

Copy 2

# THE GREEN BEAN

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY LIBRARIES' NEWSLETTER

---

8/4/78

NO. 237

---

## CALENDAR

8 September - Fall Faculty Meeting, Shakertown, 9:00 A.M.

Contributors to this issue: Nancy Baker, Pat Boyle, Faith Harders,  
Claire McCann (Editor), Bob Turner, and Paul Willis.

---

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT THE MARGARET I. KING LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, KY. 40506

## ABOUT THE LIBRARIES

### David Kaser's Comments

Paul Willis would like to share David Kaser's recent letter to him with you;

"My purpose in writing is two-fold. First and most important is to tell you once again how much I appreciated your thoughtful hospitality during my brief visit to your campus last week. Lexington is as attractive still as it ever was, and I can readily understand how you can attract so many obviously competent people to join your staff.

My second purpose in writing is to summarize some of my observations regarding your utilization of space in your tri-partite building. I gather that your four objectives in reviewing space utilization are as follows:

- 1) to maximize its utilization;
- 2) to minimize staffing requirements;
- 3) to group like or related services;
- 4) to reduce user frustration;

although not necessarily in that order of priority.

Ralph Ellsworth long ago identified as an important consideration in building planning that what he calls the "keys" of the library be visible immediately to the entering patron. These keys are reference, the card catalog, and circulation. I am not at all sure that you can group these three services so that they can be seen from your entrance, but I would encourage you to consider the desirability of doing this if possible. I have no quarrel with putting reference in the first floor of the South addition, if you cannot get it into the lobby, especially if access to that area through the old core stack could be freed up a little. I think there is also good reason to bring Collection Development into the same area.

One thing I think you will want to do over the next few months is to develop a projection of your space needs for the next two decades, so that any interim alterations you initiate can be consistent with a long-range goal. My guess is that you will probably have to construct some new space and that it might best be developed north of North. If that be found true, then it seems reasonable to begin to develop North as a public service building now with the bringing together there of all periodicals and microforms. This long-range planning activity will also be a valuable and disciplining intellectual exercise for both your staff and your faculty advisory group and will probably also gain you some additional credibility with the University administration.

Then a number of odds and ends:

1. I encourage you to consider compact shelving for some of your closed-stack areas on the ground-level (e.g., documents, special collections).

2. You can compact your current periodical shelving by using shelves with 4-inch brackets rather than 7-inch.

3. You are considerably short in the number of reader-stations available; as you add new ones, I would suggest that you emphasize lounge chairs, which can often be more economical both of capital cost and of floor space utilization than conventional tables and chairs.

4. Can anything be done to speed up the microfilming of retrospective Kentucky newspapers (especially with someone else's money) so that the bulky and disintegrating originals can be discarded?

5. Do you not also wish to discard the documents that you hold also in microform?

6. Might you not beneficially prod the University administration to begin to try to rationalize its acquiring and handling of A-V software and hardware?

7. I assume that you are moving as promptly as feasible toward the utilization of electronic exit controls, machine-based circulation systems, COM catalogs, etc., all of which have spatial implications.

8. You might wish to have the University engineer check the floor-loading in certain parts of the original King building (e.g., maps, bibliography, documents).

9. I expect that faculty studies are unlikely to be used maximally when (a) they are all brought together in one place, and (b) they cannot be locked."

#### Reclassification Unit

As part of the change to LC, the Library is now ready to begin forming the reclassification unit. At this time, we are looking for current support staff members with relevant experience in any aspect of cataloging who would be interested in working on this project. The assignment would be as a temporary (12-18 mos.) lateral transfer and at the end of the project, the person would return to a regular department. Any staff member interested in participating in the reclassification unit should see Faith Harders within the next week.

#### New SPEC Kit: Personnel Officers

The Reference Department has received SPEC Kit #45, "The Changing Role of Personnel Officers," from the Systems and Procedures Exchange Center. This kit is available at the Reference Desk, King South.

#### PERSONNEL

Dennis Dickinson, the new Assistant Director for Public Services, is located in the Director's Office. Dennis received a M.A. degree in Library Science and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota. He has worked at the Macalester College

Library and comes to Kentucky from the University of Chicago Library  
Dennis holds the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the U. S. Naval  
Reserve. Dennis is also the author of the lead article in the  
July 1978 issue of College & Research Libraries entitled "Some  
Reflections on Participative Management in Libraries."

THE NEW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

See attached.

## VI. THE NEW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Mankind dedicates monuments to persons and accomplishments of the past: national leaders, war heroes, cultural achievements, significant inventions, and the like. But it also dedicates monuments to the future. The new University Library is such a monument. Completion and occupation of the Library at the beginning of the 1977 spring semester marked the fulfillment of a dream long held by many of us. This new building not only provides the University with library resources necessary to supply its own informational needs, it also leads Arizona and the entire southwest with its ultramodern facilities. It is truly a national resource. The library building is a monument dedicated to academic excellence.

A great university leader, Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California, once said, "Give me a library and I will build a university around it." That principle mirrors the reality of the twentieth century institution of higher education. During the first two decades of this century, President Wheeler moved California into the ranks of the great universities of the nation, but not until he had created an outstanding library for it. He knew what would make his school important academically, and he went after it. Dr. Wheeler's vision and wisdom have been repeatedly justified. Studies of academic achievement have again and again shown that the most consistently identified component of a superior institution is a superior library. All academic excellence starts with the library. It is the heart of any great university.

Building, moving to, and dedicating an all-new University Library building has kept the Library in the forefront of attention for the past several years. Yet the Library has earned attention from other sources and for other reasons. Libraries store books. More importantly, libraries make books available for people to use for pleasure, for work, for research. The stock of materials in the University Library has dramatically increased during the past decade. Library size is commonly reported in terms of volumes in the collection. The University Library is rapidly reaching a size commensurate with the University's academic stature.

In 1967 the Library became a member of the Association of Research Libraries, the only such organization of major libraries in the country. At that time, Arizona was 38th in size among the 72 members, with about 1,160,000 volumes (approximately ten percent below the Association median level of 1,280,000). Halfway through our first decade of membership, we had maintained our 38th position. But we were now measured among 31 member institutions, and our collections placed us just above the median. Our efforts in the 1970's have begun to show in our statistics; by 1976, the latest year for which statistics have been compiled, we had increased our ranking to 33rd among a membership now numbering 94 research institutions. Total library resources on campus now exceed two million volumes.

This growth follows recommendations made by a team of nationally recognized librarians brought here to survey our library situation during 1971-72. Their report spelled out needs in terms of staff, facilities and collection development. A recommended acquisitions budget of \$2 million was the goal which we set. By 1976-77 we reached that dollar level. Since many research and academic libraries in this country find themselves in a time of retrenchment, we are confident that our standing among academic libraries will rise once again when official statistics are released later this year. Despite our \$2 million acquisitions budget, we still fall below the level of 31 other universities, some of which offer fewer programs to fewer students than we do.

Libraries in the 1970's are much more than just buildings with books in them. Our new Library building was planned as more than a warehouse. Perhaps the most striking departure from the tradition of our old main library building is the design of space that is open and inviting, with the collections available to browse in, not hidden in a central core. The attractive surroundings and comfortable furniture are additional evidence that the building was planned to attract users and to make their time in the building as comfortable as possible. A common

remark from faculty, staff and students this year has been, "When I had to use the old building, I made excuses to put off working in the library. Now I find reasons for extra trips."

A major advantage of the new building is the consolidation and centralization of services and resources. Its design is such that its documents staff is located physically adjacent to its large collection of United States Documents, making that service more efficient and effective for all users. Incidentally, it is one of the most heavily used sections of the Library by citizens of the State who are not connected with the University. Similarly, reference collections and staffs representing fine arts, social sciences, humanities and general reference, have been joined into a single central reference area: one staff and one collection housed side by side.

Among new services this central reference unit offers is a system of computer-based bibliographic searching, which provides speed and efficiency not previously available on our campus. After consulting with an especially selected and trained librarian in central reference, users of this service can go on about other business while the librarian develops a search strategy and interrogates computer-stored data files in California. Later the user is supplied by mail with a complete listing of all items relevant to his or her research subject. In some cases, listings include abstracts or annotations, so that the user need not search out items which will contain no useful information. Comparable manual searching methods waste thousands of research hours each year and produce less accurate results.

Obviously, bibliographic access does not necessarily mean access to information content. The growth in University Library holdings does mean that more and more of the wanted items will be found on our own shelves, but no academic library can be totally self-sufficient. During 1976-77 we added access to millions of library items by becoming a member of the Center for Research Libraries. This Chicago-based cooperative institution

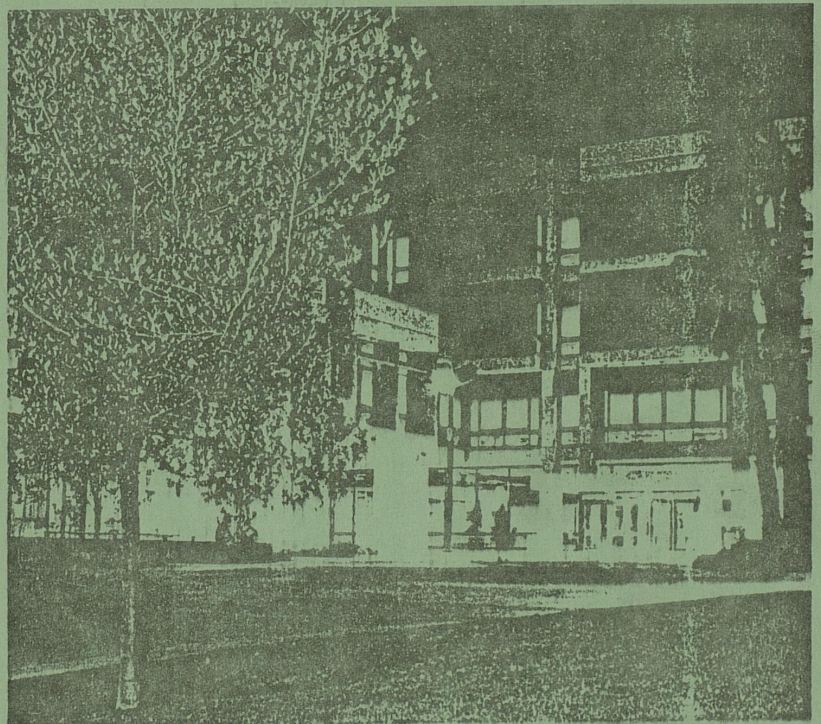
allows each member airmail or telex access to every item in its collection.

The Center collects and maintains library materials which would be, for most academic libraries, too infrequently used to justify purchase or storage costs. Its strongest areas of collection are documents of all the states, doctoral dissertations from domestic and foreign universities, foreign newspapers, textbooks, college catalogs and materials covered by large microform projects. The Center for Research Libraries has been in existence for nearly thirty years. In addition to having its own regular acquisition program, it accepts materials deposited by member institutions. Obviously, much of what it now holds is no longer available for sale, even to a library with unlimited resources. Our membership therefore increases by nearly 300 percent the library materials which our users have available to them.

32

The Library serves increasing numbers of people. As its services have expanded, some of its supporters have founded an organization called simply The Friends of the University of Arizona Library. This organization's formation was announced at the Library's dedication ceremony on April 13, 1977. Founding chairman of the Friends, Mrs. Emory C. Johnson, has assembled a distinguished Board of Directors to help her in the work of building support for the Library. The support includes book, film and map collections, financial aid, and other types of assistance. This sort of community support typifies long-standing relationships between Tucson and the University.

Limitations of space prevent description of many services offered by the Library. In addition to those mentioned above, the new Library houses a media center with video materials and playback facilities never before included in the library system. There are nearly 200,000 maps in the map collection, many of them available for use outside the Library. To increase their availability, current issues of journals are housed in a single separate location. The special collections department contains the most complete assortment of Arizona materials anywhere



in the world. It also contains many specialized and expensive materials, and has its own ground-level entrance for easy public access. All these services and more are available to the citizens of the State of Arizona. I invite you to use them.