Adjusting Law Library indoor temperatures

Mary Clemence, 4-15-04

Spring:

Background: Air Conditioning is usually available sometime in late April or May. Until then, we can change the quantity of air coming in from outside and add or decrease heat along the main lightwell, but we can’t add cooling. Outside temps vary considerably in this season and it’s harder to keep indoor temps comfortable. The Reading Room is on a different system and may be more comfortable than the subs.

If patrons ask why we can’t “just turn on the a/c”, you may want to explain that they can’t begin to prepare the cooling towers and chillers until nights are regularly above freezing, and the process takes a couple of days for each building on campus. So we will get a/c as soon as they can deliver it, but we usually have a few warm spells before it’s ready.

People are too cold: set public thermostats at 72 and err slightly on the + side. Less outside air will come in everywhere and heat will increase along the main lightwell and flow towards the stack areas.
- Suggest people move to seats at the main lightwell or possibly the Reading Room.
- Don’t set the stat too high or it will get stuffy and people will get sleepy.

People are too warm: set public thermostats at 68 and err slightly on the – side. If it’s warm outside, the air coming in will be warm, but the increased air flow should make it less stuffy than otherwise.
- Areas along the main lightwell can get very warm on warm sunny afternoons. Suggest people move to the small lightwell, tables closer to the stacks or possibly the Reading Room.
- If the nights are still chilly, people may get too cold in the evening. In that case, you may have to adjust the stats again.

Changing the settings: The setting is displayed in the bottom window of the thermostat. Turn the ridged wheel on the underside of the stat to change the setting. The top window shows the temperature reading.

Most important stats: stats along the main lightwell and near the bathrooms and elevator are easy to find. Adjusting these on all 3 floors will affect heat coming in, and may be enough unless people are really cold or really warm. Start with these. There are stats on the columns towards the back of each level but they will be harder to find and they don’t affect the heat, just air flow.

Please avoid: the temptation to set the stats more than a degree or two outside the 68 to 72 range. If you set them at extremes the system will ignore them. If people are too warm and stats are already set at 68, you can try 66 but it may not help much.

Incident report: if you change the settings please complete an incident report and let us know which stats you changed and how much it helped.