The Map Room at Oregon State University has a new address--not that is has moved, yet. For the past five years Kerr Library has been fund raising to expand the 33-year old building. In April, 1996, it was announced that the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation had donated $10 million dollars to the cause and the "new" library would be known as The Valley Library. Hence a new address on the letterhead and business cards.

The actual construction for the expansion began on June 17th with the sealing of the north entrance to the library and the blackening and boarding up of the first floor windows. Completion of the building project will take nearly three years as the older portion of the library will undergo considerable renovation after the newer portion is completed.

The Map Room, currently on the first floor, will eventually move to the third floor and be merged with the government documents area. Administratively, this occurred a number of years ago with the designation of the Special References Area which is now known as the Government Information and Maps Team (GIST) but physically the areas have remained distinct. Over the next twelve to eighteen months, many collection development, and cataloging decisions will need to be made in order to ensure a smooth transition to the new location. Luckily, many of the collection's maps are already in Ulrich Planfiles which should be easy to move as they come equipped with their own wheels.

Typical of the types of pre-moving projects is the inventory being done for the USGS 15 minute scale topographic maps. These maps had multiple filing locations and are now being reorganized into two Ulrich Planfiles. The superseded 7.5-minute Oregon topographic maps will also be inventoried and filed within one of these cases so that all of the historic large scale topographic maps will be in one, easily controlled, location. Additional projects will include recataloging and encapsulation of historic local maps and assessing the cataloging backlog to identify materials which are not to be added to the collection.

The Kerr name hasn't been lost to campus however; it moved across the street to reside at the Kerr Administration Building. Mailing Services is going to have a significant amount of work delivering mail to the right place for sometime to come.

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