As many of you may know, the original plans for the library building addition and renovation called for library services to move around within the building with the renovation taking place around us. As it became clear that in order to complete the remodeling within a reasonable time period the library would have to be evacuated, plans were made to move library services to other locations both on and off campus. Due to an asthmatic condition, I was among the first to leave the building and I didn’t see the interior of the building again until we were nearly ready to return fifteen months later.

During the time that we were out of the building, we received regular progress reports. There was discussion about the interior design, colors, carpet color, accents, furnishings, whether the circulation desk top should be real or faux marble, etc. And, as in all such undertakings, the colors changed, the carpet changed, and the accents changed. Decisions were made and reports started coming back about how the library looked. The consensus was that it was going to be beautiful. My reaction was “Yeah, right. I’ll believe it when I see it.”

Finally, after fifteen months, I decided to make a brief foray into the building. The change in the building was amazing. It was beautiful! More than that...it was unrecognizable. In fact, our first job as staff was to find our way around. Unless one knew the old building very well, it is now impossible to tell where the old and the new parts meet.

At first, the size of the building was overwhelming. This reaction diminished after more of the books were moved back into the building. It’s amazing how fast books fill up space. It works that way at home, too. Another reason for the feeling of size is that the building has been reoriented. The main entrance is at the west end of the building rather than on the south side of the building, as it was previously. The wall colors are white or a light grey, adding to the overall feeling of size.

That first afternoon I explored the lower level, giving special emphasis to my areas of responsibility: Technical Services and Systems. Having checked out the “lay of the land,” I returned a few days later to double check my initial observations about the lower level, and this time I toured the main floor. When we had moved Technical Services and the Administrative Offices back into the building, I completed my initial tour of the whole building. Gradually, we have all settled in, making changes as we all do when moving into a new space.

I would like to invite you to visit our new home and take a tour. There are a number of nice touches in the new library you may want to note when you take your tour. In the atrium entrance, one of the focal points of the library, the light plays on the dome and creates some wonderful shadows on the walls. The faculty carrels are nicely appointed, functional, and hotly contended for. Throughout the library there are lounge areas with comfortable furniture for reading or studying. For the first time, we have an appropriate space for our rare book collection that is staffed and accessible to the public. As you tour the library, you will notice other areas and special touches that I have not mentioned, and I think that you will be as overwhelmed and impressed as I was on returning to the building.

Please call ahead (616-387-5156) so we can schedule a tour guide for you. Plan on about an hour for the full tour. We look forward to seeing you in the new Waldo Library.

—Helen Healy  
Assistant Dean for Automation and Technical Services

**Dr. Light Donates Unique Journal**

The Rare Books Room in the renovated Waldo Library recently received a special book, *Journal of a Seaplane Cruise Around the World*, August 20, 1934 to January 24, 1935. Signed and donated by Dr. Richard Upjohn Light, this book, written by Dr. Light and Robert French Wilson, reproduces the journal the two young men kept during an around-the-world seaplane trip, comparable to Amelia Earhart’s.

Dr. Light is known by many in the Kalamazoo community for his service to Kalamazoo College as Chairman of the Board of Trustees under former President Hicks. Now retired as a physician, Dr. Light has been very active in the American Geographical Society, and was instrumental in establishing Kalamazoo College’s foreign study program.

This journal is the daily record of Light’s and Wilson’s adventures flying (with frequent layovers) from take-off at New Haven, Connecticut, on August 20, 1934, to final landing in College Point, New York, October 24, 1935. Their flight was generally eastward, with stops in Maine, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Greenland, Iceland, the British Isles, Scandinavia, most countries in Europe, Greece, the Middle East, the Far East, the South Pacific, Northwest Canada, the west coast of the United States, Mexico, Cuba, southeastern United States, and finally, New York State. The journal includes a verbatim log of thousands of telegraphic messages sent by Robert Wilson as well as the very exciting, sharply observed, sometimes hair-raising, sometimes humorous, sometimes emotionally moving narrative by Dr. Light.

The library has a circulating copy as well as the Rare Books Room copy of this very special book.