Michigan Academic Library Reopening Plans

To share plans for reopening Michigan Academic Libraries

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What is the anticipated opening date for the library building(s) at your institution?: August 17, 2020

What changes (if any) have been made to the library building(s) and/or procedures to slow down the spread of COVID-19?: Removed chairs to form 6-foot distancing; removed keyboards/mice from public computers (will check out, then clean); set up a 4-cart quarantine for four days delay in reshelving; plexiglass barriers at Circ and Ref Desk; floor and chair stickers to promote social distancing; closed the stacks (library people will retrieve books); Campus Facilities provides hand sanitizer stations, Virex and paper towels, but no gloves. We received about 20 paper masks for emergencies. Still debating how to handle the printer-release stations, that is a major business spot in the library.

Additional information that you would like to share with fellow library colleagues as your library building(s) reopen:: Need to train and remind staff about not interacting closely like before; have a new crop of student help that will require training; have to figure out how to engage staff but not everyone in the library at the same time; did not get much direction from administration, as they were more concerned with classrooms and student dormitories; Grad classes will be 100% online, and some Undergrad will be online while others will be hybrid or on-ground.
We have trimmed our hours but hope to expand them slightly as the weeks go on; No weekends at the moment but probably will add later. Not sure about after Thanksgiving, going totally online then, how shall the library operate...same hours, or fewer hours? We do have a shared chat service and will continue that via increased hours online.

If you would like, you can also upload a PDF of your reopening plan here (if it is more than one file, please send additional files by email to heather@miala.org): -no file-

I approve that this information will be shared on a public web page.: Yes

Additional comments that you would like included:: Many of the Michigan pronouncements on how to handle COVID or how to re-open have dealt with public libraries, it would be good if academic, medical, and archives could get some direction too. Some libraries are being over-extreme, while others (like our library) may not be extreme enough. The big confusion is in capacity: how do we count if there is no posted number at the library entrance?