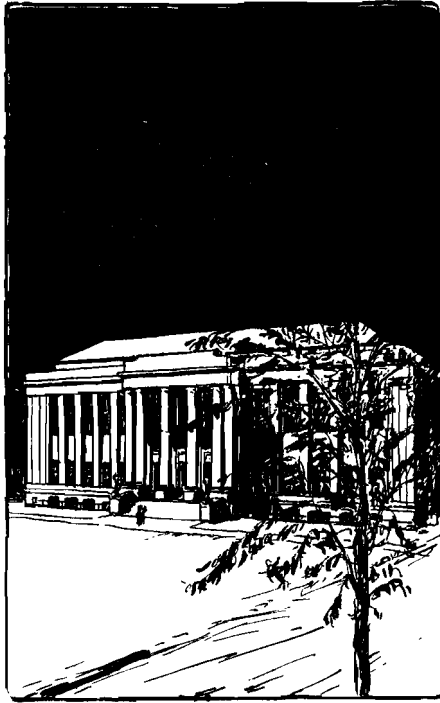
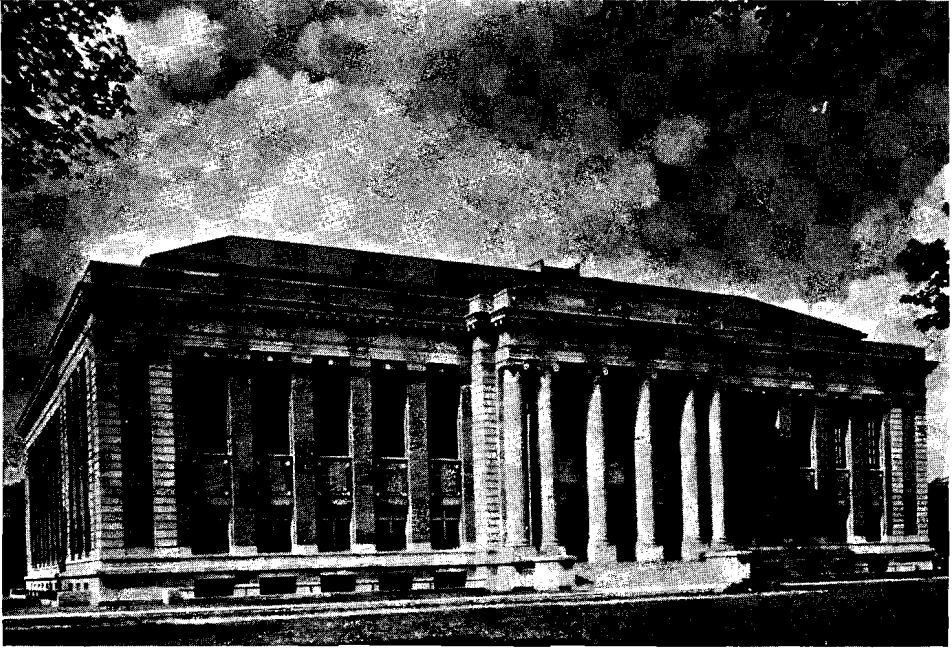


THE LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, JULY 1, 1925



THE LIBRARY BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The present Library Building of the University of Minnesota is the third in which the library has been located. The first effective use of the library really begins with the administration of Dr. William Watts Folwell as first president and librarian of the University, in 1867. From 1867 to 1895 the Library was located in a room in Old Main, the original university building, which stood on the site of Alice Shevlin Hall. In 1895 it was moved to the "Old Library" where it shared quarters with the administrative offices and several teaching departments of the University. In 1924 the present building was completed and the library was moved into it during the months of July and August. A rather interesting feature of the moving was the absence of any break in the library service during the moving, although the Summer School was in active session during the entire moving period.

The plans of the building were drawn by C. H. Johnston & Company, state architects, on suggestions from Mr. James T. Gerould, university librarian, from 1907 to 1920 and Mr. James H. Forsythe, professor of architecture and consulting architect to the University. The permanent fixtures, including the delivery desks, the lighting fixtures, and all the decorative features, were also designed by the state architect. Many details of the Reference and Circulation departments were developed by Miss Ina Firkins, reference librarian, who served as acting librarian in 1920-21. Later changes in detail were made by Frank K. Walter, university librarian since September, 1921. The Library Committee of the University Senate, headed by Dean Guy Stanton Ford of the Graduate School, were active in their advice and assistance throughout the entire period of construction. Ground was first broken for the building in June, 1922. The cornerstone was laid May 17, 1923. The formal dedication was on October 31, 1924, with President Emeritus Folwell presiding and Dean Frederick J. E. Woodbridge, of Columbia College, the chief speaker.

The building is 200 feet long by 180 feet wide and 71 feet high from ground level to roof. It is built, in the Roman Renaissance style, of faced brick with Bedford limestone trimmings. The corridors and the walls of the large reading rooms are of Mankato travertine, a Minnesota stone. The stairs and corridor are of Tennessee marble or of mosaic, with mosaic borders. The pillars in the main corridors and the cleaning strips are of green alpine marble. The reading room and upper corridor floors are of linotile. The workrooms and smaller study and seminar rooms are covered with brown battleship linoleum.



MAIN READING ROOM

This is the center of the general reference work of the library (see plan of second floor, p. 9). The table lights were installed after this picture was taken.

The ventilating system, the elevators, and the windows in the large reading rooms are electrically controlled. The ventilating system is divided into sixteen units, all of which can be operated separately or in connection with any of the others. The reading room lights are semi-indirect for general illumination and, except for the Reserve Reading Room, controlled by several unit switches for each room. The large reading rooms have X-ray table trough lights (indirect), with general and individual switch controls.

There are four floors (the top one unfinished except for the library bindery quarters) and a sub-basement. Sketch plans of the four principal floors with a descriptive note on each are included in this booklet. The front of the building faces east.

The stack is twelve levels (95 feet) high. It was built by the General Fireproofing Company, after the Hine Patents. The aisle floors are of Kasota marble. The stack is painted a battleship gray and lighted by holophane reflecting globes at intervals of six feet. It varies somewhat in floor area on the various levels, but averages about 60 by 97 feet. The eight upper levels are finished. The lower four (three of which are below ground level) are finished only as to the structural parts. The uprights, shelves, and aisles can be added at any time in such quantities as necessity dictates and finances permit. The theoretical capacity of the finished portion is between 750,000 and 800,000 volumes. The unfinished stack and unoccupied space in the stack portions, basement, and sub-basement should accommodate about as many more. Nearly a half-million others could be put in dead storage in remaining parts of the sub-basement.

Aside from the large reading room tables, the movable furniture is of standard stock patterns to permit greater convenience and economy in replacements and additions.

The total cost of the building inclusive of the stack was \$1,388,421. The cost of new equipment, renovating, and installing salvaged equipment and minor modifications in the building was about \$68,000. Practically the entire movable equipment of the old Library Building was absorbed in equipping the new quarters.

The total cataloged collection of the University Library at present (July, 1925) numbers about 435,000 volumes. Of these about 320,000 volumes are in the main building. The Law Library (40,213 volumes), Agricultural Library (36,100 volumes), Engineering Library (19,000 volumes), Chemistry (6,815 volumes), Mines (7,600) and several smaller departmental work collections aggregating about 7,000 volumes are not in the main building.

The library is notable chiefly for its balanced collection and its high ratio of utility rather than for many special collections. Among the latter is an excellent collection on seventeenth century English history. This includes an unusually large number of rare English Civil War newspapers, many of them the gift of Mr. Herschel V. Jones. There is an excellent botanical collection and good collections in biology and medicine. Many periodical sets and sets of transactions and proceedings have been purchased in all departments the past few years. The Scandinavian countries are very well represented in literature and history especially in so far as their European aspects are concerned. The fine collection of the Minnesota Historical Society admirably supplements the University Library, especially in American history, including Scandinavian-American material.

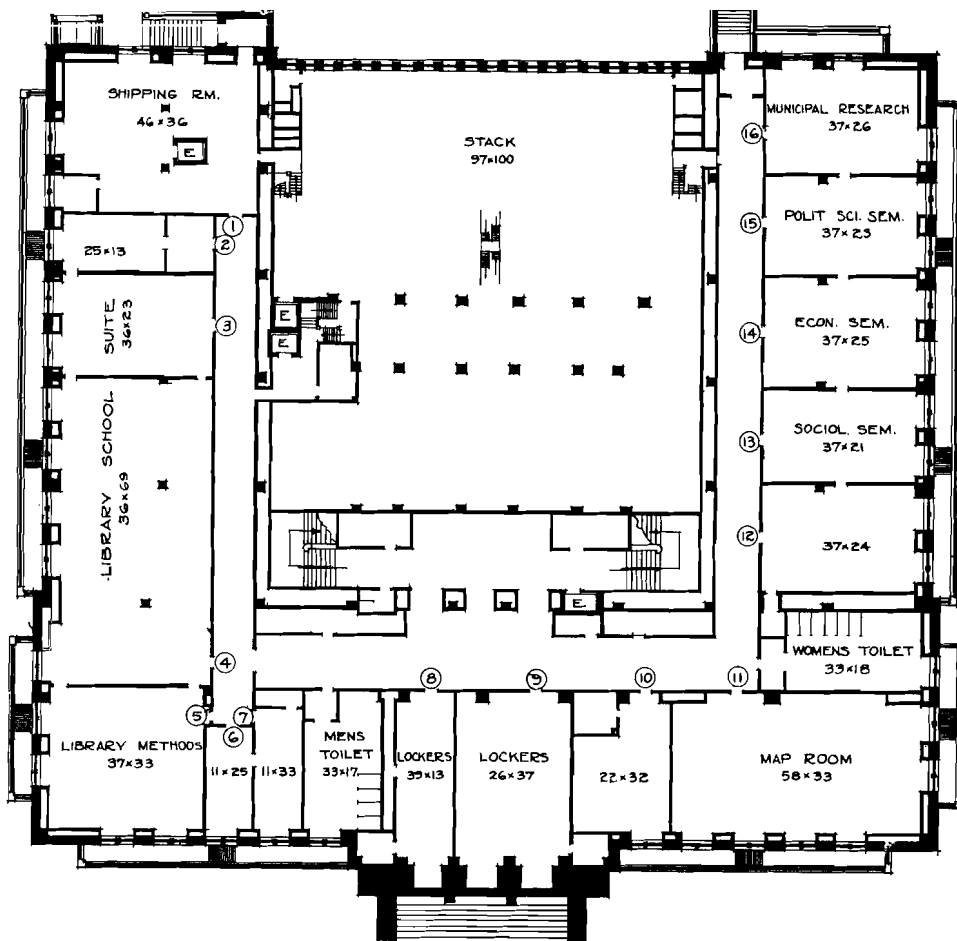
The Arthur Upson Room is one of the best, both in the matter of furnishing and of books, of the rooms devoted to personal reading in college or university libraries. It is a memorial to a poet of great promise, an alumnus of, and an instructor in, the University, who died early in his literary career.

The library maintains its own bindery with a staff of eight. There are forty-nine full-time employees on the regular library staff. The number of part-time employees (including pages and student assistants) varies, but usually averages about forty during the regular academic year.

Although the building contains rooms planned for library school purposes no professional courses in library training are yet given except a special course for Hospital Library Service offered to students with at least four years' combined training in college and library school. Two courses in Library Methods are offered, as a part of the curriculum of the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts, by members of the library staff. They are a course in the Use of Books and Libraries (for freshmen and sophomores) and a Bibliographical Seminar (open to seniors and graduate students). A *Library Handbook* including all the essential library rules and directions for the use of the library is issued each year for student use.

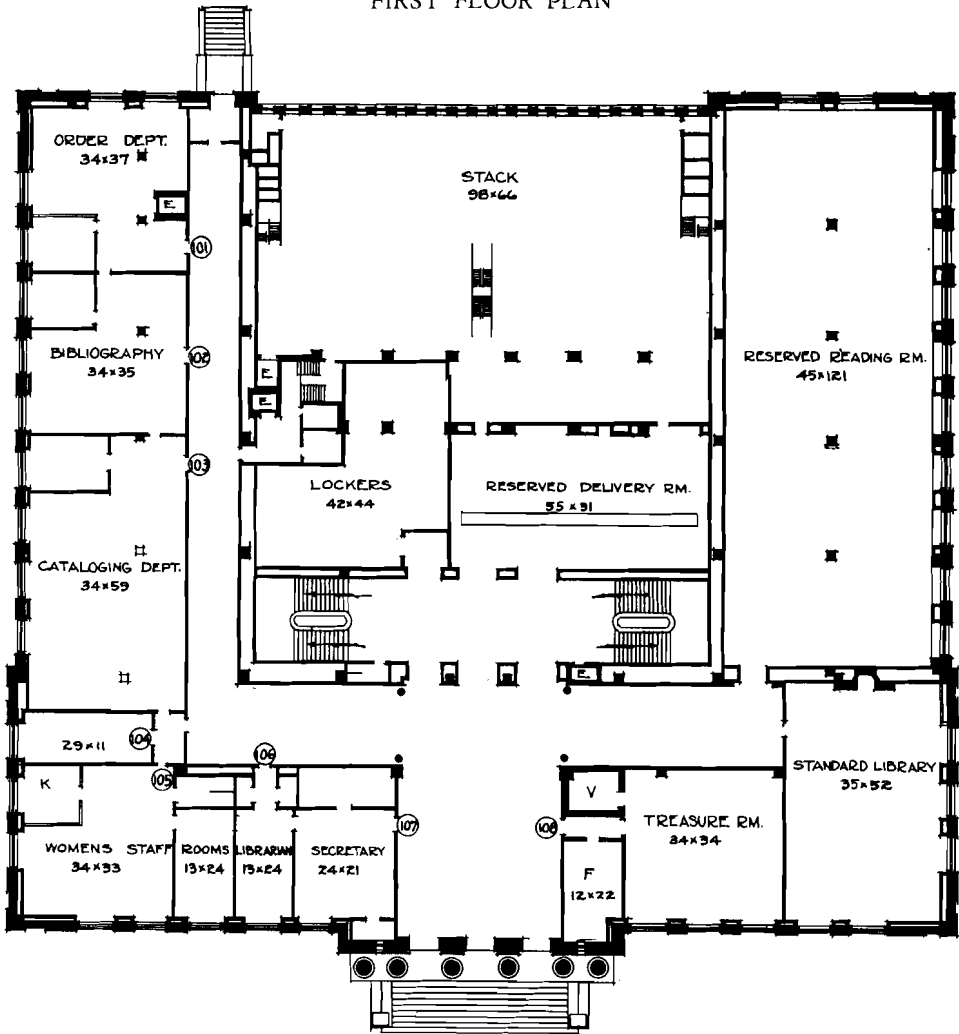
FLOOR PLANS

BASEMENT PLAN



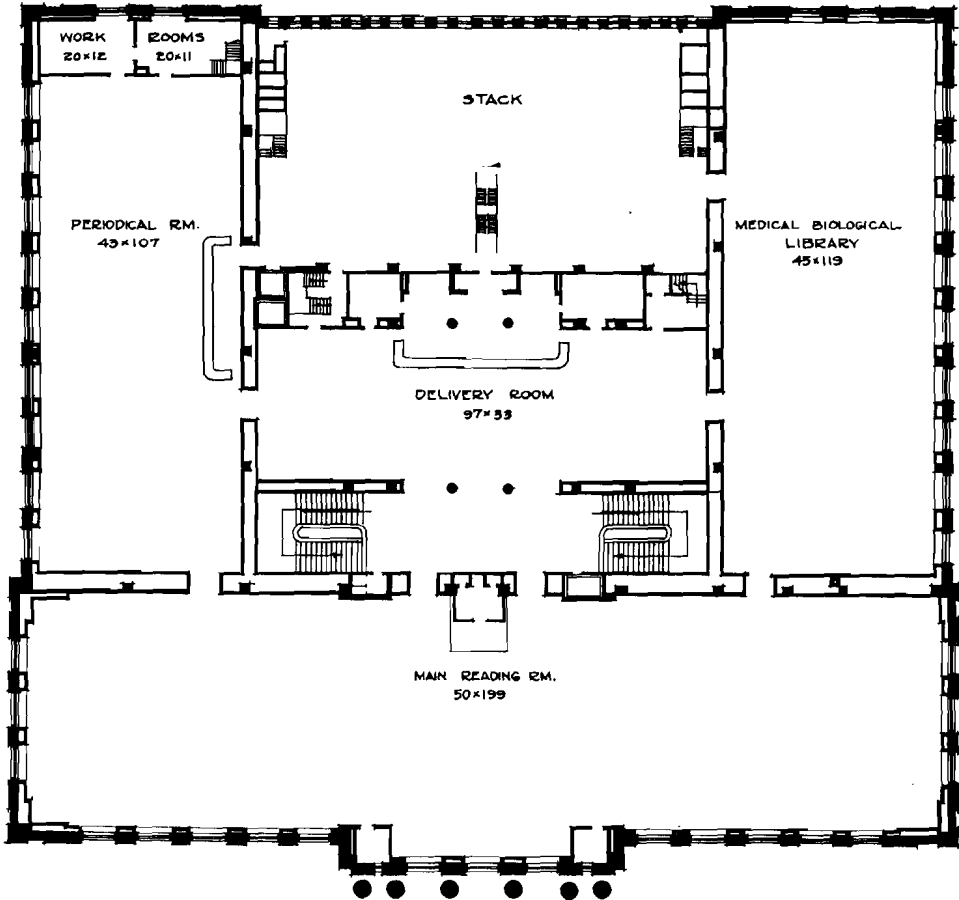
In addition to a large part of the unfinished and vacant stack area, the basement contains many service rooms. The rooms on the plan are marked with their proposed ultimate use. At present the locker rooms and the Library School study hall (Room 4) are used for storage and sorting of a large accumulation of duplicate material. Library Methods classes are conducted in Room 5. The Holway Botanical Library and collection is temporarily in Room 2. Room 12 is temporarily a class discussion room for graduate seminars in the Social Sciences group. A partition has recently been thrown across the corridor between Rooms 10 and 11 to restrict unauthorized access through the left door at the rear. The newspaper collection is in a temporary stack in the sub-basement underneath the Map Room (11)

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



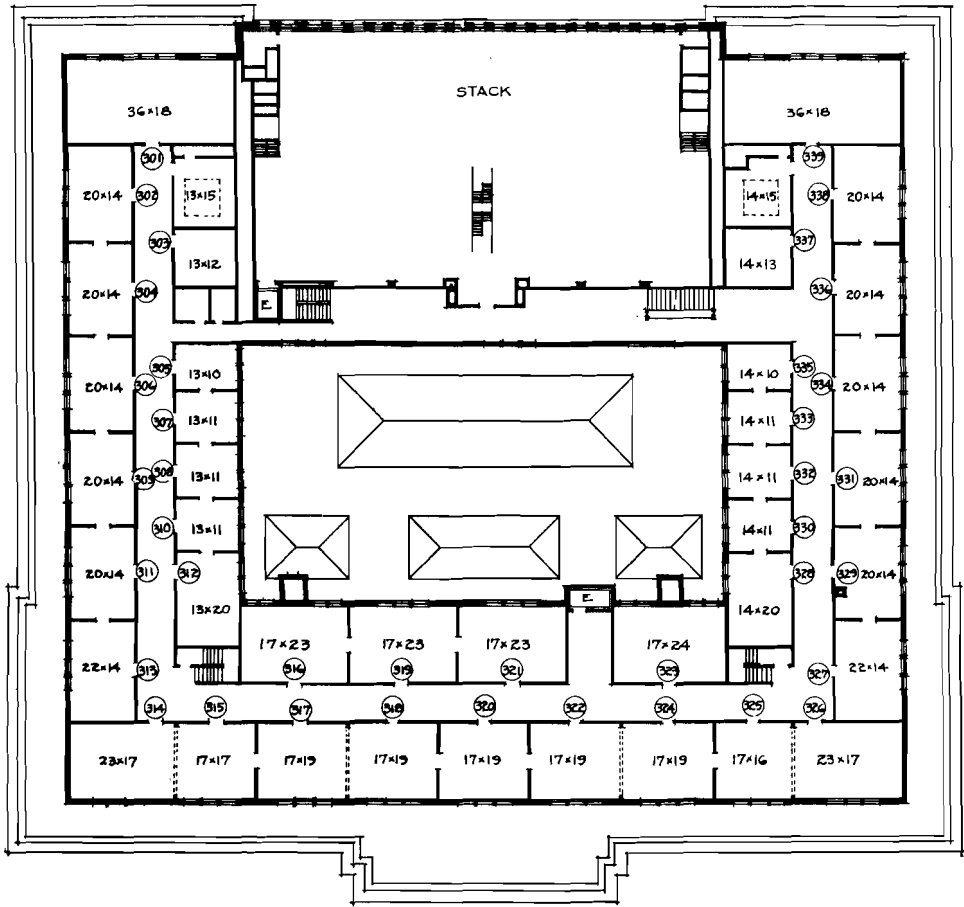
This floor is occupied by the administrative offices, the rooms for especially valuable books (*V* is a vault, and *F* a room for large folios), the Arthur Upson Room (the Standard Library or Browsing Room) and the Reserved Reading Room with present seating accommodations for about 275 readers. Seats for 50 more can be provided. Books are returned through a slide (not shown in the plan) at the right of the delivery desk. The architect has provided doors at the right, in front of the delivery desk although, through an error of the draftsman, they are not shown on the plan. The locker room is a general university enterprise. Individual lockers are rented to students. The library conducts no check room service.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



The second floor is entirely occupied by the General Reading Room (440 seats with room for about 100 more); the Periodical Reading Room (180 seats); the Biological Medical Reading Room (180 seats) and the Circulation Department. At the rear of the Periodical Room are rooms and a mezzanine stack for unbound periodicals with a capacity of several thousand volumes. The left of these is now the office of Dr. W. W. Folwell, president emeritus, and president (1867-88) and librarian (1867-1907) of the University. At the rear of each stack level, accessible through the Circulation Desk (40 ft. 6 in. in length) on permit, is a system of carrels or cubicles, assignable to individuals for limited periods for definite pieces of research or curriculum development. The card catalog is in the south end of the main lobby. Provision for another unit of equal size at the other end has been made. The Circulation Desk and Catalog are lighted by a skylight.

THIRD (FIRST ROOFHOUSE) PLAN



This floor is devoted to graduate and advanced study. The outer suites of rooms are each used for book collections in related groups of subjects. In the front suite (Rooms 314-26) are Education and Psychology; on the south (Rooms 302-13) Literature; and on the north (Rooms 327-38) History and Geography. Rooms 301, 302, 316, 319, 321, 328, and 329 are at present used for advanced seminar discussions. This floor is accessible by stairway and by a public electric automatic elevator. Admittance to the rooms is granted (except to members of the faculty) only by permit. The inner suites (Rooms 305-10, 330-35) are individual studies assigned for limited periods to faculty members preparing some definite work for publication or to visiting scholars. None are available for administrative offices. The inner rooms are lighted from the well above the second floor skylight.

Above this floor is a floor occupied on the south by the library bindery. The east and north sides are unfinished and are at present used for storage. Thirteen studies or a smaller number of seminar rooms can be finished here when needed, leaving a large area of unfinished storage space.

THE ARTHUR UPSON ROOM



The fittings, furniture, and books of this room were given to the University Library as a memorial to Arthur Upson, an alumnus and a member of the English faculty, who died in 1908, almost at the beginning of a most promising poetical career. The furniture and decorations are Italian Renaissance and with the exception of a few antique pieces are of special design. The room is devoted entirely to private reading. No books except those with marked literary value are on the shelves. The range of subjects is wide and the collection of nearly 3,000 volumes includes books and subjects suited to almost every type of cultivated taste. No textbooks, newspapers, or notebooks are permitted in the room and no conversation is allowed. A fund for additions to the collection has been provided by the donor of the other equipment of the room. Since the formal dedication of the room, February 21, 1925, the number of readers using it and the genuine interest shown in voluntary reading of high grade have been most gratifying.

THE OLD LIBRARY

(See back cover page.)

This building, completed in 1895, was the home of the University Library until 1924. The library originally occupied only the central portion of the building, the major portion being used for the president's office, the registrar, and numerous other administrative offices; the chapel (which later became the Reserve Reading Room and is now restored to its original use as an auditorium); and several departments of instruction which occupied the offices and classrooms in the four corner sections. Gradually the library pushed out many of these. Upon the removal of the books and the library activities the building became solely an administrative headquarters and recitation hall except for the Old Main Reading Room which has been retained as a study hall seating about 150 students. Since its erection this building has been the administrative center of the campus. When the new Administration Building is occupied in July, 1925, the administrative center will shift to it and the Old Library will, with the exception of the study hall, become a recitation hall with faculty offices for the Departments of History, Political Science, Geography, and the College of Education.

