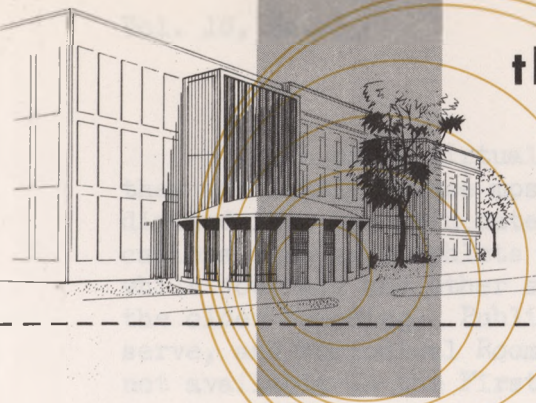


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# the LIBRARY

## at Iowa State

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F A L L O F 1 9 6 1

One week ago today the enlarged University Library began full-scale operation by opening its doors from 7 a.m. until midnight, a schedule which will be maintained Monday through Saturday. Sunday hours run from 2 p.m. to midnight.

The enlarged building consists of two structures joined together. The older one, completed in 1925, and now partially refurbished, has a basement, three floors, and a seven-tier book stack. The new and modern First Addition, just opened, has five floors, the top one of which is used for book storage and air conditioning equipment serving both buildings. Except for the few special rooms mentioned below, the Ground, First, Second, and Third Floors of the First Addition are open factory-type spaces filled with free-standing book stacks interspersed with study and browsing facilities. New to Iowa State are the browsing areas with lounge furniture in the northeast corner of each floor.

Inasmuch as the First Addition is much smaller than it should be (approximately 52,000 square feet as compared with some 58,000 square feet in the older building), special rooms and facilities had to be limited drastically. Included, however, are eight single and three double faculty studies, four group study rooms, a typing room, and a library instruction area comprised of a laboratory, classroom, and office.

In addition to expanded building facilities, the enlarged Library features something else even more important; namely, a new plan of library service. Gone is the restrictive closed-stack system. In its place is a newly-instituted open-stack plan of library service which puts students as well as faculty members in direct contact with the book collections on a self-help basis.

In order virtually to surround students with the publications they are likely to use most frequently, the book collections have been divided into two main categories. Monographs and other non-serial publications such as pamphlets and theses are shelved in the First Addition, while journals and other serial works are in the Multitier Book Stack in the older building. Publications are also found in the Reference, Reserve, and Periodical Rooms inasmuch as space for these collections is not available in the First Addition.

Many have asked whether it would now be necessary to use the Library Storage Building on Pammel Drive. It is necessary because the enlarged building has shelf room for only about 75 per cent of the Library's 520,000 volumes. In addition, as previously mentioned, there is a second storage area on the top floor of the First Addition.

Monitoring was instituted in connection with the adoption of the new plan of library service. This was done as a means of permitting readers to have access to all parts of the Library. On leaving the Library it is required that readers pause at one of the Monitor Desks to enable the monitor to check on all publications to determine whether those which belong to the Library have been properly charged.

Assistance is available this fall at scheduled times from twelve public service points as follows: Ground Floor, Area Desk; First Floor, Circulation Desk, Area Desk, Reserve and Periodical Room Desks, and two Monitor Desks; Second Floor, Information Desk, Area Desk, and Reference Room Desk; Third Floor, Area Desk. The Area Desks are new, one being situated on each floor of the First Addition. Reference assistants are on duty here mornings and afternoons only. At other times these areas are supervised by a roving proctor.

As an out-and-out experiment, service in the Reserve Room has been placed on an open-shelf basis. Turnstiles control ingoing and outgoing traffic. Readers take books from the shelves and have them charged at the desk, after which they may use them in the room or take them elsewhere for a two-hour period. This plan of reserve room service, frankly, has failed at a number of other universities. Institution of this type of service here is a carefully calculated risk as a means of improving service in this critical area of Library activity. It will be interesting to see whether the gamble will pay off as hoped.

The contents of the Periodical Room and its arrangement remain unchanged except that all unbound newspapers are also kept here now. When the Second Addition becomes a reality at some future date (very likely an extension of the First Addition), the unbound periodicals shelved in the Periodical Room may be shelved with publications on related subjects.

One area of notable change in the Library this fall is the Upper Lobby, formerly the Circulation Lobby. This fall the venerable Circulation Desk was uprooted and pieces of it assembled in the new location on the First Floor of the First Addition. A new desk is due to arrive as a



replacement sometime in October. The Upper Lobby, once the scene of hustle and bustle which is associated with the activity carried on at circulation desks, is now being equipped with study carrels and tables.

The Information Desk, center of the Library's principal reference service, remains in the Upper Lobby. It is from here also that the Head of the Reference Department directs the work of the assistants at the Area Desks and the Reference Room Desk. The Reference Room collection has been altered somewhat. The two categories of material here now include a general reference collection and a carefully chosen collection of abstracting and indexing journals used in literature searching.

All will not be in readiness, however, despite full-scale operation until the final truckload of new furniture is received and put into place and until several refurbishment projects in the older building have been completed. In the meantime Library staff members are doing their level best to help readers learn to use the Library on a self-help basis. To assist in this work, a battery of charts and directories have been developed and put in many places. These self-help aids direct readers wanting books to the precise floors and stack ranges in the First Addition. They serve in a like capacity by directing readers who want journals to the correct tiers and stack ranges in the old Multitier Book Stack.

This editorial would not be complete or fair without a word of appreciation and thanks to the some two dozen young men and women who spent the summer in the Library cleaning, moving, and shelving tens of thousands of books. Under Fred Peterson's capable direction these assistants, many of whom were stopping over between high school and college, put the stacks in both buildings in good order by the time the Fall Quarter started. Special thanks are also due the regular staff whose assistance was indispensable and who cheerfully endured much discomfort due to construction and refurbishment activities.

#### R E F U R B I S H M E N T   R E P O R T

From time to time the newsletter has carried information regarding various proposed or approved refurbishing projects intended to improve and spruce up the older building. During the past summer emphasis was placed on the first three of the following projects. Some of the total list of items have been completed and some have not yet been started.

1. CATALOG AND ORDER ROOMS   The partitions which formed two offices in this general area were removed in order to provide more room and to achieve greater flexibility in the utilization of available space. In addition, new light fixtures were installed, a new vinyl asbestos floor was laid, and the area was repainted. The result is a happy one in that the room is more spacious and vastly improved in appearance.

2. RESERVE ROOM As previously mentioned, this room has been converted from closed- to open-stack service. In so doing, the room was retiled and a new desk was built. The stacks were placed in the center of the room and repainted.
3. CLASSROOM NO. 2 Rooms 303, 304, and 305 in the former Seminar area have been remodeled to form two instead of three rooms. Classroom No. 2 occupies all of the space which was formerly Room 303 and the south half of the former Room 304. This classroom has new light fixtures, fresh paint, new floor tile, and new tablet arm chairs and other furnishings.
4. MAP AND CHART ROOM This room occupies the rest of the former Room 304 and all of Room 305. It, too, has been completely refurbished. Seven new map cases have been added to the four already available. Other furnishings in the room are also new.
5. MULTITIER BOOK STACK The seven tiers of this facility are to be completely relighted sometime during the course of this year. Fixtures are on order but not yet in hand. The old bulky carrel installations have been removed from all tiers, and new study carrels such as are in the First Addition are already in place.
6. SERIALS ROOM This room is scheduled for new floor tile during the coming year. The new tile will be a welcome relief from the bare concrete floor which characterizes this space.
7. UPPER LOBBY No refurbishment has been scheduled for this area as yet, but new floor tile is needed. The Circulation Desk and other furnishings except the Information Desk and Kardex Visible File have been removed. New to the area are study carrels and tables and two new CBI tables.
8. STAFF ROOM Approved for remodeling and new furnishings, this heavily-used facility will be the scene of construction activity during the present year.

#### NEWS ITEMS

GUIDE A brochure entitled A Guide to the Iowa State University Library has been published to help those using the enlarged University Library. Copies were mailed to faculty members, and students were given copies at the time of registration. Copies are available in Room 103 to Library staff members who have not yet obtained them.

SUMMER VISITORS During the summer several former staff members stopped by to say "hello" and to see the enlarged Library Building.