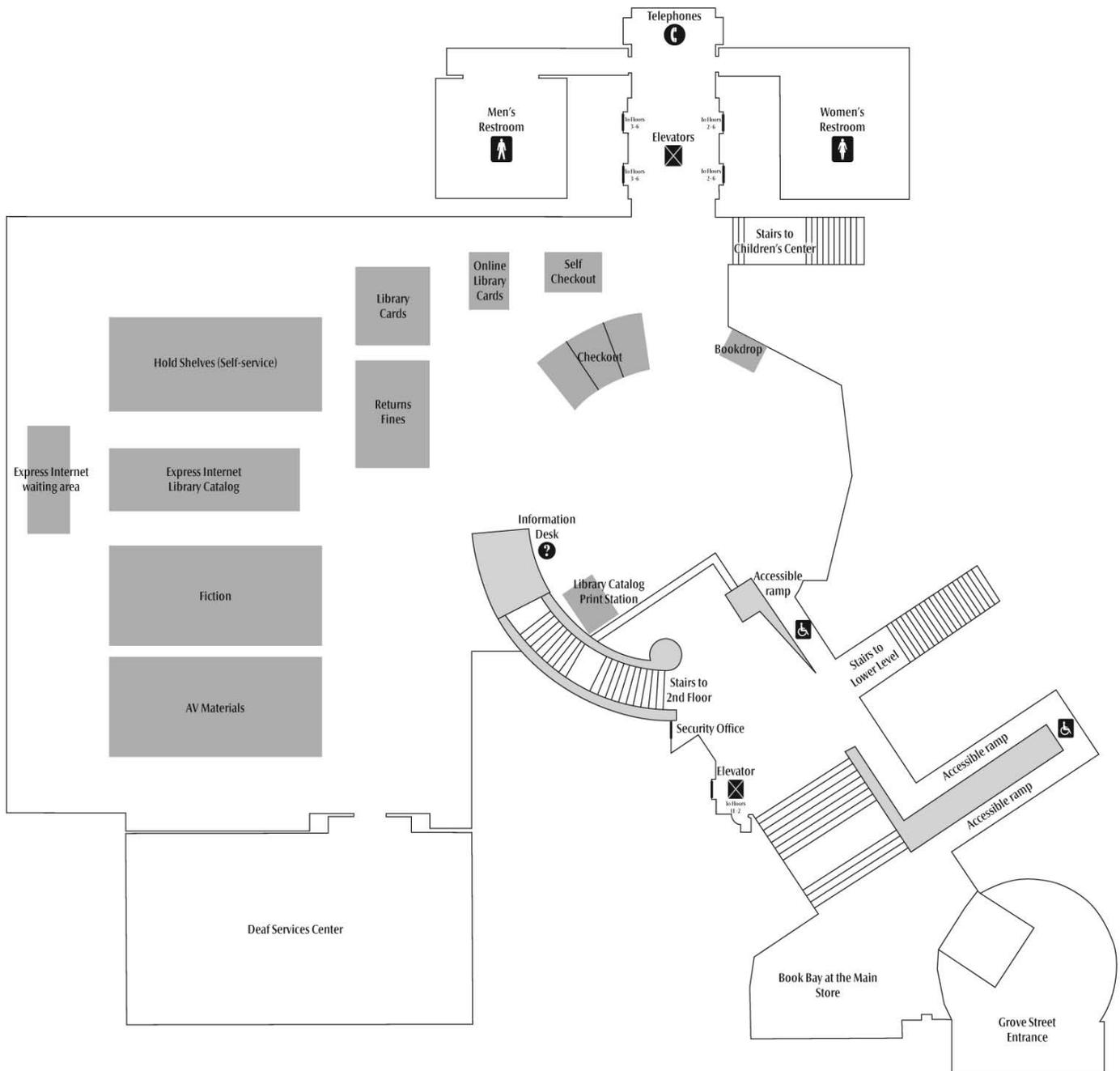




San Francisco Public Library

1st FLOOR RENOVATION

Building Better Services for San Francisco



1st FLOOR RENOVATION: Building Better Services for San Francisco

The first floor of the Main Library is undergoing a major renovation. The eight-month-long project, which will be completed in two phases, will make more books available to patrons, improve customer service and enhance the overall visitor experience at the Main.

First-phase improvements include: a new multi-function Borrower Services desk that can handle everything from checkout to fine payments to library card issuance; an automated sorting system for faster processing of materials; renovated restrooms; enhancements to the building's plumbing, heating, ventilation, electrical and mechanical systems; and new flooring.

During the first phase of construction, the Borrower Services area will be temporarily relocated in front of the Holds shelves. The Audiovisual Center, with a reduced collection of DVDs, VHS feature films, music CDs and audiobooks, will be temporarily relocated to the Steve Silver Beach Blanket Babylon Room on the fourth floor. Nonfiction and international films on VHS will continue to be housed on the first floor. The listening and viewing stations will be temporarily discontinued during construction. New, permanent self-check equipment will be installed mid-January throughout the building, as well as on the first floor.

The second phase, which begins in June, will include the relocation of all general fiction, large print, mysteries, science fiction and westerns from the third to the first floor. The First Stop browsing area on the first floor will be permanently removed and general fiction will be relocated to that area. Mysteries, science fiction and westerns will be housed in space behind the Express Internet waiting area, previously used by the Technical Services department (Technical Services moved to a new location in May 2005). New adult nonfiction previously in First Stop will be housed on floors three through five, depending on subject, while a selection of new adult nonfiction will be available on the first floor.

The new, larger combined area will make three times as many materials readily available to patrons. Previously, these materials were housed in closed stacks due to space limitations. Other improvements include the installation of a new Information Services desk, more computers and new seating and floor covering.

The Main Library will remain open during all phases of construction and most services will continue.

The renovation is the result of recommendations from the 2000 Main Library Post Occupancy Evaluation (POE) report, the Library's management team, the City's Bureau of Architecture and the Main's first floor library staff. The new Main Library opened in 1996.