

College and University Library Buildings, 1929-1949

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THE accompanying statistical table completes a series of three compilations of college and university library buildings which were derived from the returns of a questionnaire survey conducted in the fall of 1949. The first compilation covered buildings under construction, or in the contract-drawing stage, in 1950;¹ the second one supplied data about buildings expected to be constructed during the next decade.²

The present final statistical instalment covers library buildings erected since the beginning of the depression through the prosperity period following World War II. The compilation, although comprehensive, is not 100 per cent complete since it includes only accredited institutions listed in *American Colleges and Universities* (A. J. Brumbaugh, ed. 5th ed. Washington, American Council on Education, 1948), plus a few nonaccredited ones that were on addressograph stencils used by the A.L.A. Headquarters, and only those that returned the questionnaires.³

The 146 library buildings are listed in

¹ Muller, Robert H. "Library Building Construction Among Colleges and Universities." *College and Research Libraries*, 11:259-61, July 1950.

² Muller, Robert H. "Future Library Building Trends Among Colleges and Universities." *College and Research Libraries*, 12:33-36, January 1951.

³ Of the 820 accredited institutions listed in *American Colleges and Universities*, 430 returned questionnaires (52 per cent). Since the questionnaire emphasized aspects more pertinent to recent than to older buildings, it is reasonable to assume that most of the institutions failing to return questionnaires had relatively old library buildings.

the order of estimated effective floor area for book storage and seats, from the largest (Columbia University) to the smallest (Hardin College). The floor area was estimated on the basis of volume capacity plus seats, assuming that on the average 15 active library volumes require one square foot of floor area, and one library seat requires 25 square feet.

The primary purpose of publishing the compilation is a practical one. It should enable the planners of new library buildings to locate buildings of similar size constructed in the past. It might be assumed that library building problems of institutions of similar size ~~and~~ more alike than problems of institutions of widely varying sizes, everything else being equal. In a few instances where size is not considered of primary importance, it should not be too difficult to use the list for locating institutions of similar nature, such as technological schools, teachers' colleges, women's colleges, southern colleges, liberal arts colleges, universities of complex organization, etc., even though the buildings are not arranged according to such categories.

One of the most frequent type of request addressed to the A.C.R.L. Committee on College and University Library Buildings is for locations of library buildings that might be visited with profit or otherwise contacted by the librarian, architect, or president of an institution engaged in planning a new library building. Such requests seem to occur to planners as the natural first step in orienting themselves in

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY BUILDINGS
 CONSTRUCTED 1929-1949
 (Arranged in the Order of Estimated Size)

Name of Institution	Year Built	Total Volume Capacity	Building now Filled (x for yes)	Seats plus Carrels in Main Library	Seats Adequate (Am) Insufficient (In)
Columbia U., New York, N. Y.	1934	1,608,579	x	2,377	(Ad)
Princeton U., Princeton, N. J.	1948	1,800,000		1,800	(Ad)
U. of Colo., Boulder, Colo.	1939	1,000,000		1,250	(Ad)
Duke U., Durham, N. C.	1930	900,000		1,150	(Ad)
U. of Ala., University, Ala.	1939	275,000	x	2,600	(Am)
U. of Calif. (Los Angeles), Los Angeles, Calif.	1929	625,000	x	1,481	(In)
U. of Rochester, Rochester, N. Y.	1930	977,393		502	(Am)
Rice Inst., Houston, Tex.	1949	800,000		813	(Am)
Northwestern U., Evanston, Ill.	1932	600,000	x	1,084	(In)
U. of Maine, Orono, Maine	1947	721,000		427	(In)
U. of Mo., Columbia, Mo.	1936	450,000	x	1,300	(In)
U. of N. C., Chapel Hill, N. C.	1929	500,000	x	1,162	(In)
Vanderbilt U., Nashville, Tenn.	1941	535,000		1,020	(Am)
U. of Fla., Gainesville, Fla.	1930	450,000		1,134	(Ad)
U. of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah	1935	450,000	x	930	(Ad)
U. of Southern Calif., Los Angeles, Calif.	1932	370,882	x	1,078	(In)
Colo. St. Coll. of Ed., Greeley, Colo.	1940	400,000		900	(Ad)
U. of Va., Charlottesville, Va.	1938	400,436	x	800	(Ad)
U. of Oreg., Eugene, Oreg.	1937	385,253	x	806	(In)
Ill. St. Normal U., Normal, Ill.	1940	295,000		876	(Ad)
U. of N. Mex., Albuquerque, N. Mex.	1938	250,000		864	(In)
Drew U., Madison, N. J.	1939	400,000		363	(Am)
Howard U., Washington, D. C.	1938	339,047		365	(In)
Temple U., Philadelphia, Pa.	1935	254,213	x	591	(Am)
Lehigh U., Bethlehem, Pa.	1929	320,000	x	387	(Ad)
Fla. St. U., Tallahassee, Fla.	1930	195,578	x	716	(In)
Ohio U., Athens, Ohio	1931	205,758		635	(In)
U. of Conn., Storrs, Conn.	1939	220,000		592	(Ad)
Drake U., Des Moines, Iowa	1938	303,000		370	(Am)
U. of S. C., Columbia, S. C.	1941	290,000		390	(Ad)
Brooklyn Coll., Brooklyn, N. Y.	1938	131,032	x	800	(In)
W. Va. U., Morgantown, W. Va.	1931	221,916	x	539	(In)
N. Tex. St. Coll., Denton, Tex.	1937	168,218	x	676	(Ad)
Pa. St. Coll., State College, Pa.	1939	228,696		498	(In)
Southern Methodist U., Dallas, Tex.	1940	199,000	x	556	(Ad)
U. of Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn.	1932	194,738	x	500	(Ad)
Tex. Tech. Coll., Lubbock, Tex.	1938	87,500	x	767	(Ad)
Tenn. Polytechnic Inst., Cookeville, Tenn.	1949	125,000		626	(Am)
Washington & Lee U., Lexington, Va.	1941	260,800		249	(Ad)
Atlanta U., Atlanta, Ga.	1931	181,000		460	(Am)
San Jose St. Coll., San Jose, Calif.	1949	130,000	x	575	(In)
Lincoln U., Jefferson City, Mo.	1949	154,056		485	(Ad)
George Washington U., Washington, D. C.	1939	135,000	x	528	(In)
Mont. St. Coll., Bozeman, Mont.	1939	210,000		324	(In)
Central Mo. Coll., Warrensburg, Mo.	1939	185,000		351	(Ad)
U. of Md., College Park, Md.	1931	135,000		510	(In)
Fla. A. & M. Coll. for Negroes, Tallahassee, Fla.	1948	126,484		506	(Ad)
Southern U. and A. & M. Coll., Baton Rouge, La.	1941	90,000		601	(Am)
Eastern Washington Coll. of Ed., Cheney, Wash.	1940	156,000	x	384	(Am)
Milwaukee-Downer Coll., Milwaukee, Wis.	1937	176,249		329	(Am)
E. Tex. St. Teachers Coll., Commerce, Tex.	1930	113,639	x	466	(Am)
A. & M. Coll. of Tex., College Station, Tex.	1930	160,000		325	(In)
Franklin & Marshall Coll., Lancaster, Pa.	1938	161,000		308	(Am)
Fresno St. Coll., Fresno, Calif.	1933	93,000	x	474	(Ad)
Fisk U., Nashville, Tenn.	1930	148,566		316	(Ad)
Kent St. U., Kent, Ohio	1929	94,000	x	450	(In)
U. of Mass., Amherst, Mass.	1935	135,000	x	330	(In)
Municipal U. of Wichita, Wichita, Kans.	1939	120,000		362	(Am)
Southwestern La. Inst., Lafayette, La.	1939	74,893	x	482	(Am)
Mary Washington Coll. of the U. of Va., Fredericksburg, Va.	1941	122,003		350	(Am)
Southeast Mo. St. Coll., Cape Girardeau, Mo.	1939	105,000		365	(Am)
Northwest Mo. St. Teachers Coll., Maryville, Mo.	1939	135,000		276	(Am)
St. Teachers Coll., Bemidji, Minn.	1949	122,000		310	(Am)
MacMurray Coll. for Women, Jacksonville, Ill.	1941	99,000		366	(Am)
Albion Coll., Albion, Mich.	1938	130,365		267	(Ad)
E. Central St. Coll., Ada, Okla.	1949	107,000		322	(Am)
Immaculate Heart Coll., Los Angeles, Calif.	1947	145,000		220	(Ad)
Skidmore Coll., Saratoga Springs, N. Y.	1940	100,000		337	(Ad)
St. Bonaventure Coll. & Seminary, St. Bonaventure, N. Y.	1937	148,000		200	(Ad)
Madison Coll., Harrisonburg, Va.	1939	89,001		350	(Am)
Ga. Teachers Coll., Collegeboro, Ga.	1939	48,000		450	(Am)
Western St. Coll. of Colo., Gunnison, Colo.	1939	111,000		281	(Am)
Agnes Scott Coll., Decatur, Ga.	1936	106,000		294	(Am)
Gettysburg Coll., Gettysburg, Pa.	1929	100,000	x	300	(Am)
Denison U., Granville, Ohio	1937	104,825		286	(In)
St. Mary's Coll., Notre Dame, Holy Cross, Ind.	1942	122,751		232	(Am)
American Int. Coll., Springfield, Mass.	1949	67,000		380	(Am)
Gustavus Adolphus Coll., St. Peter, Minn.	1948	100,000		260	(In)

Name of Institution	Year Built	Total Volume Capacity	Building now Filled (x for yes)	Seats plus Carrels in Main Library	Seats Adequate (Ad) Ample (Am) Insufficient (In)
U. of Kans. City, Kansas City, Mo.	1936	125,000	x	185	(In)
Sweet Briar Coll., Sweet Briar, Va.	1929	81,603	x	300	(Ad)
Carson-Newman Coll., Jefferson City, Tenn.	1949	100,000		244	(Ad)
Westminster Coll., New Wilmington, Pa.	1938	112,934		209	(Ad)
Carroll Coll., Waukesha, Wis.	1942	87,512		260	(Ad)
Hood Coll., Frederick, Md.	1941	38,270	x	387	(Am)
Southeastern La. Coll., Hammond, La.	1940	90,702		238	(In)
Rockford Coll., Rockford, Ill.	1940	90,000		228	(Am)
Reed Coll., Portland, Ore.	1929	90,000	x	225	(In)
Manhattanville Coll. of the Sacred Heart, New York, N. Y.	1942	96,122		202	(Am)
Xavier U., New Orleans, La.	1937	79,000		244	(Am)
U. S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn.	1943	131,300		100	(Am)
Culver-Stockton Coll., Canton, Mo.	1949	100,000		177	(Am)
U. of Tulsa, Tulsa, Okla.	1930	65,000	x	270	(In)
Muhlenberg Coll., Allentown, Pa.	1930	130,000		96	(Ad)
Willamette U., Salem, Ore.	1938	65,000		263	(Ad)
Radford Coll., Radford, Va.	1931	101,000		160	(Ad)
Rosemont Coll., Rosemont, Pa.	1936	89,000		190	(Am)
Longwood Coll., Farmville, Va.	1939	51,566	x	284	(Ad)
Davidson Coll., Davidson, N. C.	1941	75,000		218	(In)
N. J. St. Teachers Coll., Trenton, N. J.	1930	75,000		216	(Am)
Southwestern Inst. of Tech., Weatherford, Okla.	1929	90,000		172	(Am)
St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.	1949	103,000		137	(Am)
Huntingdon Coll., Montgomery, Ala.	1930	75,000		204	(In)
Talladega Coll., Talladega, Ala.	1939	41,000		294	(Am)
Pacific Lutheran Coll., Parkland, Wash.	1948	70,000		214	(Am)
Ala. A. & M. Coll., Normal, Ala.	1948	58,000		236	(Am)
Paine Coll., Augusta, Ga.	1947	69,753		196	(Am)
Albany St. Coll., Albany, Ga.	1935	15,000	x	96	(In)
Northwestern St. Coll. of La., Natchitoches, La.	1936	53,946	x	225	(In)
St. Teachers Coll., Winona, Minn.	1939	58,500		185	(Ad)
Ark. St. Teachers Coll., Conway, Ark.	1930	34,000	x	242	(In)
Bennett Coll., Greensboro, N. C.	1939	68,411		150	(Ad)
Goshen Coll., Goshen, Ind.	1940	42,000	x	220	(In)
Lenoir-Rhyne Coll., Hickory, N. C.	1942	74,892		130	(Ad)
Chico St. Coll., Chico, Calif.	1933	54,000		170	(In)
Salem Coll., Winston-Salem, N. C.	1938	53,791		156	(Am)
Coe Coll., Cedar Rapids, Iowa	1931	55,000	x	152	(Ad)
Ripon Coll., Ripon, Wis.	1930	58,000	x	140	(Ad)
St. Normal & Ind. Coll., Ellendale, N. D.	1931	70,618		105	(Ad)
Va. St. Coll., Petersburg, Va.	1938	43,799	x	170	(In)
Linfield Coll., McMinnville, Ore.	1935	39,492	x	180	(Ad)
Whittier Coll., Whittier, Calif.	1929	64,230	x	110	(In)
Va. Union U., Richmond, Va.	1948	30,457	x	200	(Ad)
Emmanuel Missionary Coll., Berrien Springs, Mich.	1937	40,000	x	174	(In)
St. Teachers Coll., Jacksonville, Ala.	1939	21,798		216	(Am)
George Pepperdine Coll., Los Angeles, Calif.	1940	32,000	x	188	(In)
Trinity U., San Antonio, Tex.	1946	44,900	x	150	(In)
Keene Teachers Coll., Keene, N. H.	1929	41,050		150	(Am)
Geneva Coll., Beaver Falls, Pa.	1931	38,000	x	158	(Ad)
Union Coll., Barbourville, Ky.	1941	19,350		202	(Ad)
Carthage Coll., Carthage, Ill.	1941	35,000	x	158	(Am)
Delta St. Teachers Coll., Cleveland, Miss.	1939	45,000	x	120	(Am)
Principia Coll., Elsah, Ill.	1935	42,000	x	125	(Am)
Wilmington Coll., Wilmington, Ohio	1942	40,000		108	(Am)
Ga. St. Woman's Coll., Valdosta, Ga.	1940	24,539	x	144	(Am)
Nebr. St. Teachers Coll., Chadron, Nebr.	1929	31,500	x	124	(Ad)
St. Teachers Coll., Slippery Rock, Pa.	1939	32,000		120	(Am)
Limestone Coll., Gaffney, S. C.	1941	30,000		125	(Am)
Glenville St. Coll., Glenville, W. Va.	1931	30,000	x	120	(Ad)
Northwest Nazarene Coll., Nampa, Idaho	1944	25,000		120	(Ad)
Clafin Coll., Orangeburg, S. C.	1948	14,075	x	132	(In)
Bluefield St. Coll., Bluefield, W. Va.	1938	15,000	x	125	(In)
Albright Coll., Reading, Pa.	1930	25,000	x	75	(Am)
LaGrange Coll., LaGrange, Ga.	1949	14,680	x	77	(Am)
Scrapps Coll., Claremont, Calif.	1931	35,000	x		(Am)
Our Lady of the Lake Coll., San Antonio, Tex.	1947				(Ad)
Hardin Coll., Wichita Falls, Tex.	1946	13,000	x		(In)

the complex and often controversial body of knowledge pertaining to modern library building design and construction. The lists of recent and future library buildings were compiled to meet this demand for easy firsthand orientation more efficiently than could be done in the past.

Although the desire to seek firsthand

knowledge about other library buildings seems legitimate, a word of caution is in order with regard to the tendency of some administrators to copy the plans of other buildings. Many examples could be cited of library buildings modeled after other library buildings with insufficient regard for the special conditions existing on a

given campus. In some few cases the following of a model has produced functional results, but more often it has resulted in poorly designed library buildings.

The difficulties encountered by librarians in selling the idea of modular design to college administrators and boards up to 1946 sprang from the impossibility of pointing to any previously built modular library building that could be copied or used as a model.⁴ Only after some members of the original Cooperative Committee on Library Building Plans, such as Princeton University and Iowa State University, had begun to adopt modular design, did it become easy for others to break with the hallowed traditions of segregated multiple-tier stacks, high-ceilinged reference halls, built-in wall shelving and load-bearing partitions.⁵ In 1951 the situation is approaching the reverse of that of only five years ago, and institutions not adopting modular design for their library building seem now to exhibit apologetic tendencies.

Once the library planner is determined to resist the tendency to copy existing patterns unthinkingly, he can profit much through a study of library building plans of other institutions. By means of personal inspection, correspondence, discussion and analysis, he can discover the weak and strong points of other plans. He can find out what to avoid and what to recommend. He should insist on being permitted to travel to distant points if necessary, since the most functional buildings are not always located nearby. The cost of such travel is

⁴ The application of flexible design to library buildings was first proposed by Angus S. Macdonald. See his "A Library of the Future," *Library Journal*, 58:971-75, 1023-25, 1933 and "New Possibilities in Library Planning," *Library Journal*, 70:1160-74, 1945. See also Burchard, John E., [and others], *Planning the University Library Building*. Princeton University Press, 1949, p.98-106, 136-37.

⁵ See Cooperative Committee on Library Building Plans. *The Orange Conference*, Oct. 26-28, 1945, Philadelphia; Stephenson-Brothers, 1946; See also *The Second Princeton Conference*, June 12-14, 1946, *The North Carolina Conference*, Mar. 18-19, 1947, *The Chicago Conference*, Jan. 27-28, 1948, *The Michigan Conference*, Dec. 2-3, 1949.

a trifle compared to the cost of construction or compared to architects' fees. First-hand observation is, of course, not a panacea for all library planning problems. Nevertheless, everything else being equal, the librarian who has had an opportunity to familiarize himself with many contemporary library buildings will probably do a better job of planning than one who has not. Even a study of the errors of the past may be fruitful.

The tabulation gives for each library building the following data: (1) The year in which construction was completed, (2) total volume capacity, (3) an indication of whether or not the building was filled to capacity in 1949, (4) total number of seats, including study carrels, in the new building, and (5) an indication of whether the number of seats provided was ample, adequate, or insufficient in 1949.

Fluctuations⁶

The amount of construction fluctuated greatly during the 21-year span. On the average about seven new buildings a year were constructed, thus adding about 154,000 square feet a year to the college and university facilities for the storage of books and seating of readers. The volume of construction during the depression was above average. It dropped considerably during the recovery period 1933-37 and rose sharply from 1938 until Pearl Harbor (14 buildings a year). The war and demobilization periods were extremely lean, with only 1.6 buildings a year added. Library building construction picked up again in 1948 and 1949.

Total Construction

During 1929-49 new library buildings provided 3,300,000 square feet of floor area

⁶ Assistance rendered the author by Dr. A. Mark, director, Statistical Service, Southern Illinois University, in the calculation of the summary data, trends, and ratios presented in this and the next three paragraphs, is gratefully acknowledged.

for the storage of 26,600,000 books and 61,000 seats for readers. In the total scene, for every 100 square feet of floor area for book storage there were 85 square feet for reader seating. (This ratio did not, of course, hold true for individual libraries.) About 14 per cent of the libraries accounted for one half of the total book storage capacity, and 22 per cent accounted for one half of reader seating, indicating that many more small libraries were constructed than large ones.

Average Library

The average building provided a book storage capacity of about 184,000 volumes and seats for 420 readers. At the time of construction, it possessed about 61,000 volumes. The library buildings of Atlanta University, A. & M. College of Texas and Eastern Washington College of Education came close to this statistical average.

Life Expectancy

Of 145 library buildings erected between 1929 and 1949, 63 were filled to capacity by 1949. Over one half of the buildings built between 1929 and 1941 were filled by 1949. On the basis of reported growth plus extrapolated future growth, among 122 buildings for which such data were available, the average library building had a life time or life expectancy of 21 years.⁷ In other words, the average building would require a building addition for book storage 21 years after original construction.

⁷ Life expectancy was computed on the basis of the average rate of increase for the period extending from the year of construction to the year 1948. The rate of increase was computed in the same fashion as compound interest is computed. If A denotes the number of volumes at the time of construction and B the number of volumes in 1948, then A dollars deposited in the year of construction would yield B dollars in 1948, provided that the money accumulated only through interest compounded annually at the rate of increase characteristic for a given library. The rate of increase was calculated only for those libraries for which the numbers A and B were available.

Circulation in the Divisional Library

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needed, that for the bookcard file kept by date due, from which overdues were typed and circulation counted. In these two last steps, needless minutes formerly spent on bookcarding, filing and writing charges, were saved for advising and guiding the patron.

Summary

At Nebraska the centralization of all circulation activities in the divisional library at the central loan desk has meant a

new concept of service to the patron. The circulation department is in a pivotal position in the library; it is the center of public service and coordination. Through the use of a master file of book location and streamlined techniques of filing and book charging, this circulation department has elevated the standards of service to patrons to a high level of quality and efficiency, and has thus contributed substantially to the success of the divisional library at the University of Nebraska.