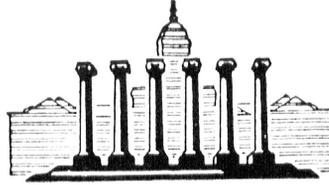




DECEMBER  
1965

# MISSOURI ALUMNUS



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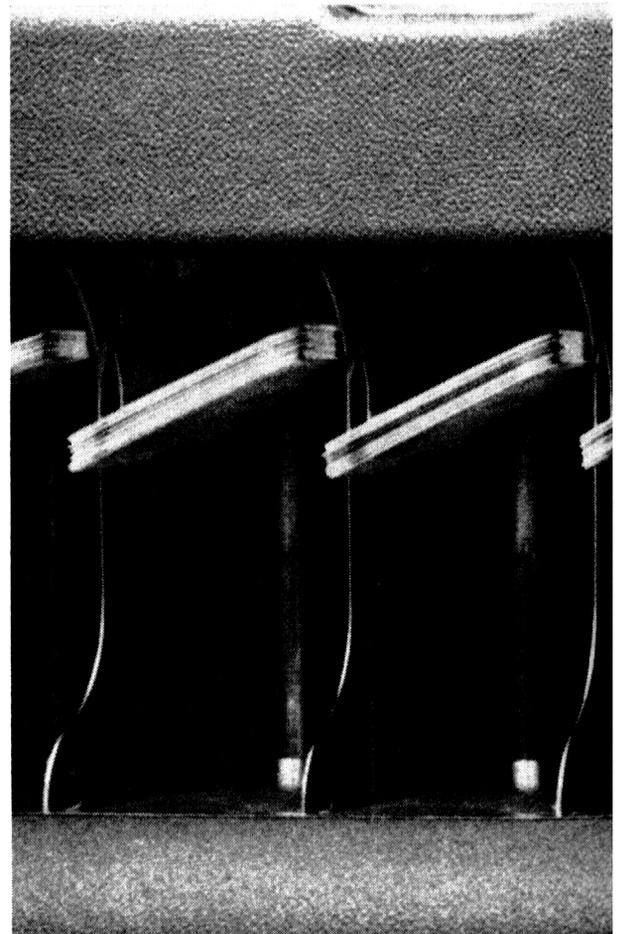
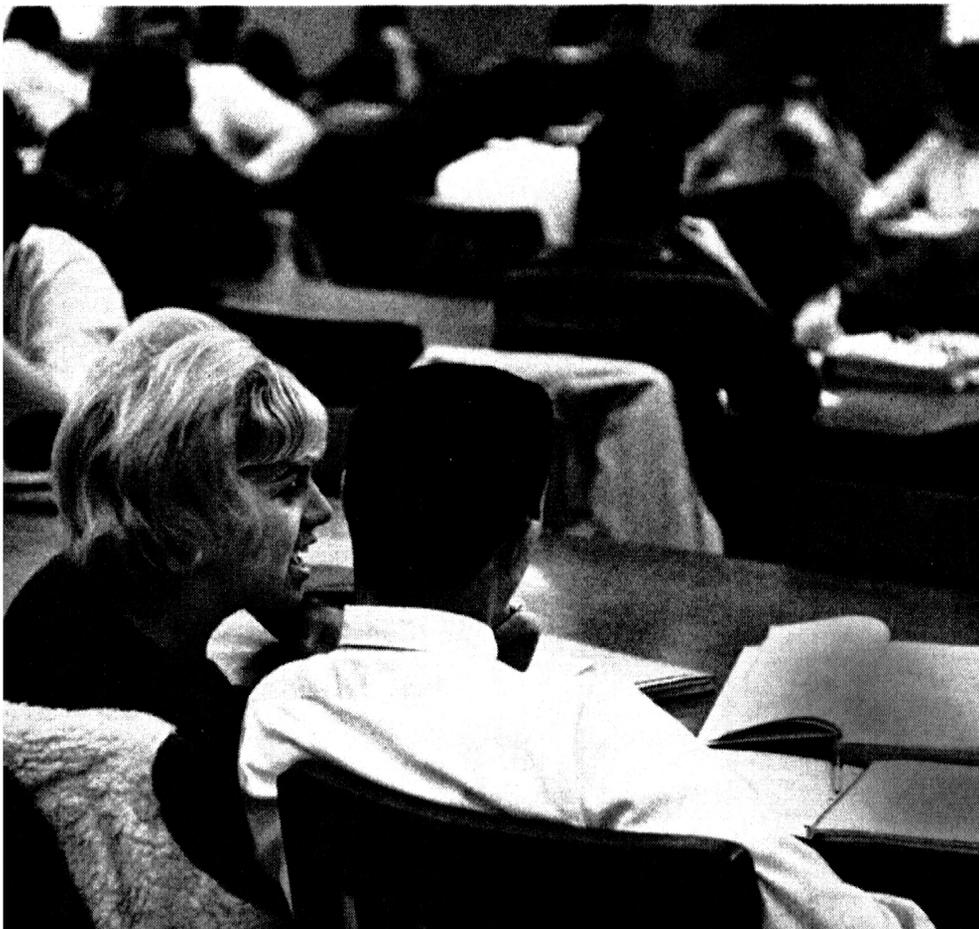


### ABOUT THE COVER

A night scene at the University Library main entrance. Another view of building is on back cover. Photos by Ken Heinen.

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**THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**  
**. . . WORLD LEADER**  
**IN AUTOMATION**



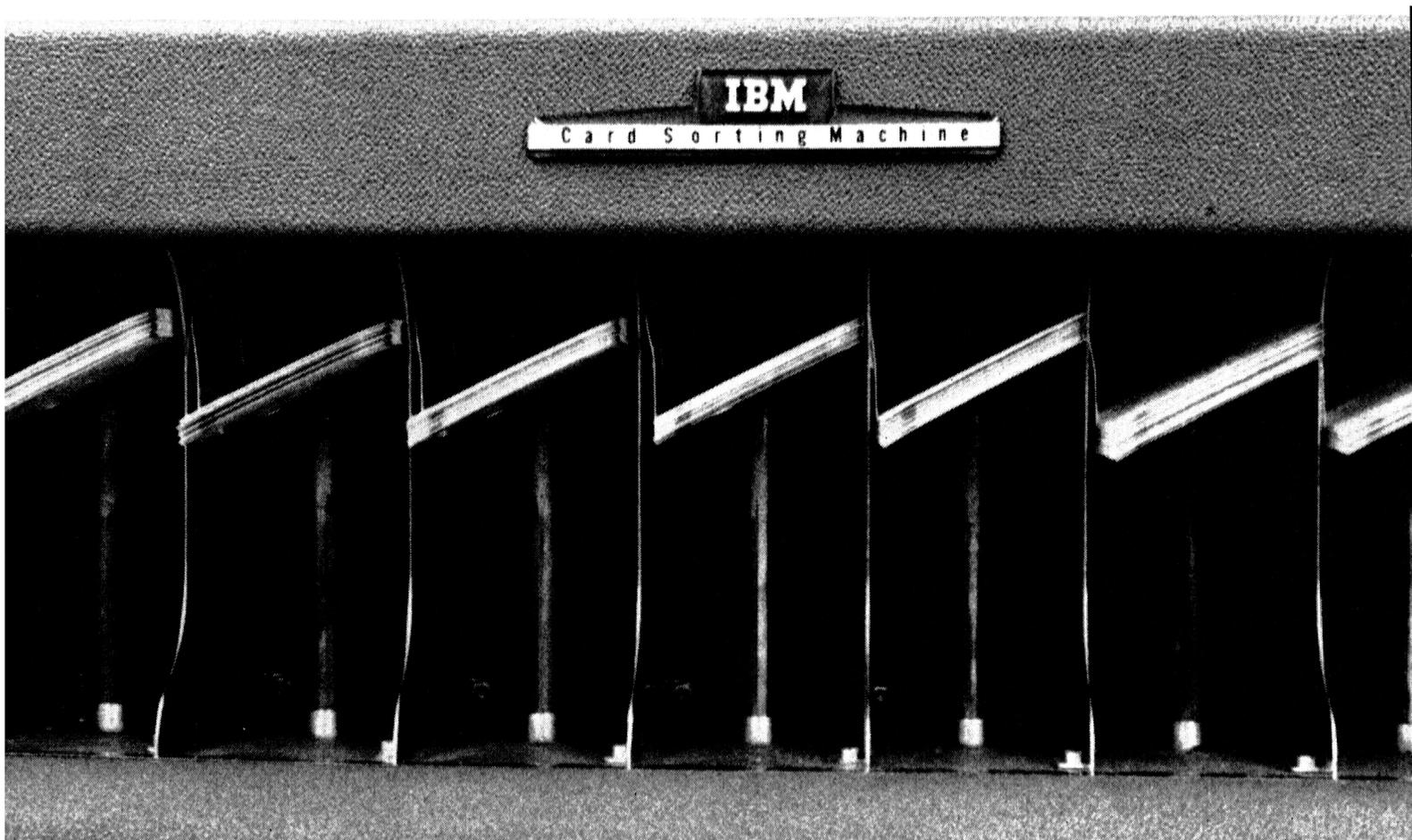
**T**HE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY has earned an international reputation as the recognized leader among libraries of the world in the use of the most modern automatic systems.

Visitors from such distant places as New Zealand, Scandinavia, India, Africa, and South America have come to Columbia to study the library's operations. A representative from the University of Sydney, Australia, and another from Cambridge University in England were the most recent callers. Two observers from the British Museum are expected soon.

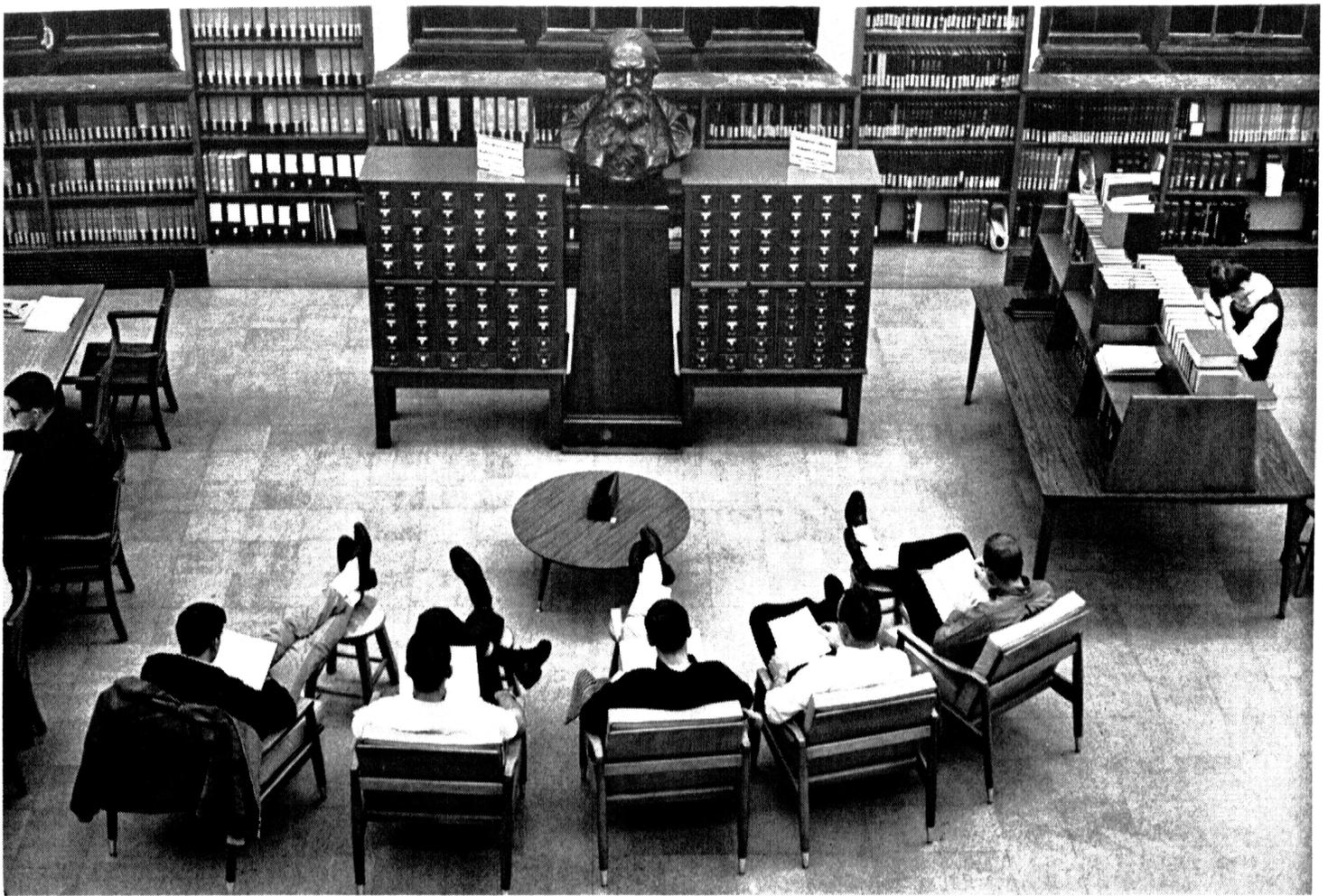
To proud Missourians, this world-wide attention upon the University Library is something of a bonus. For, even without its global leadership in the latest techniques of library management, the library would maintain its high rank by virtue of its collections. Physical facilities are another enhancing factor; the plant has virtually doubled in size in recent years.

Still another forward step is to be taken by the library in February. The first computer for the exclusive use of a university library will be installed. This IBM 1440 data processing system will be specially oriented to do the job required for bibliographic records.

Most of the library's remarkable automation system functions behind the scenes. Only recently has it become obvious to the library patron, although the development of mechanical systems of record-keeping has been under way at the University of Missouri since 1949.





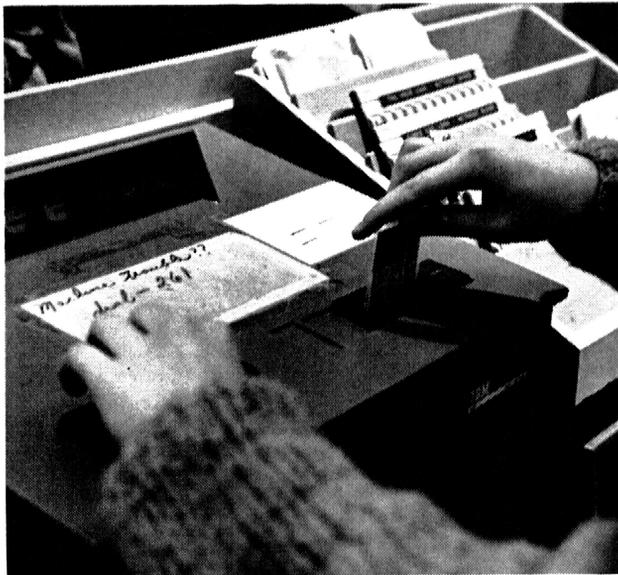


The photo above may have the appearance of one that has been posed, but this is not the case; it's a scene as the photographer actually found it. The University Library is really a popular place. Students have found it profitable to spend much of their time there. But, in peak periods, they have to get there early to assure themselves a place to study. It is not uncommon to see a student sitting on the floor (see page 16). Either he was unable to find other space, or else he preferred this convenient spot near the stacks. Students and other users of the Library find it the cleanest and best lighted of libraries. Shown at left on this page is Dr. Ralph H. Parker, the University Librarian.

Photos by Ken Heinen



At the main desk on the ground floor of the library, the student borrower presents ID card as well as the IBM card from the book which is to be checked out. The student has already looked up location of book in catalog card files and has been to the stacks to select the book.



The attendant inserts borrower's ID card and the IBM card from the book into transmitter, to start an automatic process that is performed hundreds of times each day. The entire operation takes but a few seconds but saves many man hours.



The transmitter, which is located on the third floor, produces a punch card record of the loan. These cards, which can be filed by machine, are sorted daily; they record the day's circulation and are available almost immediately to the main desk for checking. Before automation, the library was always several days behind in filing records of loans.

NO LONGER does the library user have to go through the task of filling out a form for the book he wishes to check out. He simply presents his identification card, which is specially punched for use with the library's automated equipment. The assistant at the circulation desk removes the punched card from the pocket in the back of the book the borrower has selected, and places the book card and the borrower's identification card in two slots in a transmitter; this is connected by cable to the central data processing machine room, where a punched card recording all details of the transaction is created. The whole process takes only a few seconds.

Actually, the automatic circulation system is not yet fully operative. Dr. Ralph H. Parker, University Librarian, explains that the system was put into operation a year ago when only about 100,000 of the library's 1,000,000 volumes contained the new punched cards and before many users had the new type identification card. By beginning the system gradually, the money saved through the efficiency of its operation could be used to make the necessary cards for the remaining books. The most recently acquired books (which are generally the most widely circulated) were the first to be prepared. Now whenever a borrower takes out a book which does not contain the new type card, such a card is made while the book is on loan. Book cards have now been created for about sixty per cent of the circulation.

ALL FACULTY MEMBERS, incoming freshmen, and other students whose old ID cards had expired were issued the new type cards, so that about forty per cent of the borrowers were equipped to make use of the system when it began. This percentage increases each year and the system will soon be completely operative.

Other important parts of the automation system, not visible to the casual library visitor, are a punched card system for ordering and for accounting, and an automatic typewriter system for the creation of catalog cards.

The advances in automation are really only one aspect of a broad program of library improvement that has taken place recently, a program designed to make the library resources more readily available to the library user at the least possible cost. This objective governed the planning of the addition to the library building, which was occupied in 1961, and the remodeling of the older part of the building, a project completed in 1962. The library is now completely air-conditioned, with humidity control for optimum protection of materials.

The designers attempted to remove not only as many physical barriers between books and borrowers as possible, but also psychological barriers. The open stack system was adopted so that library users may have free access to all except the rare book collection. Subject "centers" (Fine Arts, Language and Literature, Social Science, Education, and Science) were set up so that users studying in one of these fields can find the books they use most shelved near a comfortable reading area; staff assistants are nearby to offer any help needed. A further effort to maintain a feeling of personal contact is reflected in the Undergraduate Library, a center in which an incoming freshman can find much of the information he needs without facing the somewhat bewildering mass of material in the entire library.

To facilitate such arrangements, the new addition to the building was constructed so that nearly all walls are removable. As needs change, facilities can be rearranged to meet them. As Dr. Parker expresses it, "The building should not get in the way."

THE REAL BEGINNING of today's library dates from the arrival of James T. Gerould on the campus as librarian in 1900. The purchases he made and the systems he instituted provided a solid foundation for a great library. In the first decade of this century a great effort went into the building of a valuable library collection.

The library and the faculty were factors when the University was admitted to the Association of American Universities in 1908. There are still only 41 member institutions in the association. Missouri was the sixth state university to be admitted into what was originally an Ivy League organization.

In war time and in lean budget years, acquisitions by the library suffered, but a systematic rebuilding of the collection, starting about a decade ago, was made possible by the solid foundation laid down by Gerould. Today the University Library is very strong in periodicals of academic and learned societies. Since World War II, sets of periodicals such as the library possesses have been out of print on the world market.

A major effort has been made to bring the collections of the University into line with those of sister institutions of the Association of American Universities. This effort is aided by the fact that the library is able, due to economies, to spend 44% of its budget on books, in contrast to the 32% spent by the average library.

THAT THE LIBRARY operation is fulfilling its objective of optimum service to the user is evident in the increased use made of its resources. Although

(Continued on Page 16)

## THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Continued from Page 7

the addition to the building more than doubled its usable space, students now find it advisable to go to the library before 7 p. m. if they want to be sure of a seat in a reading area for the evening. Branch libraries (which occupy parts of seven other campus buildings and contain about 200,000 volumes) are crowded too. The Medical Library, which moved into its present quarters at the Medical Center in 1956, is rapidly outgrowing them. The Law Library now occupies nearly all of the two top floors of the 1960 addition to Tate Hall. The Veterinary Medicine Library moved last spring from its Connaway Hall location into the old Veterinary Clinic building, a temporary measure which will be adequate for only a few years. The Geology Library now occupies space in the new Geology building, completed in 1964. Other branch libraries are in the Schools of Journalism, Agriculture and Engineering.

Along with the emphasis on improved physical facilities, the library's administrators constantly seek to develop the library's resources for teaching and research. These resources are an important factor in attracting both students and faculty. About 70,000 volumes are now added per year, in contrast to 25,000 ten years ago. Many back files of scholarly journals have been secured, and subscriptions are begun to more than 1500 new periodicals each year. While the primary responsibility for collection traditionally rests with the faculty, subject specialists on the library staff keep abreast of new materials and try to anticipate needs. There are outstanding collections in the sciences and mathematics. The Medical Library, while not especially large, is highly effective. The collections in the humanities are constantly being strengthened, so that the library now has one of the country's top collections in Art History and Archaeology.

Missouri's leadership in library management promises to continue. Dr. Parker predicts that, within the next five years, the present card catalog system will become obsolete and will be replaced by computer-printed catalogs. These in turn may give way, perhaps in the next twenty-five years, to inquiry consoles on which the borrower will press typewriter keys to indicate the information he desires. The appropriate section of the catalog will then be reproduced on a TV screen in front of the user, and "erased" when he is finished. Long distance phone lines may connect the borrower to facilities anywhere in the United States, so that the inquiry consoles themselves need not be in this library in order for their information to be available.

—Ruth Bebermeyer



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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
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RETURN REQUESTED

*Ken Heinen photo*

