

Spotlight

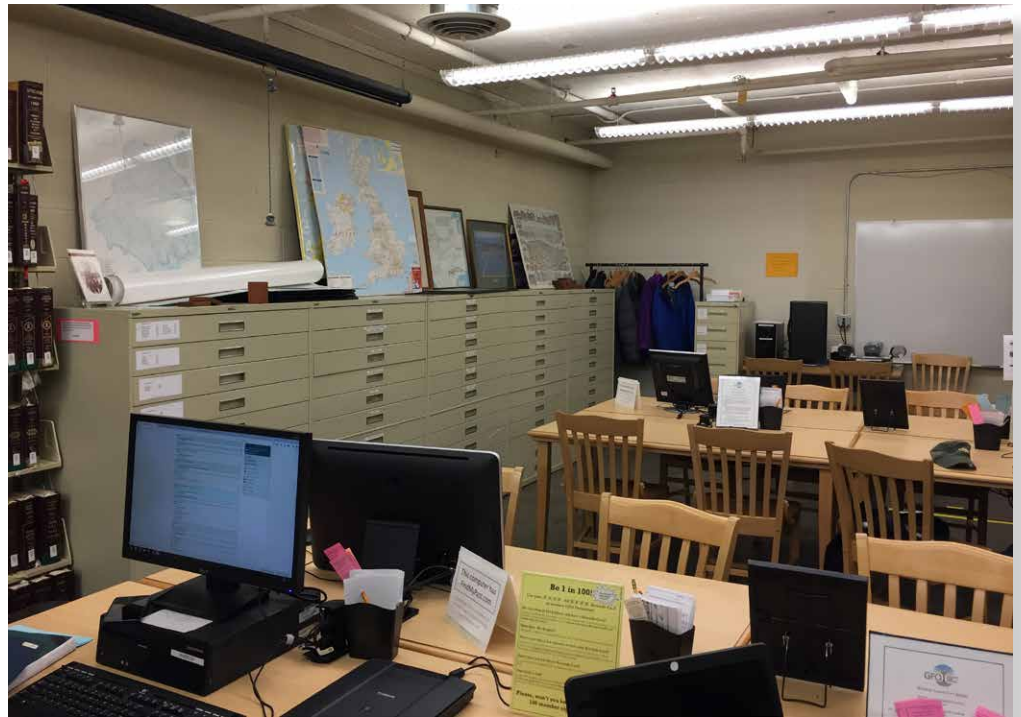
The Reorganized GFO Library

Marti Dell

Editor's Note: All committee meetings and Board meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Your GFO volunteers are always looking for ways to improve the library. Over the past year or so, we have noticed that even with active management of books, new acquisitions were outpacing de-acquisitioned items and space was at a premium.

This situation prompted the formation of a space planning committee which met in October and November to develop a plan to deal with a number of space



issues, such as how to create more room for new bookshelves and to deal with a number of other issues. For example, since moving into the Ford Building in 2011, our microfilm cabinets have been in two locations—neither of which were near the microfilm readers. Another issue the space planning committee tackled was the collections spanning either side of the library's brick wall which proved to be just that—splitting the books for the British Isles and several U.S. states into an illogical and inconvenient flow. After much discussion and many measurements, the committee was able to bring a comprehensive proposal to the November 2016 board meeting for some major shifts in the library.

The committee first set out a list of goals. They were to:

1. Create more shelf space for our growing collection;
2. Increase space in the multi-purpose area for presentations;
3. Eliminate the flow issues created by the brick wall so the natural flow is not broken and is more intuitive for patrons; and
4. Find solutions to store manuscript material on site and out of sight.

The committee's goal was to have everything completed before our Open House in March. The two meetings produced detailed plans which were approved by the

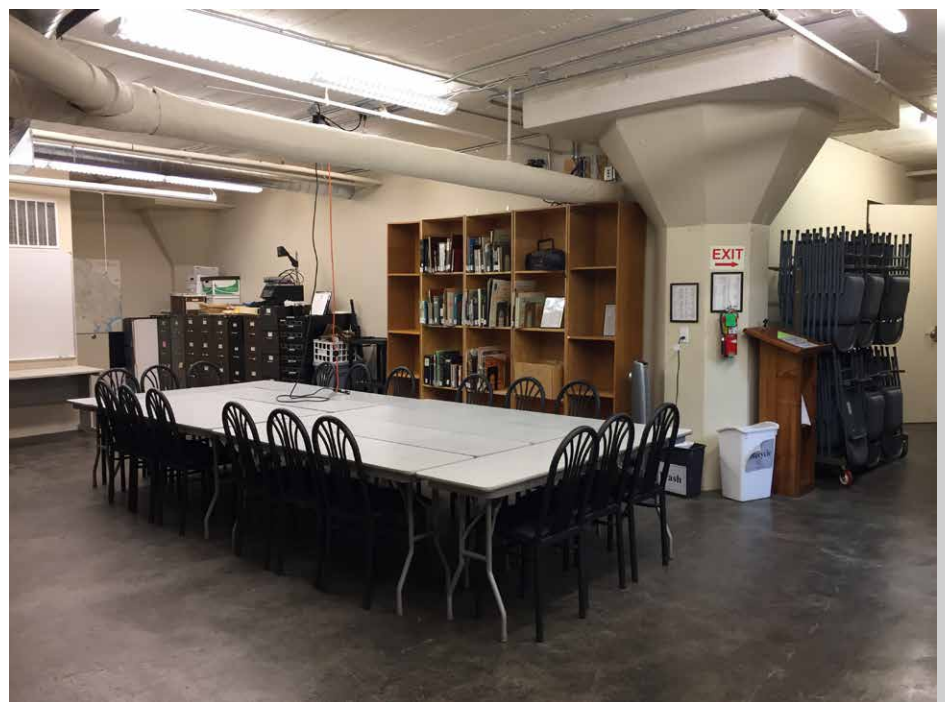


Board, and the changes were implemented very ably by Jerry McGarvin, our facilities manager, with a big push from the many volunteers on #givingTuesday on November 29th. The project was finished more than two months ahead of the planned schedule, and we were all so amazed and pleased by how quickly the project was accomplished. If you have been to the GFO Library in the past month or so, some of those changes are immediately obvious.

Here are the primary changes, both big and small, about which you should be aware:

1. The microfilm cabinets have been moved from the back of the library to the front where they are all together, and they are now close to the microfilm readers.
2. The city directories, which were in the space where the microfilm now reside, have been moved back along the same wall to make room for the microfilm cabinets.

3. Nanci Remington volunteered overtime to box all the manuscript material stored in file cabinets in the multi-purpose room and the file cabinets were given a new home. The manuscripts were moved to shelves specifically built for them in the GFO office.
4. The map cabinet has been moved from the back of the library to the south side of the brick wall where it fits perfectly. In addition, the very large map books that used to be in that space are now in the Oversized Rare Books section.
5. One shelf unit was relocated and there is now a walkway on the west side of the brick wall so people can move between the shelves with ease.
6. Books for the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska) have been moved to the east side of the brick wall (previously mostly the British Isles and New England) closest to the research area and the front desk so they are more easily accessible. Although the GFO is very proud of our broad, international collections, many people come into the library specifically for our Pacific Northwest collection. It has always been near the front, but now it is truly front and center.
7. The shelves for the oversized books have shifted from their old end-cap location to a wall in the multi-purpose room, and Jerry McGarvin has built a couple matching shelf units to join them.



8. Thanks to your generous donations, new shelves were purchased, and Jerry installed them as soon as they were delivered.
9. All the books in the library have been either shifted slightly or relocated completely.

We want to thank Rose City Moving and Storage for the loan of their “book carts on steroids” which made the whole process easier.

Volunteers and patrons have provided very positive feedback about the reorganization, although it will take a little adjustment for those accustomed to finding things where they were located before the move. We hope you appreciate the changes the next time you visit the library. Of course, if there is anything you have trouble finding, be sure to ask any of our volunteers for help.



GFO March 2017 Open House!

**Sunday March 19 –
DNA Day!**

9am: Convincing Family and Strangers to Test and Why

10:30am: The Four Autosomal DNA Testing Companies

12:30pm: Examples of How Autosomal DNA Testing Solved Genealogical Problems

2pm: GEDmatch

3:30pm: Q and A