

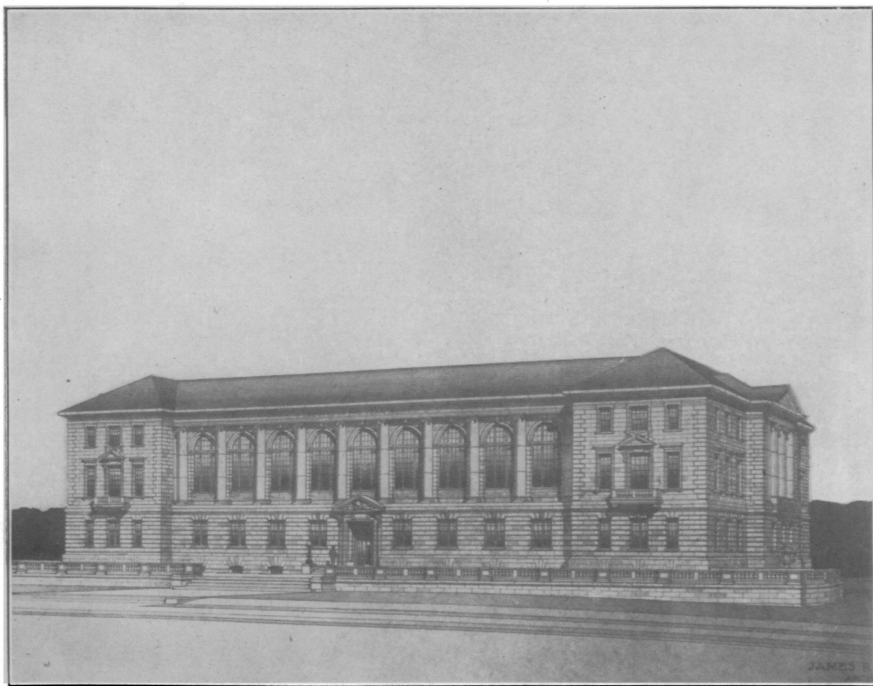


**THE  
NEW  
LIBRARY  
BUILDING**

**1913**







*Architect's drawing of the completed building*



# *The New Library Building*



*Library of the University of Missouri*  
*Library of the State Historical Society*  
*of Missouri*



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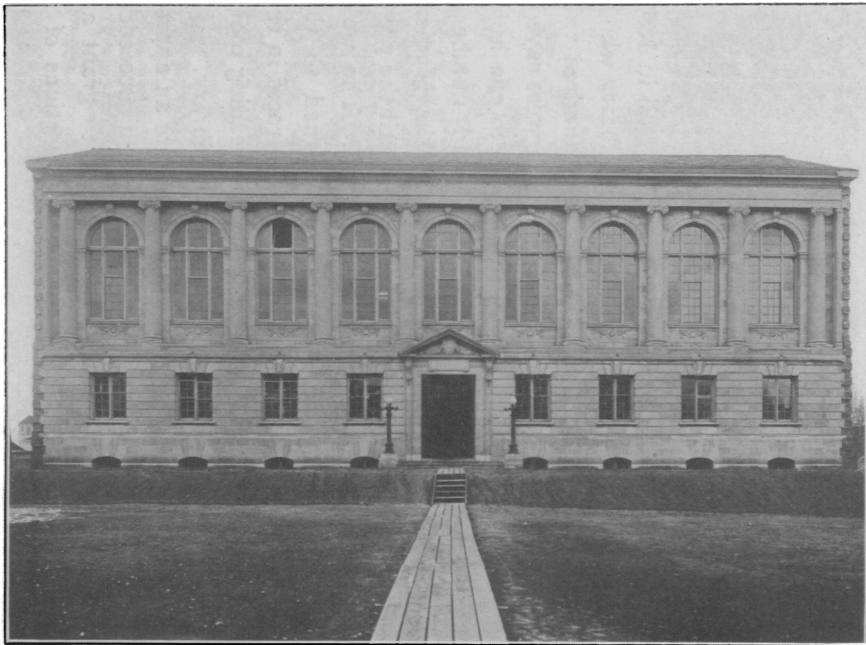
## Site and Building

**W**HEN the fire destroyed Academic Hall in 1892 it destroyed also, the University Library which was housed therein. About two hundred volumes which were loaned at the time were saved.

With this nucleus the Library has increased to one hundred and fifty thousand volumes in round numbers. After the fire the Library was housed in the Medical Building where it remained three years, or until the present Academic Hall was completed in 1895. The west wing, first floor, of this building was assigned to the Library. In the course of time the basement room in the west wing, and other rooms adjacent to the reading room and certain corridors were given over to the Library.

After several unsuccessful attempts to secure an appropriation for a Library Building, President Hill succeeded in 1913 in inducing the General Assembly to grant an appropriation of \$200,000 for the central portions of a building and \$75,000 for a site.

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*Two wings are to be added to the completed section*

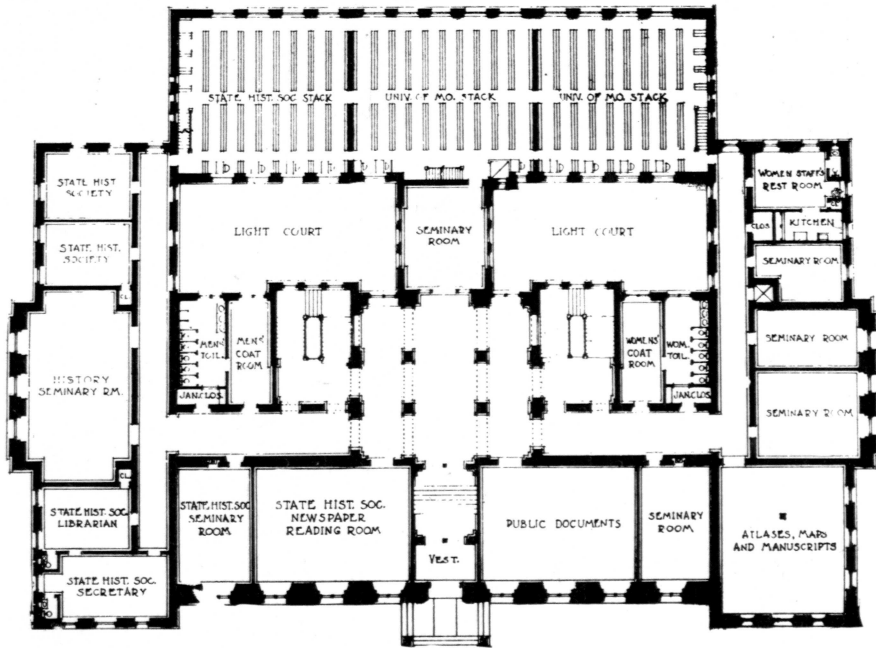
*The Site.*

The site for the new building is the block bounded by Conley, Hitt, Lowry and Ninth streets. It is wider on the east than on the west end. The average width is three hundred and ninety feet and the average length is four hundred and seventy-three feet. This block has a higher elevation than either the east or the west campus. It is the connecting link between the two. The houses were moved from the centre of the block to make room for the new building. This was placed on the centre east and west but to the south of centre in the other direction. This provides a dignified approach to the front of the Library—the Lowry street side. The houses still occupying the east and the west ends will be moved off when the wings of the building are erected. This open space will give a very desirable setting for the building. The Library will be the only building on the block.

The block was purchased from the several owners, by the University from the appropriation by the General Assembly, supplemented by the proceeds of rentals, etc., at a total cost of \$92,267.23.

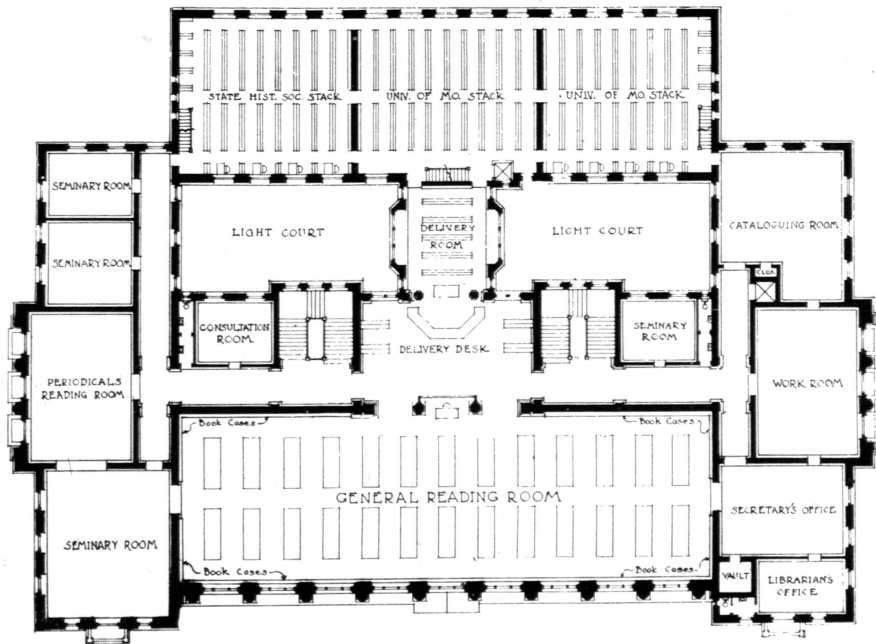
*The Building.*

The General Assembly of 1913 appropriated the sum of \$200,000 for the erection of the central portion of the

*First floor*



Library Building. With this fund the present building has been secured including the steel stacks in the stack room. Mr. James P. Jamieson of St. Louis is the architect.

*Second floor*

## As Described by the Architect

**T**HE building now completed and occupied forms the central portion of the whole Library as planned in 1912. The appearance of the exterior and the arrangement of the interior clearly indicate that additions are to be made. The flanking wings of the building will each add forty feet to the frontage, and they are to project forward of the present front line and to enclose the main colonnade marking the reading room. To the rear they extend far enough to overlap and be connected to the completed stack room which will then consist of three units similar to the one already erected.

As the building stands on ample grounds it is quite possible to develop it to any reasonable size, if an increase in the original plan is found to be desirable. It may thus be found that the erection of the building at different times will prove rather fortunate than otherwise.

Perhaps the most important question to be answered in beginning plans for a Library is the position of the

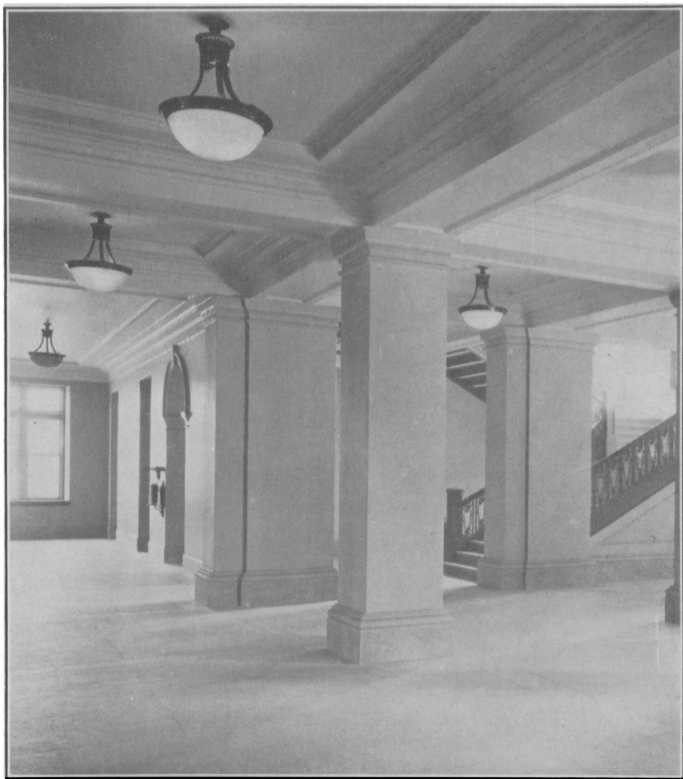
main reading room. This unit is so large that it demands a central location as there is nothing of equal importance to balance it if placed on one side of the centre or the other. The stack for housing books, the only other large unit, cannot well balance the reading room as it must be in immediate connection with it, and besides there is too much difference in the character of the two to make this a satisfactory arrangement. If then the reading room is to be central and is placed on the first floor because there it is most quickly reached, we are forced to have two entrances to the building flanking the central room. Two entrances involve scattered communications to the various parts of the building and this and other objections considered with the advantage of better light and quieter location in the second story determined the University authorities in their choice of this as the place for the reading room. The room extends to a height equal to the combined second and third stories in other parts of the building. It has no rooms over it and its vaulted ceiling runs up under the slope of the roof.

The architecture of the building is that of the English Renaissance. Perhaps the nearest prototype is the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge, dating from the second half of the seventeenth century. The reading

room is marked by an Ionic colonnade standing on a solid rusticated first story. An appropriate base is contemplated in the form of a wide terrace enclosed by balustrades.

The exterior walls are of cut lime stone and the roof of green slate on concrete. The construction throughout is fire proof as far as it is possible to have it. Outer walls and inner walls carrying loads are of solid masonry, all interior partitions of hollow terra cotta blocks, floors are of concrete construction, the plaster is applied to hollow terra cotta blocks or to metal lath. Doors and door trims are of steel, windows everywhere except on the front are of metal with wire glass, stairways are of iron and marble and altogether the total amount of inflammable material in the structure of the building is barely enough to make one small bonfire, if all collected together.

After the building is completed a visitor will approach it on the north by a wide flight of steps to a wide terrace and thence by a few steps through the entrance vestibule and up to the main entrance hall. To the left and right on the interior or south side of the central portion are the main stairways leading to the second and third stories. In the front to the east of the main entrance are two rooms occupied by the State Historical Society and there are



*Entrance lobby and east stairway*



corresponding rooms on the west for periodicals and the University librarian. East and west of the main stairways are the men's and women's coat rooms and toilet rooms. South of the main entrance hall is a seminar room connecting with the stack room to the extreme south. The present uses of these various rooms are for the most part temporary awaiting the completion of the building.

On the second floor is the main reading room, one hundred and thirty feet by forty-two feet, with tables for two hundred and sixty readers, in groups of ten to a table, and having metal stacks around the walls with a capacity of ten thousand, eight hundred volumes. These bookcases and the doors, etc., although of steel, are finished in a soft color like oak. The tables and chairs and delivery desk are of a similar oak and the floor covering is of cork tiling. The walls have simple broad plaster panels in three light tints of ivory and buff as a setting for portraits and engravings. The ceiling is plaster, being a simple segment vault extending from end to end of the room, and is enriched with a slight amount of ornament and slightly projecting plaster beams and shallow plaster panels. The ceiling is in one light tint to reflect the electric light from the eighteen semi-indirect lighting fixtures suspended in two lines along the length of the room. The



*Section of the main reading room*

reading room is only partly divided by columns from a space forty-two feet by twenty-eight feet, devoted to the delivery desk and catalog cases. The delivery room containing stacks connects the delivery desk with the main stack and the remainder of this floor contains at present two seminar rooms.

The third story has three seminar rooms, the largest of which is in temporary use as a cataloging room.

The basement of the present structure besides stack space, etc., for the State Historical Society, has a receiving and unpacking room and a repair room.

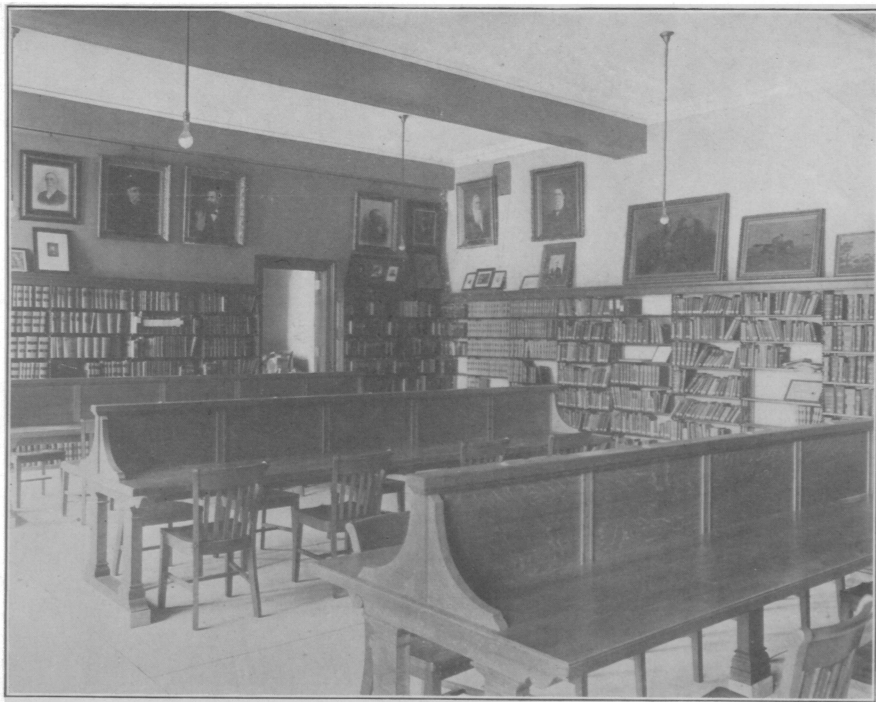
The stack room is of the most modern type, the present unit being complete in every particular. The walls are lined with white enamelled brick, the floors marble supported on the usual metal construction and the stacks the most approved make by Sned & Company. There are six tiers, the second tier being on the level of the first floor, fourth on the level of the second floor, or reading room, and the upper tier on the level of the third floor. The capacity is 216,500 volumes, the light is by windows to the south and to the north and some temporary windows to the east and west which will later become openings giving access to additional stacks included in the completion of the building. In the stack is an electric elevator besides the usual stairways.



*Delivery room and stack for reserved books*

The decoration of the interior of the building is very simple. In the halls and corridors there is merely enough in the plaster cornice and pilaster treatment, and in the color scheme of light gray walls and cream ceilings to relieve what would otherwise have been bare and uninteresting. The floors of the halls and corridors have marble borders and marble terrazzo. The floors of the rooms throughout are of cement to receive cork tiling or linoleum.

The heating, ventilating and lighting of the building have been carefully considered. Direct radiation is used throughout but in the reading room and delivery room the radiators are concealed behind grilles. The fan room under the centre of the front contains a number of electric motor driven fans which discharge tempered air into various parts of the building. This air is not depended upon to heat the room but for ventilation. In most cases the vent flues have natural draft but one or two fans to extract air have been used in special cases.



*Reading room of the State Historical Society*



## As Seen by a Journalist

**S**IMPLICITY of architecture marks the new Library Building. The coat of arms of the State of Missouri above the main entrance, and the ornamental lamp standards on either side the north door, are the chief exterior decorations. Plain, heavy doors allow admission to the lobby. Intricate panels, carvings of wood, castings of brass, columns and pilasters are not used to catch the eye. A restful shade of color covers the walls. A bronze bust of James Sidney Rollins stands in the lobby between the two stairways.

Protection from fire will perhaps occur to the minds of most people as the greatest need in a library building, and there is not, in the entire building, enough inflammable material to build a decent bonfire at a student celebration. Those fine looking doors, finished in a light oak effect, are metal. Window frames and window casings steel. All of the great rows of stacks are metal. Stairways are ornamented iron, with marble risers and treads. In the corridors are marble baseboards and terrazzo floors.

All the floors are concrete. From the first the visitor will be impressed with the fireproof qualities of the building.

On the second floor, the north end of the building is given over to the reading room; and here, altho simplicity is maintained, there is a beautiful interior decoration. The height of the walls is the combined height of the second and third stories of the building. The ceiling is vaulted, conforming to the roof, and is white, an aid to the semidirect lighting system. Side walls are in three tints of ivory and buff.

Modern reading tables have replaced the old-style, flat tables. Partitions extend the full length of the tables and on each side of these partitions are mounted five individual electric lights.

A visitors' gallery, on the third floor, gives a splendid view of the reading room, without interrupting the readers below.

But how are the books kept and how are they gotten out for use of the readers? If you would know, you must go back of the loan desk in the main reading room. You will be cheerfully admitted by the librarian, and he will show you what a tremendously big business is the operation of a library.

When books are received, the first thing done is to perforate the title pages. The words "University of Missouri Library", in pinhole perforations, appear in every book owned by the Library. Bookplates and tough, manilla pockets are pasted in. Then they go to the catalog room, and all of the record cards are made out, and all the numbers and letters are put on. Now, numbering and lettering is a part of the great system by which books may be located in the bookstacks. For when a book goes into the stacks, a reader must ask for it by the figures and letters—the call number—not by its name. This system is so elastic that all the books that will ever be published may be given the same sort of marks, but no two will ever have the same call number. After they are marked, they go into the stacks and are available for calls at the desk.

Back in the stacks the building is divided into six stories. This is the great storehouse of the Library. Row after row of metal frames hold the thousands of volumes.

A total of three hundred thousand volumes are contained in the Library Building for the use of the students of the University and the people of the State. And by the cataloging system, every book is readily found and quickly issued when applied for.



*Where the books are catalogued*

Books must be protected from the rays of the sun, so all of the windowpanes of the stackrooms are of rolled wire glass and the sunshine cannot go directly through them to discolor bindings. The wire prevents the glass from falling, if a window be broken, another precaution against fire.

Ventilation in a library building is important, as dampness and moths play havoc in libraries, so in this new building there are openings in the floor under every stack and fresh air is forced through all the stackrooms. Not only are the books aired, but also dusted by means of a vacuum cleaner to be installed. The reading room too, is thoroughly ventilated. Large, motor-driven fans in one of the basement rooms draw in fresh air from out-of-doors, temper and force it throughout the building.

A part of the building of especial interest to Missourians is the section used by the State Historical Society of Missouri. Copies of all books and publications by Missourians are secured whenever possible. On the first floor of the building, a splendid reading room is provided for the Society. The Society has several large stack rooms; and in the Missouri document room sixty copies of every State publication are kept for exchange purposes. Newspaper files alone occupy one big room and the erec-

tion of this fireproof building is of great value for this one feature. About twelve hundred bound files of newspapers are added each year.



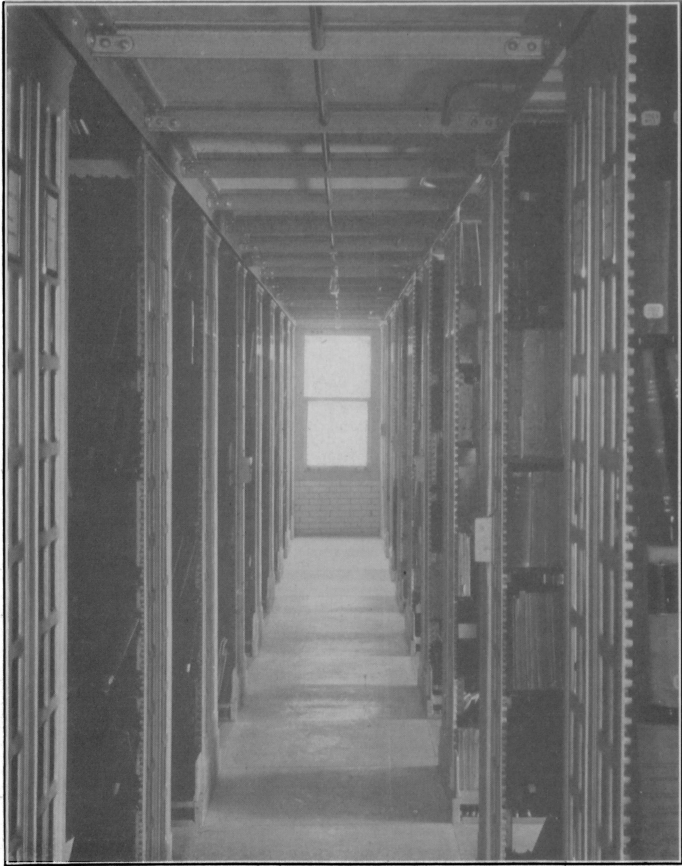
## Library Service

**T**HE purpose of the building is to enable the library to render greater and more efficient service to the public.

The fireproof stacks insure the preservation of the valuable and ever increasing collection of books for the use of future generations. The commodious and well-equipped reading room has an atmosphere of dignity, repose, and quiet which are conducive to reading and study.

The four seminar rooms provide excellent facilities for graduate students in history, political science, sociology, education and literature and language to do research work. The students in science and in the professional schools have special facilities in other buildings for their graduate work.

The Library renders service not only to resident students but to citizens in all parts of the State. The Library, through its extension department, is loaning



*Central aisle of the stackroom, fifth floor*

books to individuals in more than two hundred towns in the State. It also prepares package libraries on debate questions, which it loans to high schools for debate work. Farmers' clubs, women's clubs, and other organizations may share in this service. It has agricultural libraires in the offices of county farm advisers in twelve different counties.

The library not only furnishes books for its readers, but it also furnishes information, references, suggestions and the like.

The Library of the State Historical Society furnishes opportunities second to none for research in Missouri history.













MU Libraries  
University of Missouri--Columbia

## Books about MU libraries

Local identifier                      NewLibraryBuilding1915

## Capture information

Date captured	11/10/2015
Scanner manufacturer	Zeutschel
Scanner model	OS 15000
Scanning system software	Omniscan v.12.4 SR4 (1947) 64-bit
Optical resolution	600 dpi
Color settings	8 bit grayscale
File types	tiff

## Source information

Format	Book (pamphlet)
Content type	text
Source ID	010-101809991
Notes	Pamphlet binder was not scanned

## Derivatives - Access copy

Compression	LZW
Editing software	Adobe Photoshop CC
Resolution	600 dpi
Color	grayscale; cover scanned in color
File types	tiff
Notes	Pages cropped; images brightened and text darkened; vertical illustrations were rotated horizontally