

UCSC to triple interior space of science library

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SANTA CRUZ — UCSC's cramped, jam-packed science library is on its way to a much needed expansion which will triple the interior floor space. Plans have been approved and the first donations accepted. University officials hope the work will begin within the next 18 months.

The present science library, part of the natural sciences complex, is "woefully inadequate," according to UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer. Dan Aldrich, campus director of development, explained this morning the burgeoning science community — 30 percent of the undergraduates — on what was to be a mainly liberal arts campus has outgrown the existing structure.

UCSC Libraries

It can house only one-half of the campus' collection of books and periodicals. The other half is either down the road in McHenry Library, or in storage. Researchers must trek between the two buildings, sometimes several times for a few bits of information. Only 60 of the 2,300 science students and faculty can study at one time in the building. Materials are stacked eight shelves high. Aldrich said, out of reach for researchers, there are no elevators for disabled users, nor bathrooms at all — "It just goes on and on," he said.

Some \$3.8 million in gifts will be needed to finance the expansion. The Honeywell Foundation, through its local subsidiary Synertek, this month

donated \$25,000 for the project. A university spokesman said this is the largest gift ever given by a local company. The S.H. Cowell Foundation has pledged \$200,000.

Construction will begin when the contributions permit, and officials hope to gather the cash or pledges within the next 18 months.

University Regents this month approved plans for the project which will put the expansion adjacent the existing structure, connected by stairways and an elevator. Standing between the Thimann Laboratories and Natural Sciences II, the new building will encompass 26,000 square feet in two stories. It will house offices, a catalog room seminar rooms, reading areas and space for the collections of bound periodicals, reference and abstract volumes and current periodicals.

The approved plans envision earth-tone stucco exterior walls and a dark brown concrete tile roof.

An environmental assessment shows 20 second-growth redwood trees must be cut down. They will be replaced, plans say.

Once construction begins, it will last some 15 months, officials say.