

# Best of both worlds

UCSC - Libraries



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

The dramatic windows of the Science Library foyer allow students to appreciate surrounding redwoods.

## New Science Library at UCSC blends technology, natural beauty

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**SANTA CRUZ** — Built with reverence to the 80-foot redwoods standing outside its expansive windows, UC Santa Cruz says its new \$13.7 million Science Library on "Science Hill" achieves a harmony between natural grace and high technology.

The three-story facility, which has assigned 53,000 square feet to UCSC's 230,000 books and periodicals, is already open for research, even though books and magazines are still being moved in.

The central McHenry Library's millionth volume will be presented to the new science library in a dedication ceremony at 2:30 p.m. June 7 on the new plaza outside the building. The celebration, free and open to the public, will feature music, a catered reception and

tours of the new library.

"The building emphasizes being inside and outside at the same time," said Allan Dyson, university librarian.

This is achieved with a dramatic windowed atrium and several corner study areas that have floor-to-ceiling windows looking out to redwoods standing as little as 18 inches away from the building.

The library, which zigs and zags around clusters of trees, was designed by the San Francisco-based architectural firm of Esherick Homsey Dodge & Davis, designers of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and UCSC's Stevenson College 25 years ago.

Forty computer work stations located around the building will give students access to volumes at all nine UC campuses.

The library also features an electronic and computerized workroom on the

first floor, named the S.H. Cowell Room, that is designed to take the library into the next century.

"Electronic databases, laser discs, interactive video and data capability, and scanning equipment will all be available here," said Steve Watkins, assistant head of the Science Library and head of data access.

The high-tech room was created with a \$200,000 grant from the S.H. Cowell Foundation.

The new building brings together UCSC's science collection, which was formerly split between McHenry Library and the old science library.

The old science facility, a two-story building that lacked toilets and water fountains, was never intended to serve as a library when it was built in 1969. It will now be used for UC Observatories/Lick Laboratory and badly needed classroom space.