

An architectural rendering of a new brick building addition to a campus. The building is multi-story with a mix of brick and glass. It features a large green roof section and a courtyard area with trees and a paved walkway. The text 'Bookstore warehouse adds addition' is overlaid in large white letters.

Bookstore warehouse adds addition

An architect's rendering shows the design of the bookstore addition.

The JCCC Bookstore is a page-turner. Its newest and most obvious chapter is a 5,000-square-foot addition, due for completion in October 2010. The addition provides much needed warehouse space on the southwest corner of the Student Center that will double the number of buyback and reservation pickup windows from four to eight and create a flexible public-use space with seating and WiFi accessibility.

The eight windows and seating area will also be available for Student Services use, such as enrollment and financial aid overflow, or other special college programming needs, according to Chris Worthington, bookstore manager. The convertible public space also adds another study space for students in the Student Center.

“We have been advocating for a warehouse addition for the last four years. Increased enrollment and related sales, coupled with expanded customer service offerings, have created a logjam for our buyers and inventory specialists, who have done an incredible job making use of the original warehouse footprint. The store’s annual sales have increased from \$4 million in 1999 to more than \$8 million in 2009,” Worthington said.

Designed by PGAV Architects, the warehouse will have an exterior of campus-standard brick and a glass-and-brick architectural accent at the public-use area. Cost of the bookstore warehouse is approximately \$2 million, funded by a Postsecondary Educational Institution loan fund from the state of Kansas.

Worthington says that the days of the traditional bookstore are over, given the array of online sales, order reservations, ebooks, textbook rentals, computer hardware and software sales and services now available.



Present conditions in the warehouse are crowded.

Three years ago, the bookstore filled 200 online orders, either to be picked up at the bookstore or shipped to students. By fall 2009, online orders increased to more than 2,000. While online reservations helped ease congestion on the sales floor during the traditional back-to-school rush (when it is not unusual to process 30,000 transactions), it added to the warehouse congestion as the bookstore processed higher volumes of inbound and outbound freight and other product traffic. In addition to providing the main JCCC campus needs, the bookstore also handles the ordering, receiving and redistribution of all College Now course materials to participating high schools and provides related services to the college’s satellite locations.

With technology now intertwined with course materials, consumer technology has been a rapid growth area and another rationale for the new warehouse. The computer department has moved from a small corner with limited software selections to a highly visible storefront location with expanded software, hardware and related accessories. JCCC’s Bookstore’s Technology Center is one of only a few community colleges fully certified as an Apple sales and service center. They will also be adding Dell, HP and other PC brands to their mix. The new warehouse will provide additional secure technology storage and the opportunity for an interior store modification that creates a clean, secure technology service space adjacent to the expanded technology sales area.

Other innovations for the bookstore include upcoming textbook rental trial and expanding ebook programs, the store’s recycling and sustainability efforts (including a new funding source for the Foundation Book scholarship) and collaboration with the Library to provide textbooks on reserve. ■