

Student 'deluge' hails Noble Library's debut; head praises facility

TEMPE — With a "deluge" of students coming in the first day, the long-awaited science-and-engineering library at Arizona State University opened this week.

The Daniel E. Noble Science and Engineering Library, the opening of which was postponed from last year because of a lack of funding, opened Monday after a brief ceremony.

It was as if students couldn't wait for the ceremony to end so they could begin studies, librarian Vladimir Borovansky said.

"There was a deluge of people the very first day," he said. "There was a lot of interest and curiosity, but most had a serious interest in its use for their studies."

The three-story, 98,000-square-foot facility cost \$7 million. It will house 350,000 books, 700,000 microform units and 150,000 maps.

In addition, it will have on file patents from the Office of Patents in Washington, D.C. Besides the Noble Library, the nearest patent deposit is Los Angeles or Denver, Borovansky said.

The library is among the best in the nation for science and engineering, Borovansky said.

"We visited several libraries leading up to our opening," he said. "We looked at several in California. At this moment, this is one of the most modern science-and-engineering libraries. There is nothing comparable."

It is the first library constructed at ASU since Hayden Library, the university's primary library, was completed in 1966. The Noble Library has been in the planning stages since 1969.

"We have been looking forward to this for a very long time," said Borovansky, who was the science librarian at Hayden the past several years. "We were all disappointed last year, especially the people who were planning to use it."

Because of a mandate last year from Gov. Bruce Babbitt that state agencies cut their budgets by 10 percent, funding was not available to open the library on schedule. There reportedly was no money to pay staff salaries and the utility bills that the library would have generated.

Nearly a complete floor of the five-floor Hayden Library became vacant once science and engineering books were transferred to Noble.