

Libraries Master Plan petition update

On March 16 the IRH hosted a panel discussion concerning the Libraries Master Plan (specifically, the provisions calling for removal of most of Memorial Library's open-stack collections to off-site storage, and the closing of Kohler Art Library). We had circulated a petition (in form of an open Google document) to gain support for preservation of the open stacks in Memorial and Kohler libraries.

The [petition](#) is now closed, after gathering over 1040 signatures!

We are incredibly grateful for the support of so many students, undergraduate and graduate, faculty, staff, alumnae and alumni and friends from our community. This support has not just come from the humanities, the arts and the social sciences, but from many departments in the sciences and in technology and engineering, as well as the professional schools and library administration staff.

Where are we now? Thanks to the University Committee and especially the University Libraries Committee we have regained significant control of the planning and implementation process of the Libraries Master Plan. We have good reason to believe that the Kohler and Memorial open-stack collections will be protected. More work needs to be done, and we all have to continue to be involved. The petition was an important means to express the urgency of the problem, to demonstrate the significance of the Kohler and Memorial library collections to our scholarly community, and our faith in the decision-making process.

Again, thank you to all, and we will continue to be involved and vigilant! The IRH website will report on developments and decisions concerning the libraries.