



LIBRARY

Iowa State University

...in a world of
expanding knowl-
edge, a severe
problem of space

Meeting Future Needs

The current deficit in total space is almost 200,000 net assignable square feet. This deficit will grow larger as time goes on.

The \$5.5 million requested by the State Board of Regents will meet only one quarter of the current deficiency. Besides the addition, the funds will provide for renovation of the original building (completed in 1925 when Iowa State had less than 4,000 students) to bring about more efficient operation by better integration with subsequent additions.

The first-phase construction will increase stack areas and storage facilities, raising the Library capacity to 1,500,000 volumes. Seating capacity will be increased by 500 or more spaces, principally in areas serving undergraduate students.

Additional service space for patrons and staff will be provided.



University Archives and Special Collections are among the most valuable holdings, but processing of the materials is slowed by crowded working conditions.

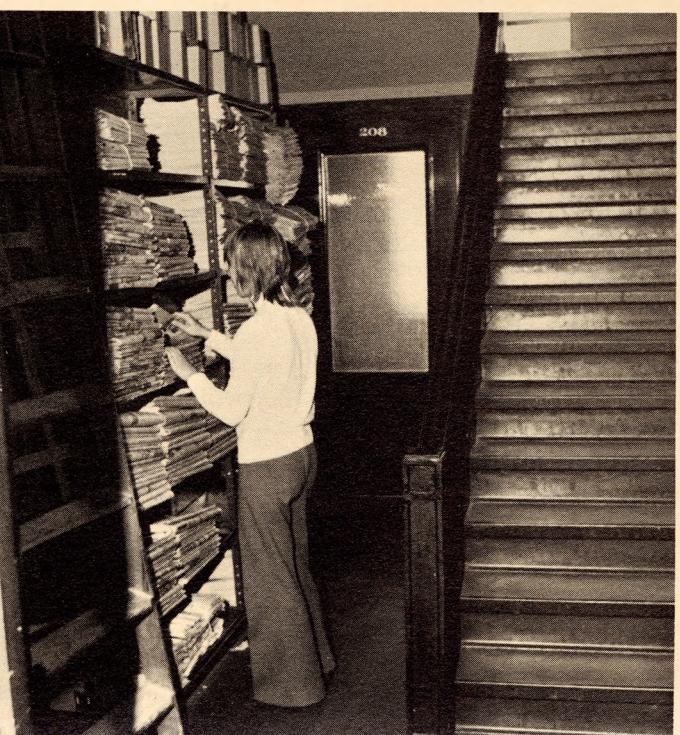


Where shelving has encroached on seating areas, accessibility to the books is hindered and seating space is at a premium.



This room has lost its usefulness as a reading room because of the necessity of using it for storage and sorting of materials until space can be made for them.

A hallway has been adapted to store newspapers, creating congestion and producing an unsightly entrance to this office.



In its first hundred years, the Iowa State University Library grew to 600,000 volumes. In the last seven years, collections have increased to more than 1 million volumes, plus half a million microforms, documents, maps, and other materials. This dramatic acceleration results from today's explosion of knowledge with its accompanying world-wide increase in publications and from a concerted effort to bring the Library closer to the standard required by the programs and size of this university.

At the present rate of growth the Library's holdings will exceed 2 million volumes in 10 years.

The increase in library materials and in the number of library users sets up conflicting demands which cannot be met by present facilities. The present building is inadequate for today's needs, and the situation will worsen rapidly in the years immediately ahead.

Shrinking Space

Space standards established for the Regents' universities call for Iowa State to maintain library seating for more than 4,000 undergraduates, 645 graduate students, and 155 faculty members, but total seating for the Library has fallen below 2,400, with less than 2,000 places available in the main building. There are no carrels for graduate students, and 10 of the 37 faculty stations are in a converted map room.

To accommodate collections and work areas, 114 student seats and several faculty carrels were sacrificed just last year. It is anticipated that at least 25 percent more of the seating capacity will be lost during the next five years.

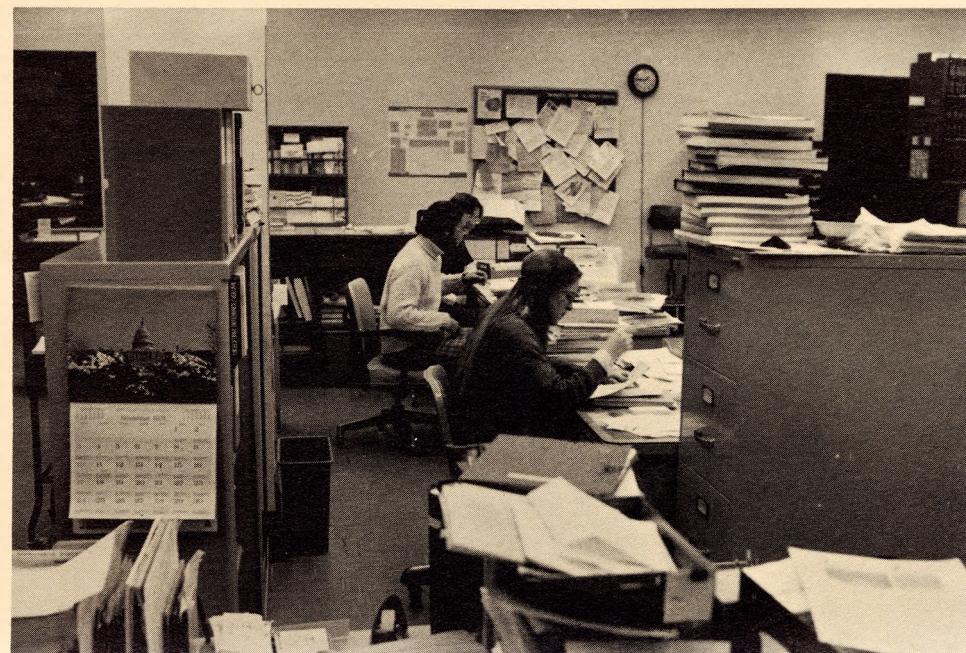
While seating is shrinking, use is increasing:

- From 25,000 to 40,000 visits per week by students and faculty are recorded when classes are in session
- Building use last year totaled 1,320,000
- More than 600,000 items were circulated last year
- Circulation has increased 44 percent in the last 5 years

Many Library staff work in half the space recommended as standard work areas. Work stations spill over into aisles or crowd user service areas, resulting in distractions that reduce staff efficiency and hamper good service to patrons. Space for processing materials and servicing the collection has long been extremely cramped and has caused scattering of interrelated functions.

Despite the makeshift measures employed to accommodate expanding collections, presently available shelf space will be exhausted within two years. In addition to reduced seating, the only alternative is an increasing use of a 35-year-old storage building where conditions are extremely inadequate to house valuable library materials.

Staff members find themselves squeezed into ever smaller quarters in this area where the rapidly increasing Government Documents collection is maintained.



The Library is at the heart of undergraduate teaching and graduate study and is indispensable to research. To keep up with the proliferation of publications, microforms, maps, and other materials emanating from the expanding body of knowledge to meet the needs of more than 20,000 students and faculty members, the Library must have relief from present space inadequacies which handicap its effort to furnish quality service.

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