

THE BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WVU LIBRARIES FROM 1931

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Wise Library
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OVERVIEW

From the fall of 1902 until the fall of 1931, the Library was located in a grey sandstone Romanesque style building which was as nearly as possible in the center of the University campus. It soon became evident that this library building did not adequately meet the needs of a good library. The site and style of the building made expansion virtually impossible without prohibitive costs; therefore, after only twenty-nine years in the building, another library building was built and the old library building was destined to become the present Stewart Hall and house the administrative offices for the University.

As early as 1929, University President John Roscoe Turner and other supporters saw the need for library improvements. Funds allocated for a new library building amounted to only \$300,000; therefore, officials decided to "adopt a design permitting additions in future years. The first Library unit thus was planned as a three-story structure with space for 350,000 volumes and seating for 430 students." According to the Morgantown Post on June 28, 1929, the new library would eventually have an extension of the central tower to seven full stories or 14 bookstack stories, capacity to house one million volumes, and seating for 840 students. The Library, to be located on the former Israel Charles White property, was to be the center of a group of three buildings surrounding a great court facing the Law Building, the Chemistry Building on one side, and a future building on the other to create a second campus circle. Lonna Dennis Arnett, Librarian, was quoted in the Daily Athenaeum of August 26, 1929, as stating that "Plans for the building are drawn so that it can be duplicated, if desired, and another building of 1,000,000 volume capacity can be erected adjacent. This will make one building separated from the other only by a small court though it may not be needed for years to come." Library plans had to be altered since all bids exceeded the limit set by the Legislature; however, Dr. Arnett stated in the Daily Athenaeum on December 7, 1929 that the outstanding features of the old plans were still included. The article also stated that "the plans provide for two elevators for

use in the stack room; however, only one of these will be installed for use in the first unit" and also for the "mechanical delivery of books." According to the January 4, 1930 Daily Athenaeum, expenses were "cut down by the use of cheaper material in some places, elimination of some ornamental work and by abandoning plans for rooms on either side of the periodical room on the top floor." Excavation for the new Library began January 30, 1930 with erection of the building slated to begin the middle of March. The February 1, 1930 Daily Athenaeum stated that the new "structure will be approximately 150 feet in length and approximately 100 feet in depth." The president of the construction company stated that "3,000 cubic yards of dirt will be taken out" and "twelve hundred cubic yards of concrete for footings and walls, 800,000 bricks for walls and 425 tons of structural steel will be used." Dr. Arnett, Librarian, commented in the November 21, 1931 Daily Athenaeum on the design of the new library. The book stack was divided into five floors with other parts of the building being built around the stack. The stack corresponded to the crosspiece of an "H" to three of the floors. The basement or first level provided for unpacking, storage, bindery workrooms, and janitor's quarters while a sub-basement housed the ventilating machinery and equipment for regulating steam pipes. The second stack floor, in the crosspiece of the "H", was the main entrance. The loan desk and catalogue cases were of walnut. The doorways were finished in "Tinos," a greenish New York marble. Stairs of pink Tennessee marble lead upon either side of the reference and reserve reading rooms, which were the long parts of the letter "H". Grey Vermont marble was used in the corridors. The floors of the stacks were made of slate and the floors of the reading rooms were of a sound-deadening cork composition. A book conveyor carried the books from floor to floor. A pneumatic tube system was installed but not yet used. The exterior of the building was made of brick and Indiana limestone and was styled in modern Georgian architecture. Over the main entrance was found the West Virginia state seal and the inscription "University Library." A series of old printers' guilds were carved on either side of the entrance. Two large stone urns were also at the front of the building.

With the completion of construction on September 1, 1931, the transfer of books from the old library began. According to Dr. Arnett in the September 13, 1931 Daily Athenaeum, the new library "has been in use since the opening of the fall semester. All five book floors are being put in use, and desks are now open." An electric clock, donated by the 1930 graduating class, was installed over the main doorway. Formal dedication of the new University Library was held November 20, 1931. University President John R. Turner, in accepting the key to the new building, described the new Library as "the best in America. Not the largest ... nor the costliest, it is still the most workable. Every improvement

in modern libraries is embodied in this building. The library was built to suit present needs, with provisions made for expansion when it is needed." (Daily Athenaeum, November 21, 1931)

Donations assisted in enhancing the early library collections. During 1933, the Library received a donation of Senator Guy D. Goff's private library of some 9,000 volumes. The private library of Waitman T. Barbe was bequeathed to the Library in 1934 by his widow, Mrs. Clara Gould Barbe. Mrs. Barbe and the West Virginia State Education Association donated the private library in memory of Dr. Barbe, for many years a professor of English at the University. Dr. Barbe is also credited with helping to establish and develop the school system in West Virginia. A plaque commemorating Dr. Barbe's long service to education in the state was placed in the lobby of the new Library.

In 1940, Thoney Pietro, a retired, wealthy general contractor and Morgantown resident for many years, wanted to present the University with a gift as a token of his appreciation of happiness which had come to him since his arrival from Italy. Pietro ordered the bust of the famous Florentine 13th century poet, Dante Alighieri, from Peter Bazzanti and Son of Florence. The colors on the pedestal were to be green and brown to blend with the colors in the University Library lobby. When completed, the bust was shipped to Baltimore, Md. where it encountered problems with the U.S. Customs. Customs insisted on a \$113.00 duty even though Pietro had a letter from Customs headquarters stating that objects used for educational purposes were exempt from duty. After fruitless letters and even a futile trip to Baltimore by Pietro, Customs turned the bust over to the Treasury Department which in turn sent the bust to the Library of Congress in 1941. When University President Irwin Stewart arrived in July 1946, Pietro told him the story of the Dante bust. During a visit to Washington, President Stewart visited the Library of Congress and found the bust of Dante in the basement gathering dust. President Stewart wrote his former classmate and then Chief Librarian, Luther H. Evans, about the Dante bust and hoped he could find a way to have the bust sent to the institution to which it was originally intended. Evans was willing to help; however, under the law the Library of Congress could only turn over the bust if manuscripts or materials of equal value to the duty were exchanged. Library funds were inadequate to meet the monetary value; therefore, Pietro supplied the money for the microfilming of copies from the West Virginia Collection. The Library of Congress was then willing to accept the microfilm for the bust. Finally, on April 22, 1948, President Stewart notified Pietro that the "long-awaited" gift had arrived. (Morgantown Post, November 21, 1959)

By 1948, the Library built in 1931 was found to be inadequate to meet the needs of student body. Library facilities became overcrowded since the size of the student body increased following the end of World War II. Seating and table space became inadequate and Librarian E. M. Grieder used emergency measures and opened a supplementary reserve reading room in a 50 by 90 foot building formerly used as a cafeteria. This measure provided space for the reserve collection and space for 170 students. In addition, a typing room was made available where students could use their own typewriters for copying material.

Construction of a \$400,000 addition to the library building began in March 1950 and completed during the fall 1951. The addition was built directly on top of the present building and when completed would increase the capacity to 400,000 volumes. The four additional stack levels not only held 12 miles of book shelves but also provided individual carrels for graduate student use. "The expansion added 19,000 square feet of stack levels, a document room, a reserve reading room, a rare book room and a West Virginia reading room ... The seating capacity was increased by 340." (Daily Athenaeum, April 17, 1951 and February 15, 1955)

The addition of the new floors was not without loss, however. Heavy water damage was sustained on the night of October 28, 1950, when water poured from openings in the "old roof" during construction. Water pouring from an inch-and-a-quarter hose at a barrel a minute was not discovered until 5 a.m. on a Saturday by a janitor. (Daily Athenaeum, November 2, 1950) Librarian Charles E. Butler reported that the "flood was caused by opening the valve to a hose leading from the ground to the 'old roof' level. Early investigations placed the damage at the hands of pranksters." (Daily Athenaeum, October 31, 1950) Serious damage was done to the Congressional Records and to the stacks on the flooded first floor. Serious damage was also done to many surgical books and several hundred new books which never reached the shelves. Value for insurance purposes placed on the value of some 4,000 damaged materials was \$11,463.13. (Dominion News, December 4, 1951)

The completion of the new floors to the University Library brought some new innovations to library policies and routines. Fiscal year 1951/1952 saw the beginning of the open Reserve Collection, the open shelf General Reading Room, open shelf periodical and document collections, the requirement of identification of borrowers and discontinuance of regular overdue notices. Also, the enlarged circulation desk in the lobby, in addition to the fact that the old card catalog could not be expanded while housed in the lobby, influenced

the decision to place a new public card catalog in the Reference Room. (Report of the University Library, 1951/1952)

A 7,000-piece book collection assembled by the late Arthur S. Dayton, an alumnus of the University class of 1907, was given to the University by his widow, Mrs. Ruth Woods Dayton of Charleston, West Virginia. The law offices of Dayton, Campbell & Lowe stipulated in a April 28, 1949 letter to University President Irwin Stewart that the collection would be presented to the University under the condition that a room be provided to preserve and display the prized collection. As part of the new addition to the Library, a Rare Book Room was prepared and furnished with glass cases to display the four Folios of William Shakespeare, first editions of the writings of Milton, Beaumont and Fletcher, Scott, Jane Austen, Mark Twain, Dickens, and Thackeray - to mention a few. One of the oldest volumes in the collection was the Nuremberg Chronicle printed in 1493. The Rare Book Room was formally opened by Mrs. Dayton on October 30, 1951. (Daily Athenaeum, October 31, 1951)

No significant improvements have been done to the library building since the addition was added in 1951. A new pneumatic tube system was installed during the summer of 1957. A Lamson automatic tube carrier was installed during construction of the building in 1931; however, it was not used for some seven or eight years due to lack of employees. When the new addition was added to the Library, another tube system was installed to serve the extra levels. The new system, completed by July 1957, "consisted of 2 1/2-inch tubes connecting the circulation desk with all levels. Under the old system, which consisted of 1 1/2-inch tubes connecting the first five levels and 2 1/2-inch tubes connecting the other five levels, messages could not be sent directly to the second five levels." (Daily Athenaeum, June 27, 1957) All messages had to be physically transferred on the sixth level.

In 1968, the Library was declared "the worst fire hazard of the University buildings inspected that week" by a deputy fire marshall. Floors six to ten were cited as the biggest problem since there was no route of escape due to the height of the tower. (Daily Athenaeum, August 8, 1968) A fire escape was added from the upper levels to the ground on the north side of the building. Eventually all stairwells were enclosed with necessary fire doors installed to meet fire safety regulations. In 1970, installation of an automatic heating and cooling system was begun at the cost of \$387,800. Director of Libraries Robert F. Munn stated that "This is an expensive project since the building was not designed for air conditioning equipment." (Daily Athenaeum, October 2, 1970) In an April 14, 1974 memo to all staff members, Associate Director Jim

Gribble stated that the installation of the air conditioning system was completed except for a few minor details. These deficiencies were already under discussion and modifications to correct them were under consideration.

During 1970-1980 space continued to be a tremendous problem. Dean of Libraries Robert F. Munn wrote that "the situation is even more critical than it might at first appear, for the units where space is the most urgently required are those with little or none available." The Law and Agriculture/Engineering libraries had no additional capacity; however, the most serious problem was in the Main Library. Dr. Munn further stated that the "present library facilities can provide sufficient space for books for no more than three years at the present rate of acquisition." The solving of space problems could not begin to be solved until new buildings were built. Construction of the new WVU Law Center and the Evansdale Library would correct part of the problem. The moving of the Reserve Book Room and the West Virginia Collection to Colson Hall was a significant beginning in addressing the space problem in the Main Library.

Throughout the years there have been some library policy changes or events that should be noted.

- National Science Foundation awarded the University a \$15,000 grant in 1962 to compile a listing of all its scientific periodicals and journals. The grant was under the direction of the West Virginia University Library and the publication eventually became the West Virginia Union List of Serials.
- Reclassification of the library collection from the Dewey Decimal Classification system to the Library of Congress system began in 1967 with the exception of a few special collections.
- During the fall of 1971, West Virginia University Library became one of ten regional libraries and ten college libraries in West Virginia who were on the Teletype circuit centered at the West Virginia Library Commission in Charleston. All intrastate interlibrary loan requests were funneled through the Commission.
- In 1976, the book stacks were opened for general use by all students. For many years the Library operated with a closed stack policy; however, in

1960, undergraduates with a 3 point grade average were permitted to use the stacks in addition to graduates.

- WVU began using OCLC for the cataloging of library materials in 1978. During this same time period, a Library Automation Group was formed to begin discussions on automation.
- The West Virginia University Press was established during the fiscal year 1980/1981. The Press represented a continuation and expansion of the Library's publication program which dealt with local or regional concerns.
- During the 1980/1981 year, the "Books for the WVU Library" campaign by the Alumni Association was the first time the Alumni Association had attempted to raise money for any purpose except for the scholarship fund.
- The first phase of automation began in September 1981 with the retrospective conversion of library records into machine readable form. The monographic portion of this project was completed during the fall of 1986.
- The West Virginia and Regional History Collection introduced its first Visiting Committee in April 1984. The group was established to meet the needs of the Collection for a state based group of advisers and to assist in fundraising. Also, the Collection's Newsletter had its beginnings during the spring of 1985.
- The West Virginia Union List of Serials was made available in an electronic format via WVNET/CMS in early 1985.

Since it was first established, the Library has been called the University Library, the West Virginia University Library, and most frequently, the Main Library. In 1984, the Board of Regents approved designating the Library as the Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library upon the recommendation of University President E. Gordon Gee and the University's Board of Advisors. Charles C. Wise, Jr., who died in 1982 at the age of 71, was a Charleston, W. Va. lawyer and former student body president who received his law degree from West Virginia University in 1936. Mr. Wise and his sister gave 4,260 acres of mountain timberland in Hardy County valued at \$714,000 to the WVU Foundation. (Daily Athenaeum, March

23, 1984) Dedication ceremonies for naming of the Charles C. Wise Jr., Library were held on the Library lawn on October 15, 1984. A plaque with the new library name was dedicated on September 12, 1985.

A major era in the history of the WVU Libraries' history came to an end on March 13, 1986 with the unexpected and untimely death of Dr. Robert F. Munn, Interim Dean and Dean of Library Services since 1955. Dean Munn was a man who dedicated himself to West Virginia University, the Library, and the profession. His presence was sorely missed. However, the transition was eased with the appointment of Stokley B. (Jim) Gribble as Interim Dean. A continuity existed which enhanced this period of change and direction. Considerable progress toward the systematic planning of computer needs and library automation was made under the leadership of Dean Gribble during this interim period. Also, recommendations for initial ranking of librarians according to a newly created document, Criteria for Librarian Appointment and Promotion, were completed in early November 1988.

On November 15, 1988, Dr. Ruth M. Jackson assumed the leadership of the University Libraries. After some ten years of preparing for automation, some major automation initiatives would soon become a reality. RMG Consultants, Inc. of Chicago were contracted to assist in the preparation of our Requirements Report for an Integrated Library System and Related Services for the West Virginia University Libraries. The RFP was released on December 5, 1989 with bids to be received by WVU Purchasing no later than February 16, 1990. Library Task Forces presented their final evaluative reports to the RFP Evaluation Team on December 20, 1990. NOTIS Systems Inc. was selected as the online library information system of choice during the winter of 1991. Online access to library materials in the University Libraries was made official on September 30, 1992 with the dedication of the WVU Libraries Online Catalog, MountainLynx. The new library system cost \$1.2 million with \$720,000 of the money coming from the WVU Athletic Department which gave monies from three football games to assist in the payment of the automated system. (Dominion Post, October 1, 1992)

In 1993 a self-study of the University Libraries and strategic planning process was launched. The thrust of this study was to evaluate the existing library resources and facilities and to formulate a long-range and strategic plan which would form the basis of a master plan to address long standing deficits of the library system. External consultants also collected additional data, validated, if necessary, the findings of the library self-study, and made recommendations for future directions. A final report entitled Meeting the Challenges of the 21st

Century: Self-Study and Strategic Planning Document: the West Virginia University Libraries was issued on March 1, 1995. This document provided a summary the status of the University Libraries and compared the University Libraries to other SREB libraries. Also, as part of the strategic planning response of the University Libraries to Senate Bill 547, the Libraries undertook some downsizing strategies and still maintain essential services to support the mission of West Virginia University.

At a December 1996 meeting of the University System Board of Trustees a multi-million dollar master plan for West Virginia University was adopted. This master plan displayed WVU's commitment to support the enhancement of the WVU Libraries by developing a Library Master Plan to construct a downtown library adjacent to the Wise Library designed to facilitate information exchange and integrate state-of-the-art technology throughout the facility, renovation of selected areas of the Evansdale Library, and construction of an off-site storage facility to house thousand of older and infrequently used volumes in the library collection. In June 1997, Ruth Nellis was hired by the Provost's Office to serve as Coordinator of Library Building and Renovation Projects. The architects, Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbot of Boston and Hayes Large Architects of Altoona, Pa., unveiled the conceptual design of the \$30 million downtown library in July 1998. The 124,000 square foot complex will be located on the sloping lawn in front of the existing Wise Library. The new building will have five levels, four above ground, and will be fronted with an oversized bay window overlooking University Avenue. A large atrium with a giant skylight will be created to connect the two buildings. The atrium will look upon the current front of the Wise Library. (Dominion Post, July 30, 1998) Besides the new building, renovations to the present Wise Library and consolidation of library services now available in Colson Hall and the Chemistry Research Lab Building are planned. Groundbreaking for the new library is set for West Virginia Day, June 20, 1999. Construction is to begin during the summer of 1999 with completion slated for 2001.

A \$2.8 million, 115,000 square foot off-site storage facility will be built on the site of the old WVU Poultry Farm located off Maple Drive and W.Va. Route 705. The high-density facility will be run by an automated retrieval system. Items selected for off-site storage will be on a 24-hour delivery basis. (Dominion Post, Nov. 29, 1998 and Mountaineer Spirit, Feb. 4, 1999)

The 1990s also saw some other important events which should be noted:

- A library-to-library courier service began January 16, 1990 under the supervision of the Wise Library Circulation Department. A graduate student in the Technology Education Department used an experimental electric car/van to pick up and deliver basic intralibrary materials as needed five days per week.
- The Wise Library 3-M security system installed in July 1992 proved to be a vast improvement over the previous, badly outmoded security equipment. Installation of a building wide sprinkler and fire detection system took place beginning in January 1993.
- A Bibliographic Instruction Lab in White Hall under the supervision of the Wise Library Reference Department opened in October 1995. The Lab included full Internet connectivity for instruction to students and faculty on electronic and other information resources.
- During the 1997 Annual Fund Drive, WVU faculty and staff committed to ninety-three individual library endowments. Library endowments were to be matched by the WVU Research Corp. as part of a \$1 million Challenge Grant to benefit the University Libraries. The Research Corp. pledged to donate \$2 to an endowment established by the WVU Foundation on behalf of the WVU Libraries for every one dollar contributed by faculty and staff, both active and retired, during the Annual Fund Drive beginning with 1997 and continuing over the next five years. In 1997 alone, the faculty and staff generated \$465,000 for the Libraries.
- Expanding access to library information resources was made available on February 27, 1998 with the introduction to the University Community of MountainLynx Plus, an upgrade and new face to the online library information system. The new system featured a Windows-based menu with more than 70 electronic databases, including programs available on CD-ROM, WVNET mainframe, and the World Wide Web.
- In April 1998, the WVU Libraries launched a new WVU Libraries Book Endowment Program. Permanent tributes could now be established with gifts of \$500. Stephen Tanner, a WVU graduate and senior partner in Tanner & Tanner Accountants of Morgantown, played an important role in establishing this new program. Mr. Tanner and his wife established the first two book endowments in memory of Betty Sue and Charles

Armistead. The new program generated general library endowments for WVU Libraries, West Virginia and Regional History Collection, Health Sciences Center, College of Arts & Sciences, College of Law, Departments of English and History, Middle Eastern Studies, Italian-American Studies, and Religious Studies.

- Full text article databases from Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, Wilson Web and EBSCOhost were made available to faculty and students at the beginning of the fall 1998 semester.

After ten years as Dean of University Libraries, Ruth M. Jackson stepped down from this position to serve as a special assistant to the Provost for library outreach programs between July 15 and December 31, 1998. In 1999, Dr. Jackson assumed a full-time University Librarian position. Myra N. Lowe, Head of the Wise Library Reference Department, was named Interim Dean effective July 16, 1998. Because of her years of experience, her commitment to the libraries, and the respect she had among the library faculty and staff, the appointment was met with much enthusiasm and excitement. Ms. Lowe was faced with many ongoing changes within the library system: a \$30 million library building on the downtown campus, renovation and refurbishing of the Evansdale and Wise Libraries, consolidation of library services located in Colson Hall and the Chemistry Research Lab Building, construction of an off-site storage facility, and the migration to a new integrated information management system.

History is always ongoing. So is the history of the University Libraries of West Virginia University. The Libraries are positioning themselves for the start of the new millennium with the appointment effective June 16, 1999 of Frances O'Brien as the new Dean of Libraries, the beginning of construction of a new library on the Downtown Campus, renovating the present Wise Library, implementing a new integrated information management system, and a new hope that the future will be brighter as the University Libraries embark into the 21st century.

AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY

The Audiovisual Library is located on the ground floor, rear entrance of Colson Hall. The library supports the academic media needs of the University and contains a variety of circulating media and equipment related to the instructional curriculum of the University. In addition, the library has a small reference collection and viewing rooms that can be reserved for classes.

For a number of years, an Audio-Visual Aids Department was part of the West Virginia University Library. The department's Annual Report 1959-1960 states that the department has had "twenty years of service. The Annual Public Library Film Statistics compiled by the American Library Association in March 1969 ranked the West Virginia University Library Audio-Visual Aids Department fifth in the nation as to population served; fifth in the nation as to the number of prints in collection; tenth as to number of showings made, and eleventh as to total viewing audience. However, in a comparison of the total annual allotments for procuring films, our department rates forty-eighth." The Audio-Visual Aids Department was located in the south corridor of the Library in Rooms 3 through 9. The department was composed of a Film Section, a Record Section and a Music Room. At one time Photo-Duplication was part of the department. The Film Section functioned as a university film library and as a state film lending library for many years. In July 1964, the responsibility of audio-visual materials was transferred to the Office of Radio, Television and Motion Pictures. The transfer was later viewed as a mistake, and the Audio-Visual Library was permitted to run down and was finally abolished in 1970. Films and equipment were then purchased and kept in the individual departments since the University no longer had a centralized film service. During fiscal year 1973/1974, the responsibility of the development of an efficient and effective audio-visual service once again was given to the Library with funds being granted to hire a full-time audio-visual librarian for both the Main Library and the Medical Center Library. A department-by-department inventory helped in locating films, video tapes, and filmstrips which would become the nucleus of the present audiovisual libraries on the Downtown and Health Sciences campuses. A major step in once again centralizing audio-visual services for the University came with the opening of the Audiovisual Library in Colson Hall at the beginning of the spring semester of 1980.

COLSON HALL

A collection of Reserve reading materials for courses on the Downtown Campus is located on the first floor of Colson Hall. The library also contains a basic circulating collection supplementing the University's undergraduate programs and a small reference collection.

A room for reserve course materials has been a part of the Library for many years. A reading room was provided for the reserve book collection in the first library unit built in 1931. During the 1950s through 1970s, Reserve was under the supervision of the Main Library Circulation Department. With the opening

of Colson Hall, Reserve was transferred in June 1980 to Colson Hall with a librarian supervising the reserve reading materials and the circulating collection. Beginning 1997, Reserve once again was placed under the supervision of the Wise Library Circulation Department.

EVANSDALE LIBRARY

The Evansdale Library located next to the Agricultural Sciences building supports the academic programs and research centered on the Evansdale Campus. Materials in the disciplines of agriculture, engineering, art, drama, education, forestry, social work and physical education are found in this library.

The Engineering and Agricultural Sciences buildings were completed on the Evansdale Campus during 1961. Space was provided for a library on the second floor of the Engineering Building. In July 1961, books and journals in the Main Library which were classed in the engineering and agricultural sciences were transferred to the new Agricultural/Engineering Library. The lack of adequate space resulted in some of the library collection being stored on the tenth floor of the Engineering Building. The collection was transferred still classed in the Dewey Decimal Classification; therefore, when the decision was made for all library materials to be classed by LC, much of the reclassification was done by the Agriculture/Engineering library staff.

As the University enrollment grew and new graduate programs developed, the problem of space for the Agricultural/Engineering Library collection and seating became more serious. The University was now located on two separate campuses. The need for a new library became evident; therefore, a new Evansdale Library was planned to "support the things that are out on the Evansdale Campus." The new library was to have three floors and would be constructed so that an additional two floors could be added when needed. Floor space of 62,000 square feet would provide seating for approximately 550 students and hold around 300,000 volumes. The new library was to house the Agricultural/Engineering Library, Creative Arts Center volumes, Education and Physical Education materials. (Daily Athenaeum, August 2, 1979) A decision was made later to leave the Music Library in the Creative Arts Center. Ground breaking for the new library was July 7, 1978. The new \$3,601,800 Evansdale Library officially opened November 19, 1980 after many construction problems and delays. Book transfers from the Agricultural/Engineering Library and Main Library were made between November 18, 1980 and January 15, 1981. The opening of the library made it possible for new services such as online literature searching and bibliographic

instruction available to the Evansdale Campus community. Computer facilities were also available on the ground floor of the new Evansdale Library building.

HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

The Health Sciences Library is located on the second floor of Health Sciences North of the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center. The collections serve the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy and supports the health information needs of Ruby Memorial Hospital and health personnel throughout the state of West Virginia.

In 1935, the School of Medicine was removed from the approved list of medical schools by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals and the American Medical Association. The one area of deficiency cited was the library. A library committee of the Medical School faculty began studying the library and made specific recommendation and suggestions on how the library should acquire and manage books and periodicals. The library being referred to at this time must have been a departmental library since no formal library seemed to exist until the Medical Center Library opened in the Basic Sciences Building in 1957.

During the October 27, 1950 water damage to the University Library, a number of old and valuable surgical books had been damaged. In November 1950, Dr. W. C. Moser, a Morgantown physician for about 45 years, donated his entire medical library of 65 volumes to the University Library. (Daily Athenaeum, November 4, 1950)

In 1955, the University received a cash gift of \$23,531.79 for the development of its new medical library as the result of a bequest by Dr. T. Judd McBee. Two pieces of real estate, one an income oil and gas property in Greene County, Pa. and the other in Monongalia County, were also given to be used by the University medical library. (Daily Athenaeum, July 11, 1957) Alderson Fry, appointed Medical Librarian in August 1954, said the bulk of the gift would be used to build the library collection with approximately \$5,000 being spent buying rare and original works concerning the history of medicine for the purpose of founding a McBee historical collection. Mr. Fry was located in the Main Library until such time the new medical library would be available. In addition to the selection of books by Mr. Fry to enhance the expanded program in medical education, medical books were identified from the Main Library collection for transfer. The Basic Sciences Building was completed in the summer of 1957 Books and serials were transferred from the Main Library

to the new Medical Library on the second floor of the Basic Sciences Building during August 1957. The library was a 7-story book stack with elevators and air conditioning and the capacity to hold 150,000 volumes. (Daily Athenaeum, August 8, 1957)

The Medical Center Library was later called the Health Sciences Library when the Medical Center changed its name.

LAW LIBRARY

The Law Library is located on the second floor of the WVU Law Center and serves the students of the West Virginia College of Law and supports the research interests of the law faculty.

The mid 1880's saw the beginnings of the first departmental library within the University. Growth of the library in the Law School was minimal since annual appropriations were small or nonexistent to develop an adequate collection until regular appropriations were made beginning in 1904. At this time the collection numbered some 2,300 volumes. In 1907, Charles E. Hogg, Dean of the College of Law, placed his personal law library in the College of Law for students to use. The Regents agreed to pay for the cost of insurance while the collection was on loan. By the time Dean Hogg resigned, the regular collection had grown to approximately 5,500 volumes. The Library was not fully cataloged and its holdings were not in the Main Library's catalog. The College of Law moved into a new Law Building (now Colson Hall) in 1923.

In 1948, the 5,000 volume law library of Arthur S. Dayton, Charleston attorney, was given to the Law Library. The collection included a "well-rounded working library of modern texts and reports" and a number of rare volumes and records. (Fairmont Virginian, August 28, 1948)

In 1969, a cataloger was added to the staff of the Law Library to begin cataloging the collection. The collection had grown in size and during the 1970s space and seating once again became serious problems. A new building on the Evansdale Campus was planned and in the fall of 1974 a new WVU Law Center was opened with the main entrance to the Law Library located on the second floor and additional book stacks available on all three floors.

MATH LIBRARY

The Math Library is located on the fourth floor of Armstrong Hall on the Downtown Campus and supports instruction and research in the field of mathematics.

The library was formerly part of a Math-Physics Library located in the Physics Building (now Hodges Hall). Library materials selected by representatives from both the Math and Physics Departments from existing holdings of the Main Library were transferred in September 1961 to the new department library in the Physics Building. The library was under the supervision of the Circulation Department of the Main Library. When a new branch library incorporating all the physical sciences was planned, the physics books in the Math-Physics Library were recatalogued during fiscal year 1966/1967 to become part of the new Physical Sciences Library. The math portion of the library was recatalogued and moved during fiscal year 1968/1969 to a location in the old Music Building (now Eiesland Hall) and remained under the supervision of the Circulation Department. The Math Library remained in this location until November 1992 when a new Math Library opened in Armstrong Hall. Effective August 16, 1995, the supervision of the Math Library was transferred to the Physical Sciences Library.

MUSIC LIBRARY

The Music Library, located in the Creative Arts Center on the Evansdale Campus, houses books, periodicals, music scores and reserve materials relating to the study of music.

In the early 1960s, the National Science Foundation was awarding grants to institutions in an effort to increase the number of Ph.Ds. The School of Music applied for and was awarded a three-year grant to purchase research materials to support a Ph.D. program. To assist in the fulfillment of this grant, library materials in the Main Library relating to music were transferred in January 1962 to the Music Building (now Eiesland Hall) to create a department library. In 1964, the School of Music hired Dr. Barton Hudson as a faculty member with part-time responsibility of overseeing the library and acquiring research materials for the library collection. During the same year, the School of Music combined with the Department of Art and the drama program in the Speech Department to form the Creative Arts Center (later renamed the College of Creative Arts). When the new Creative Arts Center was completed in 1968, the

School of Music, including the library, moved from the Downtown Campus into the new facility on the Evansdale Campus.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

The Physical Sciences Library is located on the first floor of the Chemistry Research Laboratory building. The library supports teaching and research in the fields of chemistry, physics, geology and astronomy.

The need for a library to house all of the physical sciences emerged. Two science libraries already existed - a Chemistry Library located in the Chemistry Building (now Clark Hall) and a Math-Physics Library located in the Physics Building (now Hodges Hall). A decision was made to move all of the chemistry and physics books in the Main Library along with those housed in the Chemistry and Physics Buildings into the new Chemistry Annex (Chemistry Research Laboratory) and form a new branch library incorporating all of the physical sciences. At this same time a decision was made not to create another scientific branch library classified by the Dewey Decimal Classification; therefore, the first new title in the sci-tech group was classified by the Library of Congress classification in mid-October 1966. Reclassification was completed for titles to be transferred to the Physical Sciences Library by May 1, 1967. The Chemistry Annex was completed in 1968 and materials were moved into the new branch library.

WEST VIRGINIA AND REGIONAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The West Virginia and Regional History Collection is located on the second floor of Colson Hall. The collection of books, photographs, periodicals, oral histories, recordings of folk music, broadsides, maps, pamphlets, newspapers, and manuscripts relating to the state of West Virginia and surrounding regions is considered one of the leading regional repositories in the nation.

The West Virginia and Regional History Collection had its beginnings in 1933 as the Division of Documents within the Library. Three men - Dr. Charles Ambler, Dr. Festus P. Summers, and O.D. Lambert - are credited with having given the impetus for the establishment of a West Virginia collection. The origins of the collection can be traced to the beginnings of the West Virginia University Library in the buildings on Woodburn Circle. Today the collection has become a most significant repository of historical research source materials in the mountain state.

With the new addition being planned for the Library in 1950, one floor of the new addition called for a West Virginia Room nearby the Rare Book Room. This would permit for the first time the assembling of all West Virginia materials from the widely scattered storage places to which they had been consigned throughout the years into one area. In 1950 the collecting of West Virginia materials was reborn under the name West Virginia Collection with Charles Shetler as its first director. The West Virginia Room, located on the sixth level of the Main Library, and Archives and Manuscripts, located on the tenth level, comprised the West Virginia Collection. The Collection began to focus not only on West Virginia but also surrounding regions thereby constituting the name change in 1980 to the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. The Collection remained in the Main Library until Colson Hall (formerly Law Building) was renovated. The Collection moved in 1980 to its new home on the second floor of Colson Hall.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS

(Col.) J. R. Weaver 1867-1869

(Capt.) H. H. Pierce 1869-1875

John I. Harvey 1878-1889

Margaret E. Morrow 1890

Clara Hough 1890-1898

Eliza J. Skinner 1898-1902

Pauline G. Wiggin 1902-1907

Nathaniel L. Goodrich 1907-1909

Lucy E. Fay 1909-1910

Sloan D. Watkins 1910

Lonna D. Arnett 1910-1935

Christopher G. Brouzas 1935-1939

William P. Kellam 1939-1946

Fleming Bennett (Interim) 1946-1947

Elmer M. Grieder 1947-1949

Charles E. Butler 1949-1955

Robert F. Munn (Interim) 1955-1957

Robert F. Munn 1957-1986

Stokley B. Gribble (Interim) 1986-1988

Ruth M. Jackson 1988-1998

Myra N. Lowe (Interim) 1998-1999

Frances O'Brien 1999-

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Morgantown Post, 1931-1998

Mountaineer Spirit, 1998-1999

Books

Doherty, William T. and Summers, Festus P. West Virginia University. Morgantown, W. Va.: West Virginia University Press, 1982.

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Jackson, Ruth L. Moore. Meeting the Challenges of the 21st century : Self-study and Strategic Planning Document : The West Virginia University Libraries : Final Report to the Library Oversight Committee, March 1, 1995. Morgantown, W. Va.: The Libraries, 1995.

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