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MINNESOTA. UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES

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TOWARD THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

MINNESOTA. UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES

Among American institutions of higher education the University of Minnesota has long ranked at near the top in total enrollment. Its library holdings also place it among the great research libraries of the United States. The student body, now on several campuses, exceeds 50,000. Library resources include over 3,500,000 volumes in traditional formats, plus more than 80,000 reels of microfilm, 102,000 microcards, 320,000 microprint sheets, and 337,000 microfiches, as well as uncatalogued government publications and archival collections.

It was in 1851, when what later became the state of Minnesota was still very largely an uncharted Indian wilderness, that the Territorial Legislature voted to establish a "university." Little could these early pioneers have foreseen that this fledgling enterprise would, a century later, become one of the nation's leading centers for teaching, research, and public service. Indeed, in the year of its founding, only the ardent believed that it could "last until spring." (1)

The facade of Cyrus Northrop Memorial Auditorium, which overlooks and dominates the central mall on the Minneapolis campus, is inscribed with the following words, which epitomize the spirit of the university:

"FOUNDED IN THE FAITH THAT MEN ARE ENNOBLED BY UNDERSTANDING
DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING AND THE SEARCH FOR
TRUTH, DEVOTED TO THE INSTRUCTION OF YOUTH AND THE WELFARE
OF THE STATE."

It is through many decades of unrelenting struggle to implement this ideal, by Presidents, Deans and other administrative officers, faculty members, and legislators who believed in the university, that the University of Minnesota has become the institution it is today.

University and Library History

The first, faltering years following 1851, when the territorial legislators elected a Board of Regents to establish a "Preparatory Department" for a university were inauspicious at best. The selection of a site for the proposed school met with hostility from the settlers, and Governor Alexander Ramsey's opposition to the "extravagance" of the venture delayed construction and opening of the first building until 1858. Then, when the Principal ruled against the "admission of females," a brief but stormy controversy arose; but he backed down, and "women's lib" prevailed. However, the school never gained public support, and it had to close after six months. By 1861, the generally precarious state of the economy, the impoverished condition of the populace, and their preoccupation with the War Between the States and Indian uprisings forced the entire operation into insolvency; and "Old Main" stood empty and exposed to the elements, "a refuge for squatters...all the doors being open and the snow drifted in" (2) for several years.

The rescue of the university dream from a permanent eclipse

was due largely to the yeoman efforts of John Sargent Pillsbury, a far-sighted hardware merchant who later became governor of Minnesota. Appointed as a regent, Mr. Pillsbury, with untiring perseverance, cajoled the school's creditors and legislators (Minnesota had become a state in 1858) into giving the institution a second chance. By 1867 the preparatory school was able to reopen, with thirty-three students. Two years later the regents were ready to start a post-secondary program. To head the enterprise they attracted William Watts Folwell, a Hobart College graduate and teacher with unusually broad interests (Law, Middle Eastern Languages, Violin, and Sailing) to become the first President of the new university. On September 15, 1869 classes began, with 230 students in the Preparatory Department and fourteen of "collegiate" rank.

THE FOLWELL ERA (1869-1906)

At the outset, when the school reopened, as a "university," its "library" consisted of a 16-volume Appleton's Encyclopedia, a few dictionaries, a set of the Annals of Congress, ten volumes of Smithsonian Institution Reports, and a miscellaneous small collection of government documents. Additions to the library depended initially on gifts from legislators and other university friends. No regular funding was provided for continuing acquisitions. The books were kept in a small room on the top floor of the univer-

sity's only building, later known as "Old Main."

President Folwell, very fortunately, was a user of books and a firm believer in libraries. Soon after he took office a controversy arose over who should take charge of the collection. To resolve the matter, Folwell himself assumed the role of Librarian, a position he continued to hold not only throughout the fifteen years of his presidency, but also for another twenty-one years while he remained as Professor of Political Science, until 1906, the year before his retirement from the university.

This first phase of the library's history--the Folwell period--covering a span of 36 years, was one of constant struggle to overcome the horrendous inadequacies of the collections and to obtain funds for library purchases in competition with other rapidly escalating university needs. Although initially unsuccessful in getting legislative support for a regular book budget, President Folwell was from time to time able to solicit special grants to buy a number of good private libraries during the 1870's. By 1878 the collection numbered 13,000 volumes and the library began receiving \$1,000 a year to buy books.

In his inaugural address, in 1869, Folwell had cited the library as being--next to instruction--"the great interest" of the university. His reports include recurring requests for funds to meet increasing library needs, but it was not until the mid-1890's that he was able to bring its book budget up to \$6,000--or to ob-

tain support for a separate building to house the books and to provide more ample study space for readers.

In 1877 the Ariel, a monthly student paper, was begun; and its editors thereafter, for several years, published articles complaining about the library's deficiencies: inadequate collections, lack of seats, restrictive policies, book losses, and the need for a subject catalog. Early in his presidency Dr. Folwell had urged construction of suitable library facilities, but it was not until 1895 that new quarters finally became available. By that time the collections--including resources in more than a dozen departmental libraries--had grown to "about 40,000 volumes and 14,000 pamphlets."

The new building, later known as Burton Hall (see Figure 1) fell notably short of the kind of structure Folwell had urged. It presented an imposing, and massive "Greek Temple" exterior, but its inside design was segmented by a veritable maze of passageways dictated by its multi-purpose plan, which included, in addition to library space, central administrative and academic offices, recitation rooms, a chapel, and various departmental seminars.

Folwell had left the presidency in 1884, so in the planning for the building the library and its needs became overshadowed by those of other functions. When the new building opened, the librarian held his peace, but years later, after his retirement, Dr. Folwell wrote "...In 1895, scorning all professional counsel, the

Regents erected a library building violating every principle of library construction..." (3)

THE GEROULD AND WALTER YEARS (1906-1943)

By 1905 the library's holdings had reached 73,000 volumes, and more than twenty departmental libraries had emerged. The biennial legislative library request of the Board of Regents for that year included \$10,000 for books, \$3,000 for periodicals, binding, and incidental expenses, and \$5,000 to prepare a subject catalog. Dr. Folwell was then nearing retirement, and despite the dedication with which he had managed the library as an extra responsibility, the university urgently needed a full-time professional librarian to guide its further development. In 1906, to meet this need, the Regents appointed James Thayer Gerould, a former Columbia University Library department chief and later University of Missouri's head librarian, to the post, as Folwell's successor.

The fourteen years of the Gerould period brought a new era of expansion to the university library. By his vigorous efforts the book fund was soon increased to \$20,000, and he personally solicited gifts, purchased notable collections, and visited European dealers to acquire basic holdings, especially in Scandinavian materials and documents and sets of scholarly journals. He began to attract experienced librarians from other universities to develop quality reference services and more adequate bibliographical records. Among his staff members who later became known nationally

were: Minnie Earl Sears (Sears List of Subject Headings), Winifred Gregory (Union List of Serials), Ina Ten Eyck Firkins (Short-Story Index and Index of Plays), Donald B. Gilchrist (later Librarian at the University of Rochester), and Lawrence Heyl (who became Gerould's Associate Librarian at Princeton University). While at Minnesota Gerould began the administrative modernization of the library by organizing it into four strong departments (Order, Cataloging, Reference, and Loan) to divide staff responsibilities by function. He made some progress toward better coordination of departmental libraries which had grown irrationally before his time. And he actively worked to further cooperation with other libraries in the Twin Cities and the Midwest. By the end of World War I Gerould had persuaded the Regents and the Legislature to provide funds for a new, separate library building; but in 1920 he was called to become librarian of Princeton University, just as the new library was in the planning stage. When he left Minnesota the library collections had grown to 300,000 volumes.

In 1913 Dr. Guy Stanton Ford came from the University of Illinois to become Dean of the University's Graduate School and chairman of the newly established Library Committee. Under his leadership the committee, in its first year, developed a list of ten primary areas of library concern, and vigorously set out to develop recommendations with respect thereto. Dean Ford shared Gerould's determination to build collections of excellence for the

university; and throughout his tenure as head of the committee for the next 25 years he was a powerful spokesman for the library and its ever increasing needs. In 1938, when Ford became the university's sixth president, he continued to support library development as a high priority institutional concern among the many competing pressures for funds he received from the various schools, colleges, and academic departments.

Mr. Frank K. Walter, who replaced Mr. Gerould as University Librarian in 1921, had been Vice Director of the New York State (Albany) Library School and had taught Library Science at the University of Illinois and at Michigan. Perhaps even more than Gerould, Mr. Walter represented the true bibliophile-librarian; and until he retired in 1943 he assumed personal responsibility for developing, at Minnesota, the strongest collection of basic scholarly materials for which funds could be obtained. The depth and breadth of the University Library's holdings today are very largely the result of Mr. Walter's pursuit of excellence in striving to develop, at Minnesota, a research library of national stature. His priorities in building library holdings emphasized strong sets of scientific journals, academy and learned society publications, state, national, and foreign documents, and basic reference works, trade, national, and subject bibliographies, various specialized indexing and abstracting services, and unbroken files of great newspapers, both foreign and domestic. Be-

cause funds for acquisitions were difficult to obtain (as they had been throughout the Folwell and Gerould eras) Mr. Walter developed extensive world-wide exchange arrangements, to acquire important materials at relatively low cost to the library.

THE FRANK K. WALTER LIBRARY

In 1924 the new library building--which for the following 44 years served as the "Main Library" for the university--opened. (See figure 2). By today's concepts of functional planning, it is not a "good" building; but its monumental, gracious, classic design was highly applauded at the time. Its four large reading rooms, totaling 30,000 square feet, and its 12-story central stacks, were by any standard, impressive. And, with the rapid growth of collections and student enrollment immediately following World War I, it came none too soon.

In a souvenir booklet issued to commemorate the dedication of the library Mr. Gerould congratulated the university upon having a "library building that has no superior in the country." (4). With seats for 1,200 readers and a book capacity of 1,500,000 volumes no other library at the time could match it. Upper floors contained thirty-eight faculty studies, seminars and minor lecture rooms, and space was provided for a library bindery. Its high ceilings, bronze, grilled doors, cork floors, interior marble stairs and colonnaded pillars, its lofty, decorated ceilings, its sculptured entrance panels, and

its ornate, wrought iron reading room chandeliers, provided a rich atmospheric setting designed to reflect the high purposes of the building.

Like its predecessor, Burton Hall, this fine, new building became badly overcrowded sooner than its planners had expected. Nevertheless, it served well as the university's "Main Library" for forty years, from 1924 to 1968. Today it houses a College Library, The Education Library, departmental libraries for Art and Chemistry, University Archives, the Kerlan Collection, and the Library School. After his retirement, the university named this building the Frank K. Walter Library. During his twenty years as University Librarian the collections grew from 300,000 to 1,256,623 volumes.

THE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Frank K. Walter's second life-long interest, complimenting his bibliographic dedication, was library education. In 1922, shortly after his arrival at Minnesota, he started a course in "The Use of Books and Libraries." A great advocate of professional training, Mr. Walter pressed for permission to offer such instruction for Minnesota librarians; but it was not until 1928 that the Division of Library Instruction was established with the University Librarian as its director. In 1935 the division was accredited by the American Library Association. For its first 25 years the Division depended heavily on "volunteer" teachers from

the university library staff; but in 1953 it was reorganized as the University of Minnesota Library School, with a separate director and faculty, and the replacement of its undergraduate mission by a fifth year Masters Degree program. A doctoral program was added in 1969. The school's 1974-75 enrollment includes 135 graduate students.

THE MCDIARMID-STANFORD-HOPP PERIOD (SINCE 1943)

After the retirement of Frank K. Walter the rapid growth of the library organization forced upon his successors an increasing preoccupation with administrative matters. As New academic departments, research centers, and degree programs proliferated, demands developed for stronger resources, additional services, expanded physical facilities, and increased staff, and greater attention to problems of management became necessary. Whereas, until 1950 the librarian could work directly with the President or one of two university vice presidents (academic and financial) to present library needs, and get library problems quickly resolved, by 1970 it became necessary to deal with one or more of a half dozen new top administrators, not to mention various associate or assistant vice-presidents. The number of Deans and associate and assistant deans and administrative assistants also increased rapidly, to add to the complexity of university administrative intercourse. As the full-time library staff grew, from seventy-five in 1943, to 363 in 1973, organization and communication within the

library system itself became a major concern for the Director of Libraries.

In 1943, when Mr. Walter retired, ^{Dr.} Errett W. McDiarmid, from the faculty of the University of Illinois Library School, was recruited as University Librarian. Active in both campus and in national library affairs (he was President of the American Library Association 1948-49), McDiarmid soon won the respect of faculty and staff and began a successful program to upgrade the entire university library system. In 1951, however, he became Dean of the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts, and it fell to his successor, Edward B. Stanford, who had been his Assistant University Librarian since 1946, to carry the library development forward.

Dr. Stanford thereafter served as Director of University Libraries for twenty years, until 1971, when he resigned to give his full time to teaching in the Library School. Since 1971 Dr. Ralph H. Hopp, whom Stanford brought to Minnesota from the University of Nebraska in 1953, as his Associate Director, became the new head of the university library system.

During the Stanford administration many changes in the library's organization occurred. The four original library departments were reorganized to provide more direct lines of responsibility for several new administrative units that were created as the library's

functions expanded. Among those were subject divisions for Cataloging, Binding Preparations, a Government Publications Division, Business Operations, a Newspaper and Microform Room, Specialist Bibliographers, a College Library, several area or subject libraries, Interlibrary Loans, a Systems and Automation Division, a Map Library, and various new special collections.

The central administrative staff of the library system was increased by the addition of an Associate Director of Libraries, and Assistant Directors for Administration, for Processing, for Resources, and for Research and Development, as well as a Coordinator of Departmental Libraries.

During this period the University developed several branch or coordinate campuses--at Duluth, Morris, Waseca, and Crookston, Minnesota. The libraries serving these units are separately funded and report directly to their respective campus heads; but their resources are included in university-wide library statistics, and they draw regularly upon the Twin City campus libraries for materials not held locally, as needed.

GROWTH OF UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS AND LIBRARY RESOURCES

During the 1960's, as enrollment burgeoned and federal grants expanded, the university's commitments to research, many newly established departments, and specialized centers for study stimulated additional and increasingly insistent demands by faculty

and graduate students for expanded library resources and services. This decade brought with it a proliferation of the areas of specialization in which graduate degrees were authorized. More than 40 new Ph.D. fields were approved. By 1974 the Graduate School Bulletin was offering Masters degrees in 158 different areas and Doctoral programs in 129 major subject fields. To provide for the needs of these many programs and the teaching and research personnel that supported them, greater library budgets by the state, together with increasing supplements from federal funds, brought the university's total system-wide library operating expenditures, by 1973-74, to over \$7,000,000. Library hours were extended, new service units were established; and to staff these enlarged operations, the manning table for the library had risen to 580, including some 217 "full-time equivalent" student assistant positions. The system then included 88 separate library units, grouped administratively within 10 major departments. The growth of the library's holdings during its first hundred years is shown, by decades, in Table I.

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Significant Developments of Recent Years

The foregoing paragraphs have delineated some of the facts of library and institutional expansion at the University of Minnesota following World War II. Concurrent with this growth several outstanding developments directly affecting the library's long-range future occurred.

TABLE I.

Growth of the Collections of the University of Minnesota Libraries*
 During the First Hundred Years, 1870-1970

YEAR	<u>VOLUMES</u>
1870	4,000**
1880	13,000**
1890	23,000**
1900	60,000**
1910	150,000**
1920	299,080
1930	609,332
1940	1,120,072
1950	1,500,389
1960	1,968,101
1970	2,944,844***

* Not including materials in microform, archival materials and government publications. In 1974 the library's holdings in reduced format included more than 80,000 reels of microfilm, 102,000 microcards, 320,000 microprint sheets, and 337,000 microfiches.

** Approximate holdings, based on early, incomplete records.

*** By June 30, 1974 the volume count reached 3,479,139.

LIBRARY GOVERNMENT AND STAFF PARTICIPATION

In 1963, in order to codify the status of the University libraries within the community, the Regents adopted regulations for their government and administration, outlining the scope and authority of the Director of Libraries and the Senate Library Committee, and stating university policy with respect to departmental libraries (5). By 1972, supplementing this statement, a "Constitution" for the University Libraries, Twin City Campus (6) was adopted, to provide for more orderly arrangements for staff participation in decision-making, and spelling out, in detail, the respective roles of the Director, the Library faculty, a Library Council, and various staff committees, in library governance. Pursuant to the provisions of this document both standing and ad hoc committees were established to deal with problems involving such ongoing concerns as Collections Development, Operations and Planning, Staff Welfare, and Faculty and Civil Service personnel. Working through these democratically established groups, the library staff has played an ever-increasing role in initiating recommendations on a wide variety of policy and personnel matters in which it had previously had only minor involvement.

ACADEMIC STATUS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Academic status for librarians, which had been raised initially by James Thayer Gerould as early as 1914, and was later explored by Dr. McDiarmid, finally became a reality in 1963, when specific criteria for academic positions in the library were approved (7). This change, which resulted in significant improvements in library salaries, retirement provisions, and other benefits, helped notably in recruiting to the staff personnel with stronger academic and experience qualifications. It also opened the way for more flexible opportunities to reward individual excellence through pay adjustments and rank advancements than had been possible under the previous civil service status.

EXPANSION OF LIBRARY FACILITIES

Several major construction projects of the 1950s and 1960s greatly improved and expanded the physical facilities of the library system. In the fall of 1952 the central library for the St. Paul Campus, serving the Institute of Agriculture, occupied its new home, the first separate university library building outside of Minneapolis. By the early 1970s the libraries at several of the coordinate campuses, including those at Duluth, Morris, and Waseca, also had acquired separate, new library facilities. On the Minneapolis campus two large library buildings were opened, relieving the critically overcrowded conditions that had plagued the main library for many years. In 1960 the Bio-Medical Library, which had occupied a second-floor reading room and adjoining stack area in the 1924 building, now named the Walter Library, moved to a fine

new structure adjacent to --and connected underground with--the Medical School and University Hospitals. Four years later, two additional floors were added to this building. The enlarged structure now houses the Owen H. Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine, the James A. Hamilton Hospital Administration Collection, a Learning Resource Center for non-print media materials, and a rapidly developing Systems and Automation unit--as well as the basic collections of the Bio-Medical Library.

The most noteworthy recent addition to the university library's expanding physical plant was brought to fruition when the O. Meredith Wilson Library, which had first been recommended early in 1960, opened for use eight years later. During the early 1950s, when the Walter Library was no longer adequate either for the library's collections or for reader accommodations, various proposals for expanding it were considered--including a separate Undergraduate Library to be constructed below the campus mall and linked by an underground passage to the old building. However, in December, 1957, when the University made the decision to relocate its numerous Social Science and Humanities departments across the Mississippi River in a new "West Bank" campus expansion area, all proposals for an addition to the Walter Library on the East Bank gave way to the recommendation for a major and entirely separate library facility to serve the many units that would occupy the new site.

This building, completed in 1968, has a gross area of 382,313 square feet on six floors. It houses the library's central non-science collections and reference services, and serves as the administrative headquarters of the library system. It provides spacious study areas for 2,200 readers, has a capacity for 1,500,000 volumes, and houses the university's general reference and bibliography collection, its non-specialized periodical holdings, its principal map, newspaper, and microform resources, a Government Publications Division, rare book and listening facilities and several notable specialized subject collections--as well as central technical services, the union catalog for the Twin City campus libraries, Reserve Book Reading Room, an Inter-library Loan unit, administrative offices for the library system, and faculty studies and graduate carrels. When it opened, the Wilson Library, at the heart of the West Bank's development, was the first fully air-conditioned building on campus. Spacious and functional in design, with wide underground concourse connections to the adjacent academic departmental buildings, and located centrally, it serves well as the university's resource library for the Social Sciences and Humanities (see Figure 3).

In his article, "Academic Library Buildings in the United States" in Advances in Librarianship, volume 3 (1972), pages 119-136, Ralph E. Ellsworth cites the O. Meredith Wilson Library as being "outstanding for overall quality." Persons interested in

specific features of the building that may be worthy of note can find, in the "Index" to Ellsworth's book, Academic Library Buildings: A Guide to Architectural Issues and Solutions (Colorado Associated University Press, 1973) page citations to 36 photographs he has reproduced showing various Wilson Library details.

DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARIES

Over the years, almost from the beginning, pressures to develop more and more individual departmental libraries have arisen repeatedly at Minnesota, as they have in most growing universities. By 1896 the President's Biennial Report listed no less than twenty such libraries. In 1906, when Gerould became the University Librarian, he was given nominal supervision over these collections; but his real control over their continued growth and proliferation was minimal. Efforts by successive university librarians to combine libraries serving related disciplines, so as to provide more economically and administratively viable units of sufficient size to warrant strong collections and professional services, generally did not prevail. In 1917 the consolidation of the Geology Library with one that had developed for Mines and Metallurgy was recommended, but could not be effected.

When the "new library" building (now Walter Library) was nearly completed in 1924, the Regents adopted a policy requiring their prior official approval of any separate library that might be established or maintained "outside of the general library."

At that time the different collections in Engineering were combined in a central Engineering Library, and the several separate collections in the Medical School, the School of Nursing, the College of Dentistry, and the departments of Botany and Animal Biology, were brought together to form the Bio-Medical Library. Before he retired, Mr. Walter expressed concern over the problems of making adequate library provisions for such fields of related interest as the School of Architecture, the Department of Fine Arts, and the University Gallery--each of which were then developing separate collections; but he was unable to bring these resources together.

At the present time the university maintains a diversity of separate fully staffed departmental libraries, most of which now report to the Director of Libraries. The major library that remains administratively independent, reporting to its Dean, is the Law Library, reflecting a pattern of library autonomy for this professional field that is not uncommon in many universities today.

The university's departmental libraries in the Twin City area now include the following units: The Sciences are served by the Bio-Medical Library, and separate, smaller libraries for Chemistry, Engineering, Geology, Mathematics, Mines and Chemical Engineering, Pharmacy, Physics, and the Natural History Museum. In the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities--disciplines that also depend heavily on the broadly based resources of the Wilson Library--

there are individual libraries for Architecture, Art, Education-- Psychology--Library Science, Music, Public Administration, and Journalism. The St. Paul Campus, where the university's agriculture-related departments are located, has a main library and separate departmental libraries for Biochemistry, Entomology, Forestry, Plant Pathology, and Veterinary Medicine.

INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION

In the area of interlibrary cooperation, the University of Minnesota library has a long history of active participation. In 1918-1919 Mr. Gerould viewed the university library as a major resource reservoir for the state, and he strongly urged statewide interlibrary lending to assist the smaller institutions as well as patrons of Minnesota public libraries. Even prior to that time there had been unpublished agreements between the University library and the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minneapolis Public Library, the James J. Hill Reference Library in St. Paul, and neighboring theological colleges and seminaries, to avoid costly duplication of materials by depending upon each other for designated collecting areas of individual specialized strength. In his annual report for that year Gerould proposed an arrangement like what later became the Farmington Plan, whereby university libraries in the midwest might divide fields of specialization to develop the overall library resources of the region without costly dupli-

cation. He suggested, for example, that Michigan might accept responsibility for depth of collections in French Literature and Local History, while Minnesota could strive for completeness in holdings of Scandinavian Languages, Literature, and History. Unfortunately, Gerould left Minnesota in 1920, before his idea could be implemented.

In 1948, when the Farmington Plan was launched, Minnesota accepted assignments to develop, for nationally shared access, as strong holdings as possible in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Icelandic, and Finnish History, Literature, and Language materials for research, and to catalog its acquisitions in these areas for the Library of Congress and for inclusion in the National Union Catalog.

When the Midwest Interlibrary Center was established in 1949, Minnesota was one of the 10 founding member institutions. Today the MILC, now re-named the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), is a thriving interlibrary organization with more than 100 members and associate members representing libraries throughout the United States and Canada; and Minnesota continues to participate actively in its cooperative acquisitions program and as a user of its resources and services.

MINNESOTA INTERLIBRARY TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXCHANGE (MINITEX)

The University of Minnesota Library, through a contract with the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Commission, has developed a statewide service of resource sharing among academic libraries. Following a two-year pilot demonstration project, which concluded that such sharing was a viable concept, the program became a regular, legislatively funded service⁽⁸⁾. Subsequently it has expanded to include the public and state agency libraries, with additional funding from the State Department of Education, using state and federal monies. By 1973-74 there were 90 participant libraries in the MINITEX program, with over 100,000 requests processed through the MINITEX headquarters at the University Library and over 80 per cent of the requests filled from University resources.

MINITEX has been a major success story. It began as a project to exploit, statewide, the University Library resources, and has developed, within a few short years, into a library network gaining national recognition. Among the most notable achievements is the creation of one of the country's outstanding files of serials bibliographic information in machine-readable form in the Library of Congress MARC format. This data base, called the Minnesota Union List of Serials (MULS), has over 70,000 unique entries, with full bibliographic descriptions and detailed holdings information from more than 100 libraries. Consequently this comprehensive data base was selected for initial input into the national program for the establishment of a serials bibliographic machine-readable data base for the control of serials literature.

This program, called CONSER, for Conversion of Serials, is under the direction of the Council on Library Resources, with the cooperation of the Library of Congress and other major national and research libraries of the United States and Canada. MULS has been published in a five-volume set and will be up-dated through the use of microfiche.

Through MINITEX and its shared resource program, 87.6 per cent of the requests were filled from resources within the state of Minnesota in 1973-74. Approximately 81 per cent of the requests were for periodical articles and 19 per cent for loans of monographs. Less than ten per cent of the requests originated in public libraries, with the bulk of the balance coming from academic libraries. (9)

MINITEX has interfaced with the parallel operation in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service (WILS), through which resources of each system are made available to each other, supplementing their respective state resources. Some 2.2 per cent of the requests received by MINITEX originated in WILS. It is expected that a working relationship will soon develop between North Dakota libraries, also, for a continually expanding regional program of resource sharing. Ultimately, the program is likely to serve as a means of cooperative, even perhaps collective, resource development within the state, and possibly the region. The serials librarians of the state already use MINITEX as a means of exchange of duplicates and sharing of information on new subscriptions or cancellations.

APPLICATIONS OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

In recent years, as the computer has made possible the development of a myriad of data processing applications to the improvement of library management operations, Minnesota has endeavored to put to use the potentialities of this new technology, where it has seemed locally feasible. In some areas it has replicated with adaptations selected computerized procedures that other large library systems had already initiated. In addition, however, the university has pioneered in selected, innovative applications that have attracted national interest.

In order to avoid costly errors by introducing complete, library-wide systems that might later have to be scrapped, Minnesota has used its Bio-Medical Library, a unit with a quarter of a million volumes and a staff of 25, to test and experiment with computer applications before introducing them throughout the library system. Initially this branch library, with serials holdings of some 7,000 titles, worked out and "de-bugged" an automated control system for handling all serial acquisitions, receipts, claims, and binding.

More recently, the Bio-Medical Library has developed, with funding assistance from the U. S. Public Health Service and the National Library of Medicine, a library-controlled, integrated data management system using a minicomputer. This new system is design-

ed to handle book ordering, serials check-in control, accounting, cataloging, circulation, and reference searching services. Papers describing this development were presented at the Eleventh Annual Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing, University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science, in May, 1974.

The Library's Resources:
Outstanding Fields and Special Collections

SPECIAL AREAS OF STRENGTH

While the University of Minnesota Libraries have, of necessity, emphasized the acquisition of pragmatic, utilitarian scholarly resources,

the library has, over the years, built significant resources of strength in many subject areas, and has, in recent decades, acquired and supported no small number of outstanding special collections of national importance.

In 1942, in his article on "Leading American Library Collections" in the Library Quarterly, pp. 457-473, Robert B. Downs cited the University of Minnesota Libraries as having outstanding special collections in some 36 subject fields. Among the thirty-two libraries he surveyed, Minnesota ranked high in English, American, French, German, and Spanish Literature, the History of England, Germany, Latin America, and the United States. In the Social Sciences, strong holdings were reported for Sociology, Political Science, and Public Administration, and International

Relations and Law. Minnesota also received high ratings in most of the pure and applied sciences. Scandinavian, History, Literature, and Languages were not a separate category in the Downs study, but these have been stressed in Minnesota's acquisitions program, both prior to and throughout the existence of the Farmington Plan. Since 1943 the policy of "building on strength" has assured the continued development of in-depth collections in the areas cited by Downs, as well as in many fields represented by new graduate programs that have been added from year to year.

The terse ratings of the 1942 report testify to the quality of the library's holdings in the fields listed; but they do not identify many specialized resources represented by separate collections that today, more than ever, reflect the University Library's particular claim to distinction.

RARE BOOKS AND SPECIALIZED COLLECTIONS

The Rare Book Division (10) of the Wilson Library is responsible for several unusual collections that are worthy of note. They focus on such diverse subjects as Milestones in the History of Astronomy, Ballooning, Paul Bunyan, Jesuits, Mazarinades, Scandinavian Travel, and Typography and Private Press Imprints. Dime novels and other late 19th century cheaply produced "pulp" fiction, including some 75,000 volumes representing the output of such publishing houses as Beadle and Adams, Street and Smith, etc., came to the Library in 1954 as a bequest from the estate of George

H. Hess, former comptroller of the Great Northern Railroad.

JAMES FORD BELL LIBRARY

The James Ford Bell Library (see Figure 4), an internationally noteworthy collection of books, maps, and manuscripts on the history of early exploration and trade prior to 1800, was given to the library in 1953, while its donor, founder of General Mills, was chairman of the University's Board of Regents. During the succeeding years the University of Minnesota Press has published more than 15 scholarly studies based on materials in the collection, as well as a basic catalog and several 5-year lists of additions. The Associates of the Bell Library have also printed a series of James Ford Bell Lectures during the decade since 1963.

KERLAN COLLECTION OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

This unique special collection came to the library in 1949 when Dr. Irvin Kerlan, a graduate of the university's Medical School, presented to his alma mater his large collection of first editions, mint copies, and related manuscripts and original art for book illustrations that he had assiduously assembled over a period of several years. Over 3,000 titles in the collection had been especially inscribed for him by their authors, and the thousands of drawings, representing the work of scores of artists, together with extensive correspondence with writers, illustrators, and publishers of books for children make the Kerlan collection a valuable

resource for research. Today its holdings include 28,000 volumes as well as book manuscripts showing successive textual revisions, and a great many artists sketches and finished drawings, color separations, marked galleys, and printers notes that trace the evolution and final publication of works of children's literature (11).

AMES LIBRARY OF SOUTH ASIA

Another notable Minnesota collection of national significance is the Ames Library of South Asia. Until 1946, when it was given to the University, it had been developed personally, for 40 years, by its founder, Charles Lesley Ames of St. Paul. The scope of the Ames Library focuses on publications, both early and contemporary, dealing with all aspects of South Asian civilization, with emphasis on philosophy, religion, sociology, anthropology, history, politics and government, economics, fine arts, language, and literature. Its geographic scope extends from Afghanistan and Pakistan in the northwest, across Nepal, India and Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon), through Bangladesh and Burma on the East.

When the collection began to be developed by the university, it contained approximately 25,000 volumes. Since then it has grown, by library purchases, supplemented by receipts through the Library of Congress' P.L.480 program for India and Pakistan, to 67,839 volumes, plus over 2,000 serial publications.

EAST ASIAN LIBRARY

This library, with holdings in excess of 65,000 volumes, is the only research collection between Chicago and the West Coast devoted exclusively to materials in East Asian languages. It concentrates on publications from China, Japan, and Korea, with special emphasis on the Classics, Philology, History, Literature, Philosophy, Art and Religion. Resources in English and European languages dealing with East Asia are housed according to subject with related materials, in the University library's general and departmental collections. In addition to its basic literary texts, this library's collection is particularly strong in reference works, including encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, published library catalogs, indexes, and concordances.

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARY

The scope of this special library embraces materials in Middle East vernaculars relating to the civilization of the Middle East, including the historic domains of the ^e S_Amitic, Turkic, and Iranian peoples. In geo-political terms, this subject area includes all the Arab states, the modern state of Israel, Turkey, and Iran. Like the East Asian Library, this collection of over 11,000 volumes emphasizes non-English language materials including works in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, as well as other ancient Semitic languages and those of various ethnic and linguistic minorities in the region. Acquisition priorities for the Middle East Library stress bio-bibliographical compendia, belles lettres, language, religious literature, historical materials, philosophy, and the fine arts. The historical scope of the collection covers the entire period from ancient times to the present.

ANDERSEN HORTICULTURAL LIBRARY

This special unit was founded by former Governor Elmer L. Andersen and Mrs. Andersen, to serve the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, located on a 160 acre site near Chanhassen, a thirty-minute drive west from Minneapolis. The library is housed in beautifully appointed quarters in the Arboretum's new Education and Research Building. The Library, developed primarily for research, contains both current, as well as retrospective, books and periodicals on Botany, Horticulture, Natural History, Landscape Architecture, and Ecology. It's collection contains both utilitarian materials such as seed catalogs, and also rare herbals and botanical prints. Among its notable holdings are early works on Ornithology, Entomology, sylvia, wild flowers, ferns, and Hostas.

OWEN H. WANGENSTEEN HISTORICAL LIBRARY OF BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

In the early 1960's Dr. Owen H. Wangensteen, then chief of the Department of Surgery in the University College of Medical Sciences, began to develop, for the library, a collection of early works to support a program of teaching and research in Medical History. This valuable resource, presently containing more than 20,000 volumes, dating from the 15th century, is now the Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine. It is housed in a beautifully appointed separate floor of the Bio-Medical Library, provided by friends of Dr. Wangensteen.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The University Archives, authorized as early as 1928 at the urging of the university's first librarian, Dr. Folwell, was not formally established with a permanent staff, until the mid-1940's. By 1960 it had become a model for the organization and servicing of institutional historical materials. It now, recurringly, is called upon to advise visitors from other colleges and universities who seek counsel on matters of archival housing, management and retrieval procedure.

IMMIGRANT ARCHIVES

Started in 1963 as a modest effort to collect for preservation and scholarly use the archives and publications of immigrants to America, chiefly from Eastern and Southern Europe, this collec-

tion, serving as a primary resource for the university's Immigration History Research Center, presently has an imprint collection of over 20,000 volumes and more than two million items of manuscript material. Its strongest holdings contain serial and pamphlet publications, and organizational records of many ethnic fraternal societies, churches, and publishers, reflecting the interests of such groups as Finnish, Italian, Polish, Slovak and Ukrainian Americans. Ukrainian holdings alone, developed largely by Professor Emeritus Alexander A. Granovsky, include some 5,000 monographs, more than 600 serial titles, and extremely valuable files of personal papers. It is the richest collection of its kind in the United States.

SOCIAL WELFARE HISTORY ARCHIVES

The collections of the Social Welfare History Archives Center (12) begun in 1964, collects original records and publications of national voluntary welfare associations and selected welfare agency files, as well as papers of American leaders in welfare and reform. Its holdings include such materials as the records of the National Federation of Settlements, the United Neighborhood Houses of New York City, the National Association of Social Workers, and the archives of the Survey and Survey Graphic, early journals of social service and social reform. In 1970 an 846 page Descriptive Inventories of Collections in the Social Welfare History Archives Center, University of Minnesota, was published by the Greenwood Publishing Corporation, Westport, Connecticut.

Toward The Twenty-First Century

In 1976 the United States of America celebrates its two hundredth year, and the University of Minnesota Library is well into its second century. In 1975 the university's enrollment was 51,834--a far cry from the fourteen students of "collegiate" rank who, in 1869, comprised its first Freshman class. From very modest beginnings, consisting of a few shelves of books kept in a small, top floor, corner room in the original "Old Main," the library has grown, in little more than one hundred years, to become a national scholarly resource. Its strong holdings of specialized research materials attract scholars from around the world.

The rate at which the collections have escalated, especially in recent decades, is shown graphically in Figure 5. It took 68 years of development before the library added its one millionth volume, in 1938. The second million volumes took a much shorter time--twenty-three years--to acquire: the two-million figure was reached in 1961. Only a decade later, in 1971, the volume count for the university libraries passed the three-million mark. At the present rate of growth, the collection may be expected to total four million volumes well before 1980.

Throughout its history the University of Minnesota had only six head librarians. They are listed, with the years of their incumbency as follows:

1869-1906 William Watts Folwell
1906-1920 James Thayer Gerould
1921-1943 Frank K. Walter
1943-1951 Errett W. McDiarmid
1951-1971 Edward B. Stanford
1971- Ralph H. Hopp

As the year 2,000 draws near, new challenges will face the University of Minnesota Library system. If the record of development that characterized its first hundred years of growth is continued in its second century, these challenges will make for rewarding decades ahead.

Edward B. Stanford

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TABLES

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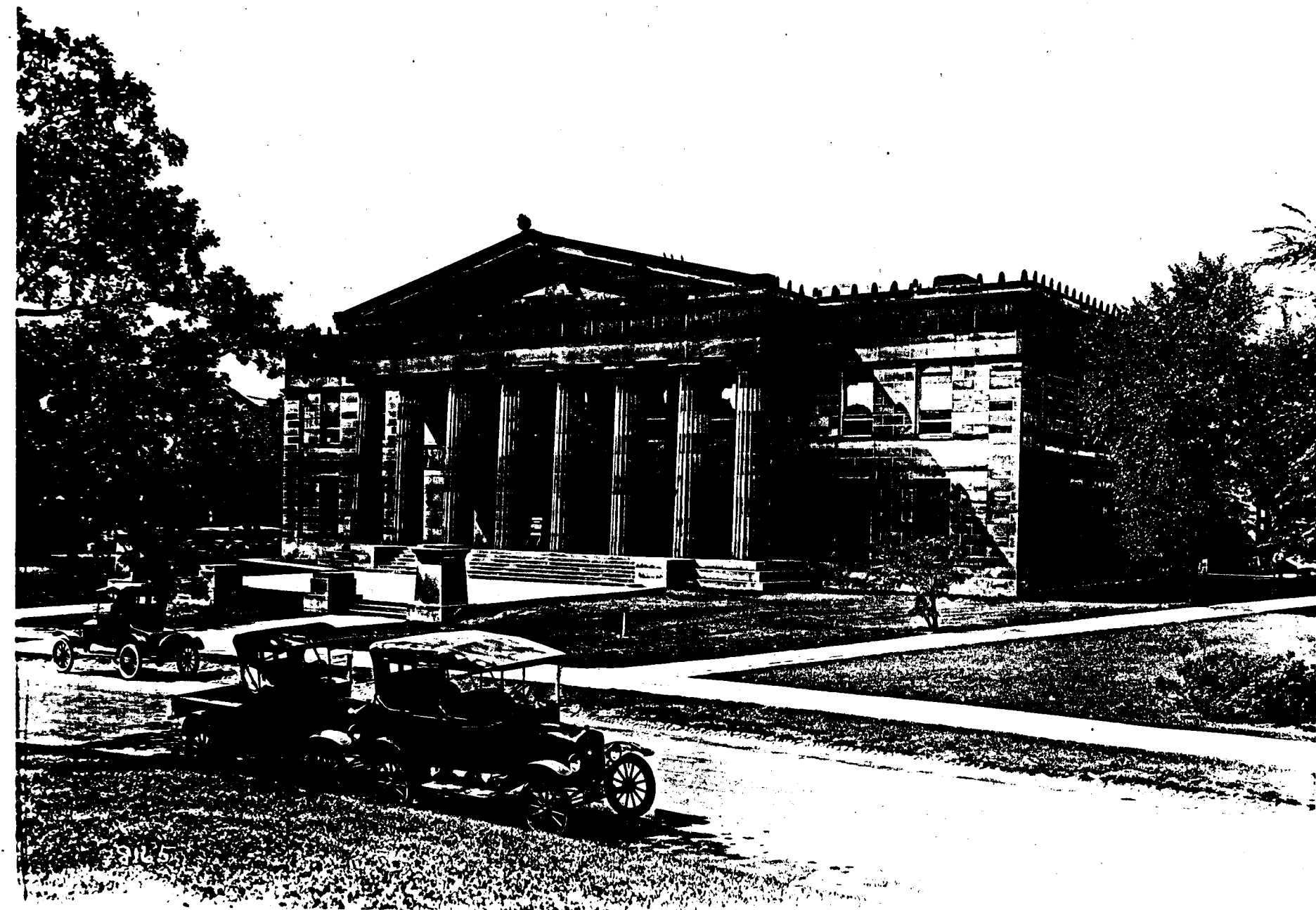


Figure 1. Burton Hall (1893) The First Library Building



Figure 2. The Frank K. Walter library (1924)

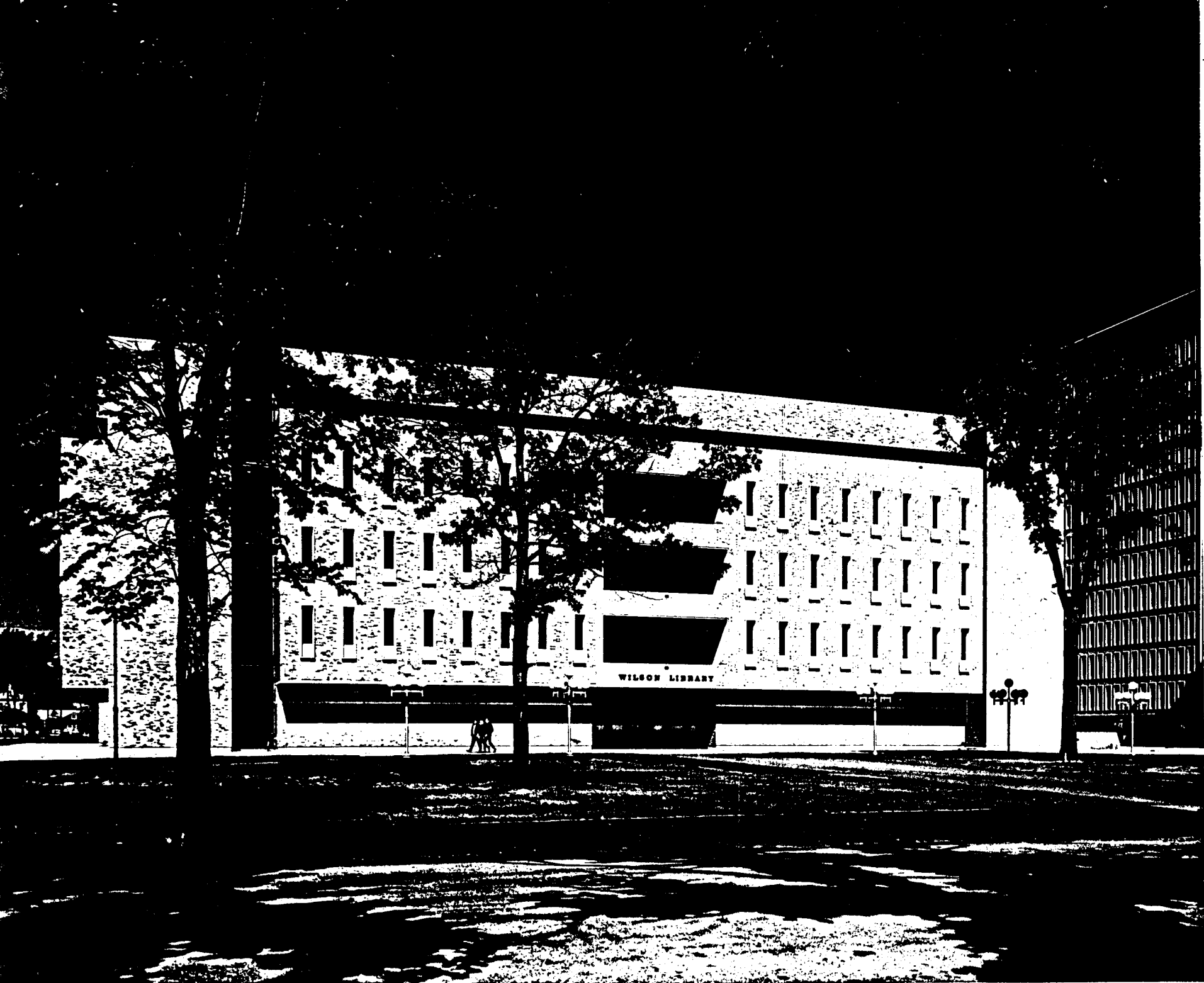


Figure 3. The O. Meredith Wilson Library (1968)



Figure 4. The James Ford Bell Library Reception Area

VOLUMES

3,000,000

2,800,000

2,600,000

2,400,000

2,200,000

2,000,000

1,800,000

1,600,000

1,400,000

1,200,000

1,000,000

800,000

600,000

400,000

200,000

0

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

Figure 5. Library Growth, By Decades