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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TEMPORARY LOCATIONS FOR BOOTH LIBRARY IDENTIFIED

CHARLESTON -- Five temporary locations have been identified for the relocation of Eastern Illinois University's Booth Library, which will undergo a more than \$17 million state-funded renovation and expansion beginning May 1999.

As the university's largest academic building serving more than 20,000 users each week, Booth Library requires relocation space in more than one location to accommodate the university's needs, according to a seven-member Booth Library Planning Committee.

The committee has spent months studying areas of campus that could be used to relocate the library during its extensive renovation expected to be completed in August 2001.

"Eastern has no space designated to serve as a temporary relocation for campus operations displaced by construction, so we have had to use our ingenuity to develop solutions for storing the library's more than 1 million printed volumes, 1.5 million microforms and 225 computers, and to accommodate 65 staff," said Ted Weidner, director of Facilities Planning and

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Management and a member of the library planning committee.

The locations that have been identified to serve the campus for the library relocation include an off-campus facility, for which rental negotiations are underway, and four on-campus facilities. On-campus facilities include the Gallery area of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union; Gregg Triad, which will also house a new 24-hour computer lab; new shell space to be constructed in the area of the Facilities Planning and Management complex west of O'Brien Stadium; and portions of McAfee Gymnasium, which will house the bulk of library user services.

Some classes and large program spaces in McAfee will be temporarily relocated to accommodate the library's need for space. Representatives from academic affairs, deans and facilities planners are discussing the best way to maintain faculty offices in the building while assuring library security.

Several of the temporary locations will house closed book stacks from which library materials will be retrieved for users by library staff.

"Many details remain to be discussed and resolved," said Allen Lanham, dean of library services, who also serves on the library planning committee. "As additional information becomes available, the library will make announcements so the campus community is aware and prepared for this significant construction project that will make Eastern better."

The renovation and expansion of Booth Library will modernize existing facilities, provide better work spaces for patrons and staff and bring about clearer traffic patterns between various sections of the library.