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## Press release : 1996 : 07 : 16 : USF St. Petersburg's library closed for moving July 29-Aug. 18

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## **USF St. Petersburg's library closed for moving July 29-Aug. 18**

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. (July 16, 1996) -- The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg will be closed July 29 - Aug. 18. During that time, library staff will move from the existing library into a spacious new building next to it.

Book drop boxes will still be available for patrons to return their library materials. The new library will open in time for the fall semester, which begins one week after the move.

It sounds simple, but just how hard is it to move 170,000 books and more than half a million microfilm documents? Don't forget the 1,200 different magazines the library subscribes to — with years' worth of back issues, significant historical archives and some 6,000 videos and cassettes.

"It's intense," says Lanny Greaves, Poynter Library director. "If you get one thing out of order during the move, you have to move everything all over again in the new building to get it right."

To avoid chaos, Greaves has hired a professional moving company to assist. Under the watchful eyes of librarians, movers will remove books and other materials off the shelves in their exact order, place them onto carts and roll them to the new building. Then, they will correctly arrange the books on new shelves. Hopefully.

"I've done this once before, and no matter how well you plan, there's always a glitch or two that you have to cope with on the fly," Greaves says. Before coming to USF St. Petersburg, Greaves was library director at Southeastern Louisiana University, where he supervised the move of about 300,000 books into a new facility.

Another challenge is making the new library building computer-ready. Libraries are high-tech these days, with online card catalogs and vast databases on CD-ROM's. The present library already has these services, but the new library will have a lot more to offer. For instance, students who need to research newspaper articles currently have only one terminal available to them in the library. In the new building, they will be able to access articles from 20 different terminals. Important new databases will be added as well, like the *New York Times*. A new, hands-on lab for students to learn the Internet and library research skills will also open.

Space in the new library will more than double to 81,000 square feet. The building will include a distance learning classroom and studio from which four courses will be taught, taped live and transmitted simultaneously to other USF campuses.

The sleek new building has three floors, with huge windows overlooking Bayboro Harbor to the south and downtown St. Petersburg to the north. A welcoming atrium, where three specially designed pieces of art will be installed, graces the ground floor. Artist Robert Calvo also will display a collection of smaller pieces throughout the library's interior. A third-story terrace will be used for receptions and other special events.

While the library opens for business Aug. 19, its formal dedication will be held in the fall. For more information, call Lanny Greaves at 553-3401.