 'You dream big because bold visions change lives and change the world.' And the people who study in the sciences are going to do that . . . Going forward, the world is going to be a better place."

—Susan Price

"After all these years preparing and building, we have arrived at the great opening of our library. In the Allan Price Science Commons & Research Library, we are looking at a place where people, services, programs, faculty, and students all converge to advance science at the University of Oregon."

—Adriene Lim, Dean of Libraries and Philip H. Knight Chair

"Today we not only celebrate this beautiful and important addition to our campus that will support our science students and expand our scholarship and discovery, but today we celebrate a man who helped transform our university, Allan Price."

—Mike Andreasen, Vice President for University Advancement
(reading from a statement prepared by UO President Michael Schill)

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