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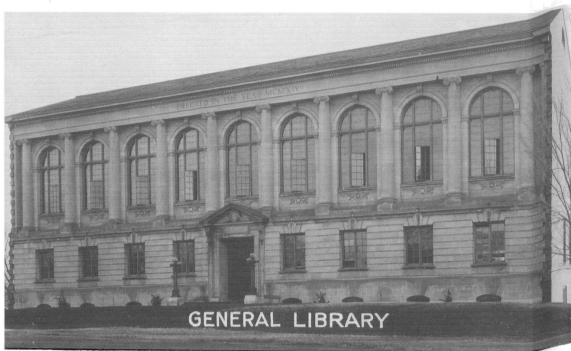
The History of the Library,
University of Missouri-Columbia,
1928-1946



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

NOV 10 1980

LIBRARY



In 1915, before the West and East Wings were completed.

The History of the Library,
University of Missouri-Columbia,
1928-1946

by June LaFollette DeWeese

Elmer Ellis Library

University of Missouri - Columbia • 1980

University of Missouri Library Series, 28

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Dedicated to
Miss Alma Bennett, UMC
Social Science Librarian for 28 years,
from 1947-1975.



Acknowledgments

I especially appreciate the assistance of Dr. Ralph H. Parker, who probably knows more about the history of this library than any other person and who helpfully clarified many points for me. Dr. Elmer Ellis, Dr. W. Francis English and Mrs. Ann Todd Rubey graciously consented to share their recollections with me in oral interviews. Dr. Benjamin Powell took time from his busy schedule as Director of Libraries at Duke University to respond to my many questions by letter. I would like to thank all the people named as well as all of the other librarians in the UMC Library System and Western Historical Manuscripts who assisted me.

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Preface

This segment of the history of the Library of the University of Missouri which covers the latter portion of the Severance regime and the entire Powell regime is a story of crisis and survival. The Depression of 1930 was particularly hard on the Library which suffered both staff losses and declination of the book budget.

In 1900, when James T. Gerould became University Librarian, he brought a vision of the library as a research resource which would assist in bringing the University into national prominence. The character of the collections changed by the inclusion of many scholarly foreign journals. He was lured to Minnesota in 1907, leaving an accomplishment of the goals to his successor. For sometime the impetus continued, but Severance was not the crusader and dreamer that his predecessor had been, and even before the Depression arrived the Library was falling behind libraries like Wisconsin and Indiana.

Before the Depression had ended funds became available for the construction of the west wing of the Library Building, the completion of which coincided with the retirement of Mr. Severance. The new building, the arrival of Ben Powell as Librarian, and the restoration of operating funds contributed to a resurgence in library development. The University community looked forward to the Library resuming its place among the great libraries of the country. The impetus was dulled by the onset of World War II, and the last half of Powell's tenure was a holding operation.

Powell's conceptions of a library were similar to those of Gerould. His chief contribution lay in gaining faculty support for restoration of subscriptions dropped

during the Depression and for acquiring material which distinguished a university from a college.

The history of the Library under the direction of his successors is yet to be written.

Ralph H. Parker

Introduction

"The chief thing in a college or university, big or small, is a central library with adequate facilities and resources."

Henry O. Severance

The Elmer Ellis Library stands at the geographical center of the Columbia campus of the University of Missouri. The four-story building, constructed in English Renaissance architecture of white cut stone with Ionic colonnades decorating the second floor front, covers one whole block between the new and the old campuses. It is the most centrally and conveniently located building on campus. More important than physical location, however, the library is the ideological heart of the on-going educational process which is begun in classrooms and laboratories. Its resources are vital to all people who desire to be well-educated, whether they are students or members of the faculty.

The growth of the library from one room in Academic Hall with a few hundred books to a giant main building and eight branches, containing over 1.5 million books and a variety of other library materials, has spanned over one hundred years. Its impressive history is one of intense struggle and proud achievement.

Dr. Henry Ormal Severance, Librarian from 1907 to 1937, compiled the History of the Library, University of Missouri (University of Missouri. Bulletin. Library Series, 15). His history includes the time from the birth of the library through 1928. Since then no unified history has been written. The eighteen-year period after Dr. Severance's book was published was vitally important in the history of the library as it is known today. In

spite of the Depression and World War II, that was a time of expanded building and the beginning of a long period of extensive collection development. They may be described as the "formative years" of the library, because priorities and objectives were established then which influenced the development of the respected research center that the University of Missouri is today.

This will primarily be an historical study of the last nine years of Dr. Severance's librarianship at the University of Missouri Library (1928-September 1, 1937), and the nine-year directorship of Dr. Benjamin E. Powell (1937-1946). However, studying the last nine years of a thirty-year period of the librarianship of one man, and treating those nine years as a distinct period separate from the previous twenty-one years might result in neglecting important background information needed to understand the events as they proceeded. Therefore, in order to provide a proper perspective for analysis, a summary of the period 1907-1928 will be included.

The objective of this paper is to present a scholarly study of the University of Missouri Library System during 1928-1946 which will accurately present a picture of the complete library and place it in its proper place as a part of the educational institution that the University of Missouri-Columbia was at that time.

Survey of the Literature

There are many sources available to the researcher who is interested in the history of the University of Missouri-Columbia Library. Although the personal papers of both Dr. Severance and Dr. Powell are not available, the annual reports of the Librarians are quite helpful in illuminating the important events of each calendar year. Those reports to the president of the university contain the vital statistics of the library, highlight its problems and successes, and are indicators of the philosophy and priorities of the Librarians.

The unpublished minutes of the Library Committee meetings are also available and present another range of viewpoints about library priorities, those of representative faculty members.

Special reports, such as the one made by the Temporary Committee on the Library in May, 1935; the one made by the Librarian on April 7, 1944, to the University of Missouri Policy Committee regarding "the development of the University Library in the next several years"¹; and, the one made by the Librarian in January, 1945, to the faculty in general regarding the "completion of the General Library"² are helpful in presenting background information about the east and west wings of the main library building.

Biennial reports of the Board of Curators to the State Legislature and financial reports of the Board of Curators show the relationship between the library and the rest of the university community, and provide statistics for the comparison of salaries and status of the library staff with those of other libraries.

The general catalogs of the university, the Savitar, the Missouri Alumnus, the Columbia Missourian, the Columbia Daily Tribune, and the Missouri Student

all provide articles which informed the contemporary readers, as well as the researcher, of important events in the life of the library.

The University of Missouri Bulletins, Library Series and the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection Bulletins both include essays on specific topics of importance to the library. Most of the essays in the Library Series were either authored or co-authored by Dr. Severance during his period as Librarian.

The manuscript papers of both Dr. Elmer Ellis and the History Department of the University of Missouri contribute some information about the library, particularly the development of the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection.

Dr. Severance was a prolific writer, and many of his books and articles are available. A biographical essay written by his secretary, Mrs. Frances McKee Hanna, and a biographical volume compiled by Mrs. Hanna, which highlights the toasts and speeches given at the retirement dinner for Dr. Severance sponsored by the Columbia Library Club on May 22, 1937, were both presented as gifts to the library by Dr. Severance.

Dr. Powell contributed articles in the M. L. A. Quarterly, which told of the important events during his period as Librarian.

Probably the most important of all sources used by this writer were the personal interviews which were so graciously granted by Mrs. Ann Todd Rubey, Reference Librarian during the period, Dr. Elmer Ellis, President Emeritus of UMC, who was Professor of History and a member of the Library Committee during the time studied and Dr. W. Francis English, first Director of the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection and Professor of History.

Methodology

According to Robert V. Daniels, historian, "History involves the imaginative understanding of experience and its communication to an audience."³ In order to understand an experience, particularly one which is not contemporary, one must do research.

Research is the device by which one uncovers the circumstances of past events and interprets and organizes what one discovers in order to show what happened, how it proceeded, and why it followed the course that it did. Research is best accomplished by reading primary source material from the period being investigated. It is important to discover what the participants in the events thought and did, what observers thought of what was done, and how each event was reported by the media and the contemporary writers.

Primary source material was the basis of information used in this historical study. The use of traditional cataloged library resources was supplemented by unpublished reports and manuscript collections. The person-to-person interview technique was also utilized to gain opinions and recollections of participants in the events of the period.



Henry O. Severance

~Chapter I~

Highlights of the Librarianship of Henry Ormal Severance 1907-1937

When mandatory retirement terminated his service to the University of Missouri on September 1, 1937, Henry Ormal Severance was seventy years old and had been the University Librarian for thirty years. "Thirty Years A-Growing," the title of the speech that he gave at his retirement dinner on May 22, 1937, provides insight into Dr. Severance's evaluation of his service to the university. He prefaced his speech by a comment about his personal development while at the University of Missouri. He said, "I am too modest to mention the growth of the Librarian during these thirty years which has been as pronounced as the growth of the Library itself."⁴

During his years of service, Dr. Severance saw the university library grow from three rooms in Academic Hall to a giant main building, then believed to be two-thirds completed, which spanned four main floors and eight stack levels, plus the following five branch libraries: (1) Agriculture, which was opened in September, 1909; (2) Engineering, which was established in 1905; (3) Journalism, which officially opened in October, 1920; (4) Law, which was established in 1872; and (5) Medical, which dates from 1873.⁵

By 1937, the main library had a reserve book reading room which extended the entire width of the building on the second floor, and a large reference room on second as well as smaller reading rooms on first and third floors. The reading room areas at that time could accommodate 835 undergraduate and graduate students. There were cubicles in the stacks to accommodate 148 professors and graduate students.⁶

An open stack arrangement was in effect when Dr. Severance became Librarian, but he found the situation

in the cramped quarters of Academic Hall intolerable and instituted a closed stack policy which prevailed for several years, even after a new library building was constructed in 1914. Only library employees and those graduate students and professors with stack passes were permitted in the area where the general collection was shelved. The reference collection, on second floor opposite the loan desk and adjacent to the Reserved Book Reading Room, was an open collection. The Language, Social Science and Education Reading Rooms also had small open collections which were used by advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and professors.

The collection itself greatly increased during Dr. Severance's career. The number of books increased from 80,000 to 350,000, not including the many thousand unbound periodicals and bulletins.⁷ Before he left, Dr. Severance was beginning to discuss the possibilities of building another addition to the library as soon as possible to handle the multiplying collection. In 1937, it would have taken less than 100,000 volumes to finish filling the estimated 450,000 capacity which had been made possible with the building of the west wing.

Increased appropriations for the library had made possible the increased impetus in collection building. In 1924, a land-mark appropriation was made by the Board of Curators upon recommendation by President Stratton Duluth Brooks. The largest appropriation ever received for one year, \$30,000, was received that year. During the Depression, the appropriations were not so high, but the library continued to grow as best it could under the circumstances. The addition of new schools to the university during the period, Journalism, Business and Public Administration, and Fine Arts, resulted in additional demands upon the library.⁸

To create a research collection in an area where there had previously been none demanded a large sum of money to build just a basic collection of books and periodicals, and continuous appropriations thereafter to continue building and improving the collection. If the original appropriation to the library was not increased to allow for the added demands, cutbacks would be forced in other areas, creating an unfair situation for everyone concerned.

Salaries fluctuated greatly during Dr. Severance's career. When he signed his first contract, he was given an \$1,800 annual salary and a one-month paid vacation per year. When he retired, he was receiving approximately \$4,500. But, his salary had not been consistent. According to the 1931 Annual Report of the Librarian, in 1930 he received \$4,800 but by January 1, 1933, he was receiving only \$4,320 and by January 1, 1935, he was down to \$4,080.⁹ The story behind all of those reductions is a relatively simple one about reduction in revenue to the university resulting in cutbacks in salaries.

In 1933, a new salary schedule called for a 25 per cent reduction in the salaries of the preceding year. From then on, the situation worsened. Beginning September 1, 1934, salary rates remained the same but horizontal cuts of 15 percent above \$1,200 and 10 per cent on salaries below \$1,200 continued until September 1, 1935. Then beginning in September, 1935, the salaries as they stood were reduced by specific dollar amounts. The salaries of those who were receiving \$1,200 and less were reduced \$60 per year; those receiving between \$1,200 and \$2,500 were reduced about \$100 per year; and the Librarian's was reduced \$300 per year.¹⁰

Not only was his salary drastically reduced, but Dr. Severance and his staff who were making over \$1,200 per year took their one-month vacation without pay.

Yet during the period of tense finances, Dr. Severance's annual reports did not reflect as much concern for his own situation as they did for the library. In fact, in summarizing the most difficult problems of his entire career at the University of Missouri, Dr. Severance did not even mention his own remuneration. Those problems which he mentioned upon more than one occasion were book thefts, the decentralization of the library collection, the overuse of reserved book facilities by certain professors, lack of space, and lack of money to build a really good research collection.

The method of checking out books during the 1907-1937 period was cumbersome and certainly not thief-proof. When calling for a book from the closed stacks, the student presented a call slip at the loan desk.

The following information was included on the slip: the call number, the author and the title of the book. The book was then retrieved from the stacks by a page. Then the book card was signed by the borrower, removed from the card pocket, and filed in a drawer according to due date. Students were permitted to borrow books for fourteen days. Faculty and university administration were allowed extended borrowing privileges. Books could be renewed on the date due if they were not needed by another borrower or in great demand. Every year some books were lost in this normal routine of borrowing.

But, the "book thief" problem which greatly frustrated Dr. Severance was the deliberate attempts of some students to hide their identity and steal large numbers of books from the library. Apparently students had no difficulty signing false signatures to the book cards and taking several books before any became overdue. Suspicion was aroused only when the overdue notices were returned to the library, because the post office could not find the persons to whom the notices were addressed. There are recorded some very impressive cases of book thievery. For example, "On May 28, 1929, it was discovered that a student had borrowed 45 books under fictitious names."¹¹ Those books were returned to the library when the person possessing them was arrested by the city police for having stolen property.

On another occasion, Dr. Severance and Dr. "Daddy" Defoe, Chairman of the Committee on Discipline for Men Students, went to a rooming house on Fifth Street after they had received a tip that stolen library books could be found there. Eighty books were found and returned as a result of their trip.¹²

The second problem that Dr. Severance struggled with was that of decentralization of the library collection. When he arrived at the University of Missouri, he discovered that certain professors had acquired a habit of checking out large collections of current books from the library and were then checking them out to students from their offices. Not only were many books permanently lost in this manner, but the central library suffered greatly because many books were inaccessible to patrons who did not know of the office arrangements.

Although his actions lost him the support of some

faculty members, Dr. Severance persevered until he got the collection centralized in the main library and its legitimate branches. Regarding this situation, Dr. Severance was quoted in this way: "I can assure you that all of the tact, persuasion and cajolery I could use, over several years were necessary to get the return of all of the books."¹³

Dr. Severance and some of the faculty also could not agree upon the philosophy behind reserving books for class use. Dr. Severance objected to certain professors placing dozens of books on reserve (one put two hundred books on reserve for one course for one semester) and restricting their circulation for students in other classes who might need to use them. He insisted upon limiting the number of books reserved per course to a number which a student could reasonably be expected to read in one semester. In his opinion, twenty-five or thirty books were such a reasonable number.¹⁴

Lack of space plagued the Librarian and his staff before the west wing was built in 1935. The details of the situation and the construction will be specifically discussed in Chapter 2.

According to Dr. Severance, the growth of a library is thought of in terms of books, which are acquired in three basic ways: by purchase, by gifts, and by exchange.¹⁵ Since money was directly related to the growth of the library, shortness of funds was a source of frustration for Dr. Severance throughout his career. He envisioned a great collection of research materials, processed and made accessible at the optimal level by a trained staff. Year after year, he requested in his annual reports more generous appropriations with which to administer the library to fulfill his goals.

During his career at the University of Missouri, Dr. Henry O. Severance authored and co-authored approximately ninety-five articles and books, and made countless professional addresses. Because of those literary contributions, Mr. Severance was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature on June 5, 1929 at Central College in Fayette, Missouri.¹⁶ It was through this degree that he acquired the title of which he was so proud and which he used thereafter.

Dr. Severance was active in the American Library Association and the Missouri Library Association. The

list of his activities at the 1928 annual meeting of the American Library Association is a good example of his involvement each year in that association.

Mr. Severance gave the report of the Committee on the Encouragement of Research before the American Library Institute; a paper before the Periodicals Round Table on 'How Periodicals Aid Research'; a paper before the College and Reference Section on 'Doctoral Dissertations of University Libraries--should they be collected, cataloged and preserved?'; and the Report of the Committee of Five concerning the election and term of office of the Council and the question of extending the term of office of the president from one to two years, also, the matter of biennial meetings.¹⁷

In the Missouri Library Association, the Librarian was also constantly presenting papers and chairing committees.

During World War I, Dr. Severance was active in war service abroad. He was:

Manager of the Camp Libraries under the American Library Association war service from April 20 to October 1, 1919. He was European Representative of the American Library Association and Librarian of the American Library in Paris, and Director of the Library at Coblenz for Army of Occupation from January to July, 1920.¹⁸

The University of Missouri willingly granted him a leave of absence to perform that duty and credits it as being one of the high points in his career.

In summarizing the entire thirty-year period of Dr. Severance's career at the University of Missouri Library, Mr. Charles H. Compton, Librarian at St. Louis Public Library, said: "The results of his service to the University are tangible. They stand before our eyes--an adequate library building--an outstanding collection--an efficient and loyal staff."¹⁹

A non-contemporary of Dr. Severance, unbiased by any personal relationship with him, can easily identify the Librarian's struggles against overwhelming odds to build a library collection which he felt was of primary importance to the educational community of which he was a part.



The West Wing under construction.

~Chapter II~

The Library, 1928-1937

The West Wing

In many ways, the last nine years were the most eventful of Dr. Henry O. Severance's career at the University of Missouri. One of the reasons that they were so eventful was the construction of the west wing of the library building in 1936.

In 1915 when the original core building was constructed, the planners intended that it would later be completed with the addition of two wings, one on the east and one on the west. But, first, the World War, then the Depression prevented further construction because of lack of funds.

As early as 1926, however, a special committee had been appointed by the President of the University, Dr. Stratton Duluth Brooks, to survey the library's needs. Their first recommendation to the Board of Curators was that "a new wing should be secured; and, second, that a larger appropriation should be made for increasing the book stock."²⁰

More stack space for current research materials, storage space for little used materials and adequate study areas for students and faculty were all needed in 1926, and the needs became more vital as each year passed. Particularly needed was a reserve book reading room in the main library building. At that time a large room on the first floor of the Geology Building was being borrowed for that purpose.²¹ The moving of books from the stacks in the main building to the Geology Building and back was cumbersome and took time that an already over-worked staff did not have to give. Space needs were illuminated in 1930 in an article in the Missouri Alumnus: "So limited is the seating room in the

various libraries that it is no unusual sight to see a student trying to do his work standing in a corner or leaning against a window casing."²² Such conditions were not a source of pride for the university, but in 1928, Jamieson and Speare of St. Louis, university architects, had estimated that the new wing would cost \$301,000, and such an amount of money was simply not available in either 1926 or 1930.²³

In 1928 conditions reached the point where books had to be tied up and stacked in the aisles of the stacks. By the end of 1928, about 6,000 volumes were tied up in the aisles and 1,000 were placed in the Law Library for storage.²⁴ Because circulation records were manually compiled and difficult to maintain, as books were tied up, they were almost withdrawn from circulation. It was a difficult task to locate books in such chaos, and the service function of the library staff was hindered.

By 1931, the stacking of books in the aisles was presenting a potential hazard to the students and library personnel by placing too much weight on the floors of the building. Besides the potential danger, a very real problem existed in the stack room. The east and west walls of the stack room were bulged out, a condition probably caused by the weight of the concrete room. Those walls had to be tied together by connecting rods so that there was no immediate danger of the walls falling. The stacks were supported by piers of masonry in the basement and not tied to the vertical walls. Therefore, fortunately, the weight of the books on the shelves and on the floor of the stacks exerted no pressure on the stack walls. To alleviate any real or potential danger, a building adjacent to the library on the west was assigned to the library for storage. By the end of 1931, about 15,000 volumes of infrequently used books were stored there.²⁵

Not only was the library itself cramped, but the State Historical Society of Missouri, which occupied the basement and two rooms on the first floor of the library building, was also suffering from lack of space. Because of lack of space, some students, faculty and outside scholars were denied access to its collection of books, newspapers and historical records of Missouri, a special source of pride for the university. This

provided extra incentive to the Board of Curators to ask the Missouri General Assembly for more appropriations to build the new addition.

In 1935, a Temporary Committee on the Library Building, composed of Dr. Elmer Ellis, Dr. A. H. R. Fairchild, and Dr. Addison Gulick, Chairman, was established to compose a floor plan for the west wing which would take into consideration as many of the library's needs as possible. This committee composed a list of the four functions of the University of Missouri Library which they believed should be considered in planning the new wing. The following types of activities were listed:

- (1) the genuine reading of books, a function which needs to be served by a loaning machinery and by providing convenient and comfortable surroundings within the building;
- (2) the running down of specified topics, a function demanding efficiency engineering from the standpoint of indexing, card cataloging, judicious arrangement of stacks and work spaces;
- (3) laboratory work and pedagogical exercise material, for which equipment, space and supplies of duplicate books or periodicals are needed;
- (4) the preserving of records, including past and contemporary publications for which there should be adequate, safe storage and protection from careless misuse.²⁶

Their main concern was for convenience for the staff and the students. For this reason, they tried to draw a floor plan that would place the reserve book reading room near the stacks on the same floor as the main reading room. Further, they desired to have supports for the stacks placed so that there would be optimal flexibility in the use of space.²⁷

In 1935, the General Assembly of the State of Missouri appropriated \$250,000 for the building and \$60,000 for equipment.²⁸

While the new wing was being constructed, the structure built in 1914 received a face-lift. It was renovated, repaired and painted, both inside and outside.

By December, 1936, the new stacks were occupied. Christmas vacation, December 18-January 2, was moving time, when all of the books except science, art and history were shifted. Nearly 50,000 volumes formerly stored in the annex were distributed into their proper classes in the new stacks.²⁹ Not long after the first of the year, 1937, the approximately 200,000 books in the stacks were shifted into their new places and the library was once again functioning with space to spare.

As he surveyed the new building in 1936, the Librarian made two predictions. First, he predicted that at the "present rate of increase of book collection, the stacks which have a capacity of nearly 200,000 volumes, exclusive of the space occupied by the State Historical Society of Missouri, will be filled within the next ten years."³⁰ And secondly, he predicted that the library was on the verge of expansion. He anticipated larger appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly in 1937 to provide for increased operational expenses and larger salaries.³¹

When the new building was completed, the Librarian and his staff concentrated even more actively on providing efficient service.

Rank of the University of Missouri Library

In order to provide better service to its clientele, the University of Missouri Library was compared to other state university libraries to see where it might be deficient. In 1933, it was discovered that the University of Missouri Library ranked ninth in the number of volumes and fourteenth in the size of staff. The University of Indiana, Iowa State College, University of Kansas, and the University of North Carolina all with fewer volumes had larger staffs and paid considerably more annually for library personnel's salaries than the University of Missouri.³²

It seems that most of the money spent by the University of Missouri went for books and equipment rather than for salaries. Missouri consistently paid less for salaries than schools with comparable numbers of volumes in their libraries throughout the period,

1928-1937. Many books were received which could not be processed quickly and made accessible because the library did not have enough staff members to perform the necessary tasks. Furthermore, professionally trained librarians, who were either just entering the job market or desiring to leave their present jobs, were easily lured away from Missouri by schools which paid higher salaries for comparable work. Had the Librarian been more persuasive in getting increased salaries on behalf of his staff, he might have had a better administered library, with faster processing and better service, both of which were high priority goals with him. He seemed to neglect the staff in order to build a large research collection, but ignored the service function necessary for the optimal use of the books.

In 1930, insurance adjustors estimated the value of all of the books in the university system at \$936,000. The estimates were computed by evaluating the books in the following manner: books in the Agriculture and General Libraries cost an average of \$3.00 each; in the Journalism Library, \$2.00 each; in the Engineering Library, \$4.00 each; and in the Law and Medical Libraries, \$5.00 each.³³

Many of the books were out of print and no longer were available at any price for replacement, if lost or destroyed. Thus, the collection was probably worth even more than the estimates showed.

Faculty and Library Relations

Because of his insistence that faculty office libraries be eliminated, and his limiting of the number of reserved reading books per course, Dr. Severance had a strained relationship with certain faculty members. Others considered him to be a respected professional colleague.

In 1934, Dr. Severance requested that the university faculty provide a Library Committee to advise him on matters which affected the faculty and to act as liaison between the library and the faculty. The creation of such a committee, which had previously existed during an earlier administration but had been disbanded,

was agreed to by the president of the university, who would appoint the members annually.

A survey of the minutes of the Library Committee meetings indicates that the primary concerns of the Committee were budget matters, especially the allocation of departmental book funds. They were helpful in encouraging faculty members to participate in selecting books for their departments, as well as recommending purchases themselves.

For the last three years of his librarianship, Dr. Severance had a Library Committee to share the responsibility of maintaining library and faculty relations, which he so long had carried by himself. He had reopened a channel of communication for which his successors could be grateful, even though his own motives for requesting the committee are unknown.

Technical Services Function of the Library

Acquisitions

The General Assembly appropriated a certain annual sum for the library. From that appropriation, the library paid the following general materials expenses: binding, monographic standing orders, periodicals, equipment and supplies, expenses acquired on the Librarian's Special Fund which was used for the purchase of reference works and other resources, particularly those needed by more than one department, and the allocations for departmental book funds.

The amount of money given to each department depended upon how actively the department spent what it had been allotted in the past. Departments offering graduate degrees were in general given top priority in allotments. Those professors who advised graduate students in writing research papers were especially urged to select books, because they were in the best possible position to know what materials were needed.

In 1937, Dr. Severance conducted a "Survey of the Resources of the University of Missouri Library for Research Work," in order to "facilitate the work of graduate students, to furnish desired information to prospective students, and to furnish information to the

faculty about the University of Missouri Library."³⁴

As a result of this work, the Librarian was able to pinpoint the areas which needed increased acquisition in order to strengthen the collection. Because Dr. Severance followed the Dewey Decimal Classification outline when conducting his survey, he first judged the bibliographical tools, particularly indexes. He was pleased to discover that the University of Missouri Library had a collection of practically 3,000 volumes of bibliographical material, as large a collection as some of the much larger universities. Special subject bibliographies in nearly all of the Dewey classes, and national bibliographies for six countries: the United States, France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, and Spain were representative of what was available in those areas at that time.³⁵

In order for the students to be aware of the subject matter of foreign and domestic theses, both were acquired in great numbers. The theses which had over one hundred pages of text were bound and shelved in the stacks according to subject. The others were left unbound and uncataloged and were arranged alphabetically in boxes which were arranged on the shelves by date. The general approach to the foreign theses was through indexes compiled in the various countries from which they came. American theses were approached through lists published by various universities, the List of American Doctoral Dissertations published by the Library of Congress and the annual publication by Gilchrist titled Doctoral Dissertations Accepted by American Universities.³⁶

In 1937, the University of Missouri had been a depository for federal government documents for more than thirty-five years.³⁷ Besides the documents automatically received, the university purchased selected others, especially those in the fields of education and agriculture. State documents were collected by the State Historical Society of Missouri, and therefore, not by the university library. The university library did collect documents from other states to supplement the Missouri collection.

Besides state documents, the Historical Society had a large collection of Missouri newspapers. About

five hundred volumes were added each year and were available to anyone who desired to use them. Other important domestic and foreign newspapers were available in the university library and the Journalism Library.³⁸

Nearly 40,000 volumes of periodical literature were available in 1937. For ease in access by other libraries desiring interlibrary loan, those holdings were listed in the Union List of Serials in the Libraries of the United States and Canada and in the Union List of Serials in Libraries in Missouri.³⁹ The university did not buy periodicals indiscriminately, but rather made a concerted effort to purchase all of the periodicals indexed in Poole's Index and Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, as well as many in the special subject indexes.

Severance's survey showed the university library to be strongest in scientific literature, with a particularly large working collection of periodicals necessary for up-to-date research.

The 39,000 volumes in education furnished an adequate, although not an excellent, collection for educators and prospective teachers. This was one area that Dr. Severance implied should be much better equipped.⁴⁰

English literature had an adequate, although not so large as desired, collection but American literature was seriously lacking.

Political science and history, as well as their allied fields of law, geography, etc., were large and well developed areas, providing most of the best known journals and classics in each field. The Flach Library, purchased in 1920, had greatly enhanced this particular collection in the fields of public law and legislation.⁴¹

Each subject area was analyzed in great detail by Dr. Severance, so that priorities for further purchases could be determined.

The Depression greatly affected the appropriations made to the library for book purchases. For example, in 1928, the total spent for books, periodicals, and bindings was \$39,158.95. In 1931, the allotment by the Board of Curators to the library for all operating expenses was \$29,000, but a cut in the university's

overall budget reduced that amount to \$23,000. Things were looking better in 1936 when the total cost of books, periodicals, binding, and continuations was \$24,602.81.⁴²

Even though the financial situation was improving slowly, Dr. Severance had hope. By 1937 he was predicting that the appropriations would soon be large enough to allow purchase of many books which had been placed in desiderata files since the appropriations were first reduced. He was especially anxious to resume the subscriptions to periodicals which had been dropped. He knew that full runs of back issues were more expensive than on-going subscriptions and were often difficult to obtain after a few years had passed.

Cataloging

For the greater part of the 1928-1937 period, the Cataloging Department worked under less than ideal conditions. Between 1928 and 1930, approximately 11,000 books was the average number cataloged per year. According to scant information available, only 5,625 new titles representing 6,534 volumes were cataloged in 1931.⁴³

One reason for the decrease in the number of volumes cataloged beginning in 1931 was the decrease in the number of volumes purchased. But, more important to the Cataloging Department was the reduction in staff members, combined with added duties.

By September 1, 1933, the staff of the Cataloging Department consisted of a head cataloger, two assistant catalogers, one of which was half-time, and three student assistants who typed, alphabetized cards, and marked books. In 1934, the head cataloger was on leave without pay for three months and one assistant cataloger was on leave without pay for two months.⁴⁴

There must have been a voluminous backlog acquired during that time, in spite of a reduction in the acquisitions. Regardless of the number of people to do the work, certain things had to be done to process each new title. For every new title at least three and sometimes as many as twelve catalog cards were required. About half of the new titles required typed cards.⁴⁵ The library did receive Library of Congress printed cards

for many items, but many others, especially pamphlets and bulletins had to be originally cataloged.

Besides the new titles requiring original cataloging, several titles per year were reclassified as revisions of the Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme were received.

The job of the Cataloging Department was made even more difficult by the physical arrangement of their work area and the public card catalog. Before the west wing was built, they were located in a small, hot room on third floor, and the public catalog was located one floor below them. After the west wing was constructed, the situation actually worsened. The Cataloging Department was moved to the basement, while the card catalog remained on second floor. No doubt many minutes were wasted each day climbing the stairs or riding the elevator from one place to the other.

In 1932, the workload of the catalogers was increased when the library began cataloging, classifying, and providing catalog cards for the new acquisitions to the University Elementary and High School Libraries. Acquisitions for the two schools had been done through the library for many years, but the cataloging had apparently been done elsewhere before 1932.

Considering the inconvenient working conditions, it is surprising that the Cataloging Department accomplished as much as it did. It is not surprising that it had one of the highest rates of turn-over of full-time staff in the entire library.

Gifts and Exchanges

Although there was no organized group of Friends of the University of Missouri Library during this period, many individuals and organizations gave books and money to the library. The gift policy at the library was to accept all gifts offered, with the understanding that if they were duplicates they could be exchanged for materials which were more needed.

During the "lean years," often the library received more books through gifts and exchange than it received by purchase.⁴⁶

Active and retired professors often contributed their personal professional libraries to the university, greatly enhancing many of the special subject areas.

Diplomats, kings, judges, and authors were among the friends of the library who contributed.

Special library collections were often donated. There were three during the 1928-1937 period which deserve to be mentioned; the Irion Library, the Walter Williams Library and the Mary Jane Lockwood Memorial Library.

In 1932, a professional library in the field of education was presented to the university in honor of Dr. Theophil W. H. Irion, Dean of the School of Education of the University of Missouri, by the Gamma Chapter of the Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity. The fraternity originally donated \$1,000 to Board of Curators and agreed to make annual additions to the fund. The proceeds were to be used for purchase of books for the Irion Library.⁴⁷ The Irion Collection, which was assimilated into the general library collection, consisted of books and tests in the field of education.

The Walter Williams Library was founded on May 5, 1933 by the Alumni Association of the School of Journalism for the president's home on the University of Missouri campus. The gift included an initial donation of \$500 for the beginning of the library and a promise of \$250 annually for additions.⁴⁸ It was placed in the president's home in May, 1934 with 201 volumes in the subjects of "biography, social sciences, fiction, general literature, poetry and drama, journalism, science and technology, religion, ethics and philosophy, and history, description and travel."⁴⁹ It was understood that books which the president's family no longer wanted were to be transferred to the main library or its appropriate branches.

In 1934, the 120 book nucleus collection of the Mary Jane Lockwood Memorial Library was presented to the Noyes Hospital for the use of the patients by Mrs. Lockwood's daughter, Mrs. Walter Williams.⁵⁰ Additions to that collection and the upkeep of it depended solely upon donations after the initial gift. How successful the collection was and how long it survived is not documented. Because so little information is available about it, one wonders if it were perhaps one of the least enduring gifts to the university.

Exchanges were also an important source of

materials, particularly those items generally not available for sale. The university exchanged such items as the University of Missouri Studies and certain series of the Bulletin for similar materials from other universities. Duplicate copies of periodicals and books were also exchanged.

In 1935 there were 702 institutions, 341 in the United States and 361 in foreign countries, on the University of Missouri's exchange list.⁵¹

Binding

Mending and putting of pamphlets and other material into Gaylord binders was done in the library by library personnel. The J. W. Tate Bindery at Moberly, Missouri, did the professional binding for the library throughout the 1928-1937 period. The major part of the binding was in buckram, although cloth and sheep skin were also often used.⁵²

In 1936, the average cost to bind each volume, regardless of size, was \$.93.⁵³ Apparently the cost remained consistent throughout the period.

Reader Services Function of the Library

Reference

The Reference Department was responsible for three main duties during this period. Those were assisting students in finding needed materials, giving orientation tours, and handling loan requests from Missouri residents. The reference librarians also informally counseled students who were interested in a career in librarianship.

In outlining his policy of reference service, Dr. Severance stressed his belief in the teaching function of librarianship. How far the librarian went in helping the student depended upon two factors: "the importance and difficulty of the question asked and the type of person asking the question."⁵⁴ Dr. Severance further stated, "Our general policy is to see that the reader finds the information that he wants. If he can find it for himself, he does so; if not, he is to come back for



Reference Reading Room in 1915.



Delivery desk and stack area for reserve books, 1928.

further assistance from the (librarian at) the reference desk."⁵⁵ The staff generally tried to show the students where the answers to their questions could be found and urged them to do the work themselves in order to become acquainted with the sources for future use.

Dr. Severance was particularly concerned when the reference books were missing from the shelves, and especially when they were charged out to faculty members. In 1929 he declared, "More emphasis than ever before is being placed on 'every book in its place in the room. No books to be taken from the room.'"⁵⁶

At the beginning of each semester, library orientation tours were given by a reference librarian, sometimes assisted by the Head of Circulation. The librarians instructed the students, who were usually in freshman English classes or graduate students, in the use of the card catalog and the procedures of borrowing books, and showed them the location of and how to use the various basic reference tools, particularly the periodical indexes. Presumably, many students benefited from those tours. The numbers of students taking the tours are available for 1932 and 1934 when 2,025 and 2,000 students respectively took them.⁵⁷

Letters from people in out-state Missouri requesting library materials were processed in the Reference Department. The books were gathered and packaged there and then were mailed by the Circulation Department. The books were sent to nearly every county in the state. If there was either a public or an institutional library in the town where the borrower lived, the books were mailed there. If not, they were sent directly to the borrower.⁵⁸

In 1932 the cost of this service was computed, using the basis of estimation used by the University of Illinois. Approximately \$.83 per volume was the total cost.⁵⁹

Interlibrary Loan

Although the loaning of the University of Missouri's materials to Missouri residents were handled under the auspices of the Reference Department, interlibrary borrowing and lending were handled by the Librarian's secretary.

The university did not borrow books for the use of undergraduate students or classes. Some borrowing was done for master's degree candidates, but in general was restricted to doctoral candidates and professors involved in research.⁶⁰ Any material which was in print at the time of the request was purchased instead of borrowed.

A survey of the types of materials borrowed from 1928 to 1937 revealed that the largest number borrowed each year was either in the field of history or of science. Information is not available on the largest number lent to other universities. In general, however, it may be noted that the university borrowed more materials than it lent during that period.

In 1932, the average cost of interlibrary borrowing was computed. Considering that the university paid the transportation of the material one way, it was estimated that each volume cost an average of \$2.40, nearly enough to purchase the book in most subject areas if it were available. In 1932, 420 books were borrowed at a cost of \$974.40.⁶¹

Reserve Books

Professors who wished to restrict the circulation of a number of books which would be most helpful to their particular classes, requested that those books be pulled from the regular stacks and placed in the Reserve Book Room, which was located on second floor of the main library building after the west wing was constructed.

After 1930, books were charged out for a two hour period by means of a stamping clock which recorded the time the book was borrowed on a card which was placed in the book pocket.⁶² Before that time, books were due at certain stated intervals, regardless of when they were checked out. Students who were not finished with their books had to stand in long lines to check them out again. Because all books were due at one time, the rush on the staff at the desk must have been traumatic.

In 1932, a study of the statistics of the circulation of reserved books revealed that the greatest numbers of books were loaned during the hours of 10-11 A.M., 3-4 P.M., and 8-10 P.M.⁶³ The desk was staffed

the entire time that the building was open to the public.

Circulation

The Circulation Desk, located at the entrance to the stack area on second floor, was probably the most frequently used place in the library by many students. In order to determine the efficiency of the Circulation staff in retrieving books from the stacks, a survey was conducted during the week of March 27 through April 1, 1933. The following results were discovered: out of 1,578 books asked for at the loan desk in the general library, 1,000 (63.4 percent) were delivered at once; 459 (29.2 percent) were located and the information was given to the patron but the book was not available at that time at the loan desk; 119 (7.4 percent) were not accounted for in the first day, but all but 25 (1.5 percent) were found within twenty-four hours.⁶⁴ Books which were undeliverable on the first try usually resulted from incorrect information being presented at the loan desk by the requestor.

For the first time, arrangements were made in 1929 for the library to remain open to accommodate summer school students. "The extra cost for the two months of service was practically \$80.00."⁶⁵ But the Librarian thought that the extra cost was justified because the library was greatly used.

The total general cost of circulating a book, which included carding, pocketing, listing and issuing, was \$.02 $\frac{2}{3}$ per volume in 1929. The total was arrived at by adding the total salary paid to the three librarians (\$4,400) and the total salary paid to student help (\$2,071.93) and dividing that total by the number of books circulated at the reserve book desk and the loan desk, which was 249,902.⁶⁶

Special Projects

The largest single special project during the 1928-1937 period was the inventory of the general library and branches. It was underway by December 30, 1933 and was completed by the end of 1934. It had been about twenty years since the last inventory had been under-

taken, so this one was very thorough.

The employment of Civil Works Service Administration personnel paid by federal funds helped get the inventory started. They were supervised by the Head of Circulation.

It was discovered that 2,453 books were missing from the general library, 534 were missing from the branches, 124 from the special collections of music, biology, dramatic arts and the seminars. The largest number lost in the main library was 90 of 157 volumes in the history laboratory. The Journalism Library lost the most in the branches, 319 volumes, with 270 being lost in 1930.⁶⁷

Branch Libraries

There were five official branch libraries during this period which deserve to be mentioned, even though each has its own special history. They had the same problems of space and lack of funds that the general library had, and yet some managed to acquire very well-developed research collections.

The Agriculture Library, located on second floor of Mumford Hall, had approximately 20,605 volumes in its stacks and an additional 5,000 volumes in the main library by 1937. Government publications, especially Agricultural Experiment Station reports, were available.⁶⁸

The Engineering Library in the Engineering Building had approximately 10,824 volumes, plus an additional 2,597 volumes in the main library. The collection concentrated on the special areas of chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering.⁶⁹

The Journalism Library, located in J. H. Neff Hall, had approximately 4,708 volumes of books and received about 500 magazines and newspapers every year. A special reading room in the general library was opened on first floor in 1937. Periodicals and indexes comprised most of that collection.⁷⁰

The Law Library, housed in Lee H. Tate Hall, had 30,920 volumes. Several books on law-related subjects were shelved in the general library. The library had several important series of research materials such as "reports of the Supreme Court of the U.S., and of

Federal, District, Circuit, and Appellate Courts; the reports of circuit and supreme courts of all of the states; the American decisions; the American reports"71

By 1937 the Medical Library had been moved to the new addition of McAlester Hall, the Medical Building. The collection was composed of about 11,259 volumes supplemented by 5,479 in the main library. Periodical literature was a special priority. Purchases were limited in general to five major areas: medicine, anatomy, physiology, pathology and public health.⁷²

Summary of the Library, 1928-1937

During this period, the University of Missouri Library was a book-oriented place, according to the philosophy of the Librarian. The staff was only the custodian of the collection which contained the "records of the deeds and thoughts of the men and women of all time, the wisdom of the ancients and the moderns."⁷³

In 1936, as he was leaving the university to return to his home state of Michigan where he would live on the retirement fund provided by the Carnegie Foundation until his death on October 10, 1942, Dr. Henry O. Severance said of the library that he had served for so long:

In this library you may still associate with Emerson, Longfellow, Lowell, Whittier, Thoreau, Tennyson. . .and the remainder of the hosts of masters who know. Here the reader may walk with Dante in the circuitous paths of Inferno, rejoice with Milton in Paradise Regained, and watch with Homer the operations of the giants in the Trojan War on the windy plains of Troy.⁷⁴

~Chapter III~

Highlights of the Librarianship of Benjamin E. Powell
1937-1946

In August 1, 1937, Benjamin Edward Powell came from Duke University to the University of Missouri to assume the duties of Librarian. Thirty-one years old, Mr. Powell was in the process of working on his Ph.D. in Library Science from Chicago, which he received in 1946.⁷⁵

Upon his arrival, Mr. Powell surveyed the situation and began to rearrange some of the priorities established by his predecessor. His principal interest at the University of Missouri was "in strengthening the book collection and in making the library more useful to the university community."⁷⁶ His concern for the welfare of his staff was immediately evident. One of his most serious undertakings was to improve the status of the staff; but, because the existing conditions had been accepted for so many years without objection, it was difficult to persuade the university administration that change was necessary, and many of his convincing arguments were in vain. Because he believed that one of the most serious problems that the library had to face was the lack of competent and adequately trained personnel, he urged that the staff be given more inviting benefits and higher salaries. In 1945-46, he urged that retirement provisions for the library staff be implemented.

From September, 1937 to December, 1939, six full-time people were added to the library staff, and the Librarian recommended that to service the collection and serve the patrons optimally, the staff should be increased to "include 34 full time members drawing salaries of approximately \$50,000 a year."⁷⁷ Mr. Powell was unable to accomplish a great deal on behalf of his staff because of World War II, which brought a



shortage of funds. However, in 1944, he was pleased to report to the president of the university that there had been fewer resignations that year than in any other year since the war began. He attributed that to the cost of living bonus and the regular salary increases which he was able to give the staff.

In 1944 in a letter to the Library Committee, Mr. Powell stated: "The budget recommended for 1946 provides for salary increases for 21 staff members. The average salary of the 43 members of the staff at that time would be around \$1,740 a year."⁷⁸ Although that would be an improvement for Missouri, it would still not bring the library into active competition with many other state universities. Other universities offered the following averages: "California, \$1,960, Illinois, \$1,770, Indiana, \$1,800 and Wisconsin, \$1,870."⁷⁹

Aside from his work on behalf of the staff, Mr. Powell was also interested in convenience to the faculty and students. Beginning in the fall of 1937, the library was kept open one more hour per day, thus opening it when it was previously closed from 6 to 7 P.M.⁸⁰ He believed that students would appreciate not having to interrupt their studies and leave the building

only to return later if they needed to use library materials. He also tried to increase the speed and accuracy of retrieving books from the stack area, so that patrons would spend less time in line waiting to be served.

In 1940, a student operated messenger service between the library and faculty offices was established for the convenience of the faculty. It was welcomed so enthusiastically during the first few months of operation that the Librarian decided to make the service a regular library function. Also, for faculty convenience, lists of new books received in the library were mimeographed and distributed to them monthly beginning in 1940.

Apparently Mr. Powell maintained good relations with the Library Committee during his term here. Their meetings were frequent and the minutes of those meetings revealed that they were more actively involved in policy matters than ever before.

Mr. Powell was very active in the professional associations, including serving as president of the Missouri Library Association beginning in 1938. A range of his activities during 1942 indicated his involvement in all types of professional activities. He was the

secretary of the Association of College and Reference Libraries, member of the Divisional Relations Committee of American Library Association, chairman of the Policy Committee of Missouri Library Association which rewrote the constitution of the association during that year, member of the Missouri Committee on Preservation of Cultural Resources, and was chairman of the Victory Book Campaign in ten counties in Central Missouri.⁸¹

He was also an ambitious author of both book reviews and articles.

When he resigned his position effective September 1, 1946 to return to Duke to become Librarian there, Mr. Powell was a popular and respected professional librarian. During his career at the University of Missouri, he had helped improve staff conditions, made plans for a new addition to the library, and strengthened the library collection in several fields.

~Chapter IV~

The Library, 1937-1946

Comparison of the University of Missouri Library and Other State University Libraries

In general, the comparison between the University of Missouri Library and other state university libraries was about the same as during Dr. Severance's period. The book collecting at the University of Missouri was comparable to other universities of its size, and in some cases was more, but the staff had neither grown in size nor been paid comparably. In 1940, Mr. Powell frankly discussed the situation as it existed then. The average state university library had about the same number of volumes as Missouri, but it had forty-six staff members (Missouri had thirty-one); its salary budget was \$90,000 a year (Missouri's was \$46,261.24); it was adding 19,000 volumes per year to its collection (Missouri, 23,000); it was spending \$70,000 per year on books, periodicals and binding (Missouri was spending \$97,879.59). Although there was no formula which set the optimal ratio of salaries and book funds, the average state university was spending \$.65 for books for every \$1.00 for salaries, while Missouri was spending \$1.78 on books to every \$1.00 on salaries.⁸²

Increasing appropriations promised that if the Librarian desired, he could more evenly balance the ratio between the salaries and books. Mr. Powell began the process which his successors continued.

World War II

Although the United States did not enter the

War until December 7, 1941, libraries in the United States had been affected by the War since it began in 1939. As early as 1940, books and periodicals had practically ceased coming from everywhere in continental Europe. Transportation costs rose and the materials which were sent were often held for long periods of time to be searched at certain checkpoints. Because of the rising costs and the uncertainty of delivery, foreign purchases were cut to a minimum beginning in 1941.

The university library did hold some insurance regarding foreign periodicals. Only three-fourths of the subscription price was paid in advance.

In 1942, one advantage of having professional organizations to act on behalf of libraries was exhibited. The Joint Committee of Importation of ALA, working through the State Department, secured permission to act for research libraries in this country and to pay \$250,000 into Axis countries for the more important publications.⁸³ The process by which the important publications were chosen was a detailed one carried on in all of the research libraries in the United States. Each library surveyed their resources, chose the materials most heavily used and then submitted the barest minimum list of what they needed. The amount of money which the State Department permitted the libraries to spend was divided among the libraries submitting lists. The process of securing the journals and handling the payments was handled by Swiss jobbers, who requested that one-half of the usual subscription price be paid in advance and the remainder upon delivery. The University of Missouri welcomed the opportunity to join the venture and sent in subscriptions for approximately \$2,800 worth of material for which they initially paid \$1,483.36. Apparently the procedure was successful, because the library eventually received all that it ordered. Some of the journals which were made available on microfilm were also secured.⁸⁴

When it became apparent that not enough serial publications were being published in the Axis countries to supply the needs of the United States research libraries, the Alien Property Custodian began to allow reproduction of the articles once they were received.

This applied especially to scientific publications.⁸⁵

Besides problems in receiving resource materials, World War II caused other problems for libraries. Enrollment in accredited library schools dropped 12 percent in 1941-42, and 21 percent in 1942-43.⁸⁶ Staff members left Missouri University Library to serve in active service or to accompany husbands and families to other parts of the country. When their positions opened, it was very difficult to find replacements. Competition for trained personnel was sharper than it had been for over a decade. Also, many faculty members who had been participating actively in selecting current materials for their fields were either serving in armed forces or involved in war service programs on campus and had little time to spend on library interests. Thus, the responsibility for maintaining a current collection rested almost entirely with the library staff.

Although there was a decrease in university enrollment, demand for library service did not decrease much. Military training programs were held at the university, and groups of soldiers virtually moved into the library. Reading rooms were assigned as classrooms, and library service to provide the necessary resources was needed. A survey in late 1942 revealed that "534 training units were reported in colleges and universities in the country. The total number of men receiving instruction was 186,479."⁸⁷

Besides its usual activities within the library, the university library supplied hundreds of books to the German Prisoner of War School at Fort Leonard Wood during 1944-45. Officers at the school suggested the suitable topics, but the actual title selection was done by the library staff.

When the war was finally over, it was discovered that United States armed forces possessed many materials which would be useful to libraries. The materials were sent to the Library of Congress for distribution. Because there were not enough materials to go to every library which wanted them, the libraries instituted a cooperative arrangement by which they received materials in their fields of specialization. Those materials were then available to all other libraries by interlibrary loan. Missouri was approved to receive books on "advertising, secondary education,

some German fiction, hunting sports, and certain phases of genetics and nutrition." 88

Library Cooperation

During the War it became more apparent than ever before that not every library could become self-sufficient in all subject areas. Mr. Powell was especially interested in cooperative programs and urged a cooperative acquisition plan with neighboring universities. After 1944 he particularly urged such cooperation because he was influenced by The Scholar and the Future of the Research Library by Fremont Rider. In this book, Mr. Rider talked about rapidly growing collections and the problems of lack of space within libraries. Mr. Powell did not agree with all of the predictions or solutions advanced by Mr. Rider, but he did suggest cooperative acquisition programs as his own solution. He believed that each library in a cooperative should develop a field of specialization and develop that field exhaustively. Thus, each library would have access to more resources and better developed collections than they could develop alone.

One cooperative program which the University of Missouri joined was the one with twelve other libraries to purchase current materials from China. Materials were chosen by a committee of librarians and the American government representative in China. Thirteen copies of each item were acquired and distributed by the Department of State. Each library contributed a basic sum of \$1,000 and received materials until that amount was spent.⁸⁹

Technical Services Function of the Library

Acquisitions

"Expenditures for books, which had averaged \$28,000 a year from 1928-1937, averaged \$51,000 a year"⁹⁰ during Mr. Powell's years in Columbia. The new wing added needed space and the president of the university was instrumental in getting increased appropriations. A most important year in the history of the library

regarding accessions was 1938. A total of 22,812 volumes were added to all of the collections, and the library which then contained 380,649 volumes ranked tenth among the state universities in the country and sixth west of the Mississippi.⁹¹

Individual allocations to departments greatly increased in 1938, but of all twenty-six departments which received money, only eight failed to use all that they were allotted. Besides the department allocations, the Library Committee set up a Special Research Fund of \$25,000. That money was used for purchasing expensive sets of reference materials and other materials recommended by department chairmen. Many of the recommendations came from a desiderata file which had been growing for many years.⁹²

In 1944, Dean Bent reported to the Library Committee that a canvass of the departments concerning their post-war research and graduate study plans revealed that about 50 percent of the departments were satisfied that current allocations were meeting their acquisition needs.⁹³

Cataloging

The Cataloging Department was still not a source of pride for the library. In 1946-47 that fact was stated succinctly by the Librarian, "Any report on cataloging activities is essentially a report of growing arrears."⁹⁴ Lack of staff, especially throughout the war period, had caused a great backlog both of books to be cataloged and of cards to be processed and filed. Increased accessions had greatly over-burdened the staff. It soon became clear to Mr. Powell that the University of Missouri Library had fewer catalogers attempting to do more work than the average state university. This problem carried over into the period after Mr. Powell left.⁹⁵

In order to make holdings records more accurate and accessible, in 1939 the compilation of a serials catalog was begun. That catalog was to provide a complete record of periodical and other serial holdings of the main and branch libraries. Upon completion it was to be placed in the public catalog area so that both students and library staff could have access to it.⁹⁶

Gifts and Exchanges

The war period which made up a great deal of the time from 1937 to 1946 was a difficult one for obtaining foreign gifts and materials on exchange. There were no really impressive gifts to the library, although individual donors faithfully contributed volumes, and in some cases their whole libraries. For example, in 1941 the mathematics library of the late Professor Luther M. Defoe and the library of Dr. C. M. Jackson, former Dean of the School of Medicine, were given to the library.⁹⁷

In 1944, the Librarian brought to the attention of the Library Committee the proposed gift by Professor Franklin P. Johnson as a memorial to his father Thomas Moore Johnson. Because the giving of Mr. Johnson's library depended upon certain conditions, such as a special room must be set aside with a name plate bearing the name of Thomas Moore Johnson affixed to the door, the arrangements were not completed during Mr. Powell's period as Librarian.⁹⁸

There still was no organized group of Friends of the Library, and the library was receiving no endowments. Both of these situations caused the Librarian to urge the establishment of continuing gifts and outside sources of income for the library.

By 1939, the library had established exchange relations with 693 institutions to which Missouri University sent its Studies series. The Missouri Law Review, for example, was exchanged with 85 institutions.⁹⁹

Binding

Because of increased appropriations in 1938, the entire collection was surveyed to determine which volumes needed to be repaired or rebound. By 1939, the entire collection was brought into usable condition. Approximately 19,602 volumes were rebound from special funds, in addition to the average 4,000 volumes per year of current materials. After 1940, the binding was done by Hertzberg's of Des Moines, Iowa.¹⁰⁰

Reader Services Function of the Library

Reference

Added to the usual duties of orientation, reference assistance to patrons, and the handling of Extension borrowing, in 1937 the Reference Department undertook the entire interlibrary loan service and in 1943, the supervision of the microfilm collection.

The methods of orientation were revised in 1939 with the introduction of the use of slides to show various aspects of library organization to the students. Also, two pamphlets S.O.S. in the Library; How to Find Materials on a Subject and Time-Savers--the Periodical Indexes were prepared by the reference department to assist students on an individual basis.

By 1941, the University of Missouri was lending over twice as many books as they were borrowing on interlibrary loan. That was a switch from the situation only a few years before when Missouri had little to lend but borrowed a great deal.

In 1940, the Reader Services Departments, Reference and Circulation, were merged because the Librarian felt that "since their activities overlap and are closely interrelated, separate administrative units are seldom necessary."¹⁰¹

In 1945, an information desk was established in Room 203 to assist students with directional type reference questions. The introduction of that service greatly reduced the number of people standing in line at the loan desk. The person at the information desk was also able to eliminate some of the erroneous information often given to the loan desk staff by people desiring to borrow books from the stacks.

Circulation

Statistics became unreliable as a method of measuring the use of books after the establishment of special subject reading rooms with open access collections. As long as books were being handed out

over the loan and reserved book desks, and there was no direct access by students to books other than those, it was possible to compute with a great deal of accuracy the number of books, excluding reference books and periodicals, which were used. But it seemed less important to know exactly how many books were used than it was to have the books available for convenient use.

Western Historical Manuscripts Collection

The most important special collection established in the 1937-1946 period was the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, which was begun on January 1, 1943. Made possible by a grant from the Humanities Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, the objective of having the collection was to bring together into one safe and accessible place the manuscript materials of all types having to do with Missouri and the central part of the Mississippi Valley. Materials were received in two ways, by gifts and by deposit. The latter consisted of that material which was placed in the collection on either a permanent or a temporary basis but to which the donor retained ownership. Gifts became the property of the collection.¹⁰²

The original grant of \$15,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation and \$5,000 from the University of Missouri established the collection which was housed in Room 305 of the General Library Building. It would be preserved and perpetuated by the University thereafter.

The Western Historical Manuscripts Collection was considered a department of the library, and its staff was listed on university records as library personnel. A director of the collection, responsible to the Librarian, was appointed to supervise and coordinate the collection. Dr. W. Francis English, an Associate Professor of History, was appointed the first director and was largely responsible for the soliciting and collecting of materials. At the end of the second year of its existence, the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection contained about 300,000 papers.¹⁰³ Among the types of materials collected were private diaries, letters from servicemen in World War II, papers of the governors of the state, and even the Vice Presidential

papers of Truman.

Microfilm

Microfilm was a relatively new medium in library service during 1937-1946. It had been used for many years as a method of preserving materials, but it had not yet been developed fully enough to permit it to have widespread usage. "A great advantage to the present microfilm is that it has an acetate base, rather than the inflammable nitrate base of earlier films. The danger of explosion is entirely removed and that of fire reduced so that it is now less hazardous than paper."¹⁰⁴

By the new medium, rare and out-of-print materials could be more easily accessible to the research libraries. Further, it required so little storage space that it offered great possibilities to libraries who were suffering from shortages of space. Microfilm was so much easier to mail than actual volumes that materials formerly inaccessible on interlibrary loan were now available.

The University of Missouri began actively collecting microfilm in the early 1940's.

Building

Additional appropriations to the library in 1938 permitted the Librarian to invest in the following equipment which added to the effectiveness of the staff and to the convenience of the patrons:

a new stack elevator; a Kardex visible file for the Periodical Reading Room; consultation tables in the Public Catalog Room; typewriters, Ediphones and posture chairs for clerical staff in the Preparations Department; and flooring in the State Historical Society Reading Room. . . .¹⁰⁵

New reading lamps were put in the reference room, various doors were cut to facilitate access from one room to another, and locked drawers were installed in the desks in the carrells to provide protection for personal materials of library patrons.

All of that equipment was badly needed and greatly welcomed. But the problem of space was becoming apparent once again, as predictions that the stacks would be filled by 1942 were proving to be true. By 1939, Mr. Powell was recommending that the east wing of the building be constructed as soon as possible. The Library Committee was asking that the east addition be one of the first post-war building priorities on campus.¹⁰⁶

Mr. Powell apparently favored constructing the new part of the building according to subject arrangement to allow open stack arrangements. Most of the faculty favored the traditional closed stack arrangement, designed according to function. Regardless of the design chosen at that time, Mr. Powell stressed that it should be flexible enough to permit complete rearrangement if another style were later desired. He urged that each bit of space be used to its maximum advantage, thus eliminating the light courts.¹⁰⁷ Mr. Powell outlined the ways the space would be utilized in order to serve the needs of the university at that time:

1. Browsing room.
2. Open shelf collection for undergraduates.
3. Larger periodical room.
4. Larger facilities for documents.
5. Listening rooms for record machines and facilities for housing records.
6. More seminar rooms adjacent to established reading rooms. . . .
7. Newspaper reading room.
8. Additional space for technical processes.
9. Bibliography room.
10. Sound proof studies in the stacks.
11. Space for microfilm storage and microfilm reading machines.
12. Rare book room.
13. Manuscripts room.
14. Coat rooms.¹⁰⁸

A study of Mr. Powell's objectives reveals that there was a greater emphasis on non-book materials than ever before in the history of the University of Missouri Library.



The Cooperative Committee on Library Buildings, 1945.
(Names of the Committee members are listed on the reverse side of this page.)

Members of the Cooperative Committee on Library Buildings, 1945 (shown on the previous page, from left to right): Ralph A. Beals, Director of the University of Chicago Library, Warner O. Rice, Director of the University of Michigan Library, Keyes D. Metcalf, Director of the Harvard University Library, Charles E. Rush, Librarian of the University of North Carolina, Robert A. Miller, Director of Indiana University Library, Donald F. Cameron, Associate Librarian of Rutgers University, W. W. Foote, Librarian of State College of Washington, Robert B. O'Connor, Architect of Princeton University, Julian P. Boyd, Director of Princeton University Library, Roger C. Kirchhoff, State Architect of Wisconsin, Charles W. David, Director of the University of Pennsylvania Library, Ricardo Quintano, Library Committee of the University of Wisconsin, B. E. Powell, Librarian of the University of Missouri, Ralph E. Ellsworth, Director of the University of Iowa Library, Elmer Ellis, Vice President of the University of Missouri, B. Lamar Johnson, Dean and Librarian of Stephens College, W. W. Watkin, Professor of Architecture of Rice Institute, and Claude W. Heaps, Library Committee of Rice Institute.

In April, 1945, a Cooperative Committee on Library Buildings met in Columbia to discuss post-war building plans of major academic libraries in the United States. The committee included distinguished librarians and architects from all over the country, including Mr. Powell.

Even though plans were discussed, the actual construction of the east wing of the library was not begun until after Mr. Powell left Missouri University, and its construction rightly belongs in another period of library history.

Branch Libraries

Because of pressing space problems, in 1937 the Agriculture Library began returning little-used books to the General Library stacks. The intention was to maintain a usable and manageable collection of between 20,000 and 25,000 volumes in Mumford Hall, while making available extensive research materials in the main library. The second largest branch on campus, Agriculture, had an active circulation. For example, in 1940, there were 23,361 volumes in the library and the circulation was 44,724 volumes. Active purchasing and receiving of gifts and exchange materials greatly increased the collection and its value from 1937 to 1946.¹⁰⁹

In May, 1937, the Engineering Library was moved to the second floor of the new Engineering Laboratories Building. Increased book stack space and seating capacity marked an important step in the development of a research collection in the fields of engineering taught on this campus. Service was extended to include four evenings, Monday through Thursday. Circulation maintained a steady rate even through the war years. Military forces were heavy users of the engineering collection beginning in 1943.¹¹⁰

The Journalism Library moved to a new room on the first floor of Walter Williams Hall in February, 1937. Besides the new area, the Journalism Reading Room, containing mostly newspapers, continued to be maintained in the General Library. In 1940, it was determined that a higher percentage of titles in the Journalism

Library were actively circulated than in any other library on campus. In 1942, the library began a concerted effort to develop a nationally known and respected advertising collection.¹¹¹

An increased period of purchasing helped the Law Library strengthen its already well-rounded collection. The collection was completely renovated in 1938, resulting in the binding of much previously unbound material and the repair of materials in tattered condition. In 1945, Mr. Hobart Coffey, Librarian of the Law School at the University of Michigan, briefly surveyed the Law Library here. He recommended that a minimum of \$10,000 per year be spent to maintain and strengthen the collection, as well as to develop areas which were not emphasized in the past.¹¹²

The Medical Library, still housed in McAlester Hall, faced acute space problems during the entire 1937-1946 period. No building additions were possible, although the Medicine Faculty did provide some extra space for library materials in 1939. It was soon used, and crowded conditions were again the order of the day. In spite of that, the library was heavily used, with no recorded variations during the war period.¹¹³

Conclusion

The nineteen years from 1928 through 1946 were an important period in the history of the University of Missouri Library. It was a time of great contrasts. It was a time of war and depression, as well as one of construction and collection building. The library changed greatly, as a Librarian who had been guiding it for thirty years retired and was replaced by a very young man who had many progressive ideas which differed from his predecessor's. It changed from being strictly a book-oriented place to a more people-oriented place, as the new Librarian tried to increase the salaries, benefits, and status of his staff.

Once heavily assisted by interlibrary loan materials from other institutions, by the 1940's the university library had acquired such a well-developed collection that its materials were requested by other leading academic institutions. The library had become such a source of pride for the university that when professors who were applying for positions on the faculty came to see the university for the first time, they were taken on a tour of the library where they were shown the volumes of resource materials available for classroom and personal use.

It is probably true that the watershed in the history of the University of Missouri Library came in the 1950's, but 1928-1946 was a growing and maturing time. That period contained both the worst and the best in the history of the library. It was trying to find its place in the university community; it was trying to prove its value. Each year and each event placed it one more step ahead on the road to becoming the respected research center that it is today.

Footnotes

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²Annual Report, 1944, Supplement. (Typewritten.)

³Robert V. Daniels, Studying History, How and Why (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1966), p. 72.

⁴Frances (McKee) Hanna, comp., Henry Ormal Severance, Librarian, 1907-1937 (Columbia, Missouri: By the Library Staff, 1937), p. 6.

⁵Henry Ormal Severance, History of the Library: University of Missouri, The University of Missouri Bulletin, Library Series, No. 15 (Columbia: University of Missouri, 1928), pp. 62-66.

⁶Hanna, Severance, p. 18-33.

⁷Ibid, p. 33.

⁸Missouri Alumnus, October 1920, pp. 1-2; Severance, History, p. 49.

⁹Hanna, Severance, p. 1; Missouri. University. Board of Curators. Biennial Report, 1937/38, p. 99; Annual Report, 1931, p. 27; Biennial Report, 1931/32, p. 95; Biennial Report, 1933/34, p. 85.

¹⁰Annual Report, 1933, p. 26A; Annual Report, 1935, p. 19; Ibid.

¹¹"Book Thieves Use False Names to Ply Trade in M. U. Library," Columbia Missourian, 23 July 1929, p. 4.

- ¹² Hanna, Severance, p. 11. ¹³ Ibid., p. 9.
- ¹⁴ Ibid. ¹⁵ Ibid., p. 11.
- ¹⁶ Annual Report, 1929, p. 27
- ¹⁷ Annual Report, 1928, p. 18.
- ¹⁸ Frances E. (McKee) Hanna, "The Leader," a paper written for Professor E. L. Morgan's Leadership Class, Columbia: University of Missouri, 1928, (unpaged).
- ¹⁹ Hanna, Severance, p. 22.
- ²⁰ Annual Report, 1932, Supplement, p. 9.
- ²¹ Annual Report, 1928, p. 2.
- ²² Missouri Alumnus, January, 1930, p. 132.
- ²³ Missouri Alumnus, December, 1928, p. 1.
- ²⁴ Annual Report, 1928, p. 1.
- ²⁵ Annual Report, 1931, pp. 1-2.
- ²⁶ Annual Report, 1935 Supplement, pp. 2-3.
- ²⁷ Ibid., p. 6.
- ²⁸ Annual Report, 1935, p. 1.
- ²⁹ Annual Report, 1936, p. 1. ³⁰ Annual Report, 1935 p. 1.
- ³¹ Annual Report, 1936, p. 1. ³² Annual Report, 1933 p. 24.
- ³³ Annual Report, 1930, p. 6.
- ³⁴ Henry Ormal Severance, A Survey of the Resources of the University of Missouri Library for Research Work, The University of Missouri Bulletin, Library Series, No. 19 (Columbia: University of Missouri, 1937), p. 5.
- ³⁵ Ibid. p. 6.
- ³⁶ Ibid., p. 8; Ibid., p. 9. ³⁷ Ibid., p. 9.
- ³⁸ Ibid., p. 10. ³⁹ Ibid. ⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 23.
- ⁴¹ Ibid., p. 21.
- ⁴² Annual Report, 1928, p. 1.

- Annual Report, 1931, p. 2; Annual Report, 1936, p. 4.
- ⁴³Annual Report, 1931, p. 12. ⁴⁴Annual Report, 1934, p. 16.
- ⁴⁵Annual Report, 1928, p. 11. ⁴⁶Annual Report, 1932, p. 9.
- ⁴⁷Ibid., p. 31. ⁴⁸Annual Report, 1933, p. 22.
- ⁴⁹"Walter Williams Library," Library Journal 59 (September 15, 1963): 714.
- ⁵⁰Annual Report, 1934, p. 4.
- ⁵¹Annual Report, 1935, p. 12. ⁵²Annual Report, 1936 p. 11.
- ⁵³Ibid. ⁵⁴Annual Report, 1930, p. 10. ⁵⁵Ibid.
- ⁵⁶Annual Report, 1929, p. 8.
- ⁵⁷Annual Report, 1932, p. 29; Annual Report, 1934, p. 19.
- ⁵⁸Annual Report, 1931, p. 20; Annual Report, 1932, p. 28.
- ⁵⁹Ibid., p. 28 ⁶⁰Annual Report, 1930, p. 18
- ⁶¹Annual Report, 1932, p. 25 ⁶²Ibid., p. 22.
- ⁶³Ibid., p. 19. ⁶⁴Annual Report, 1933, pp. 16-17.
- ⁶⁵Annual Report, 1929, p. 14. ⁶⁶Ibid., 1929, p. 13.
- ⁶⁷Annual Report, 1934, p. 3.
- ⁶⁸Severance, Survey of Resources, p. 28.
- ⁶⁹Ibid. ⁷⁰Ibid. ⁷¹Ibid., p. 29
- ⁷²Ibid.
- ⁷³Hanna, Severance, p. 19. ⁷⁴Ibid.
- ⁷⁵Lee Ash, ed., Biographical Directory of Librarians in the United States and Canada (Chicago: American Library Association, 1970), p. 881.

- 76 Benjamin E. Powell, personal letter.
- 77 Annual Report, 1939, p. 12, Ibid., p. 14.
- 78 Missouri. University. Minutes of the Meetings of the Library Committee, letter from B. E. Powell, 18 April 1944.
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- 80 Annual Report, 1937, p. 4.
- 81 Annual Report, 1942, p. 14.
- 82 Annual Report, 1940, p. 24; Ibid., p. 12.
- 83 Annual Report, 1942, p. 2.
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- 91 Annual Report, 1938, p. 1.
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- 93 Library Committee Meeting Minutes, 26 October 1944, p. 1.
- 94 Annual Report, 1946/47, p. 7.
- 95 Annual Report, 1942, p. 16. 96 Annual Report, 1939, p. 8.
- 97 Annual Report, 1941, p. 6.
- 98 Library Committee Meeting Minutes, 10 April 1944, p. 1.
- 99 Annual Report, 1939, p. 5.
- 100 Ibid., p. 5; Annual Report, 1938, p. 14.
- 101 Annual Report, 1940, p. 14.
- 102 Mulsarag, 17 November 1949, p. 4; Western Historical Manuscripts Collection Bulletin, no. 3, 1 March 1945, p. 1.

- ¹⁰³Annual Report, 1944, p. 15.
- ¹⁰⁴Annual Report, 1938, p. 13. ¹⁰⁵Ibid., p. 21.
- ¹⁰⁶Annual Report, 1941, p. 13. ¹⁰⁷Annual Report,
¹⁰⁸Annual Report, 1944, Appendix IV, ^{1945/46}, pp. 3-4
pp. 34-35.
- ¹⁰⁹Annual Report, 1939, p. 9. Annual Report, 1940,
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- ¹¹⁰Annual Report, 1937, p. 1; Annual Report, 1938,
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- ¹¹¹Annual Report, 1940, p. 19.
- ¹¹²Annual Report, 1945/46, p. 21, 22.
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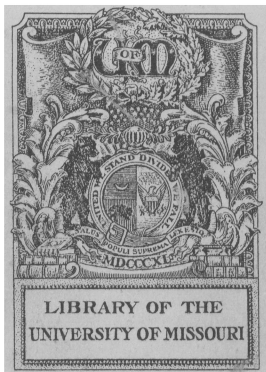
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