

Messenger

Oregon State University

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Dr. Linus Pauling, class of '22, will speak April 19 to OSU Friends of the Library organization.

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting

This year, the Oregon State University Friends of the Library Board extends an invitation to attend its Annual Meeting at a luncheon on Saturday, April 19. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

We are most fortunate this year to have as speaker our well-known alumnus, Linus Pauling. A 1922 graduate in Chemical Engineering, Dr. Pauling was made an Honorary Dr. of Science by Oregon State in 1933 for his teaching and research at California Institute of Technology and at the University of Munich, Germany. His work has continued in several universities in California for over 40 years, and in 1954, he received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Dr. Pauling has been an outspoken opponent of nuclear weapons and their dangers since the end of World War II. Together with his wife, Ava, he even caused some consternation in the State Department with his controversial views. This activity culminated in 1963 when he became the only recipient of his own second Nobel Prize, this one for Peace. Over the years he has received many other awards, including several honorary doctorates and the U.S. National Medal of Honor.

In the late '60s, Linus Pauling became interested in the inherent values of vitamins and he worked to enlighten the medical profession and the public. He has made

particular study of Vitamin "C" using himself as a subject for some experiments. These vitamin studies led him and a student protege, Arthur B. Robinson, to found the Linus Pauling Institute of Science and Medicine in Palo Alto, California. Here, Dr. Pauling continues to guide the fifty-or-so scientists who work on medical and nutrition-related research.

At the Annual Meeting in April, the Board of the Friends of the Library will report to you on the status of the fund-raising campaign for the "Endowment for the Humanities" Challenge. Much work is underway to increase the membership of the Friends of the Library. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so today! If you are not a member, please join by sending your tax-deductible donation now. A membership form will be found in this "Messenger." We hope all who read this special issue of our newsletter will feel inspired to answer this challenge and help "to raise the temperature" in our fund thermometer.

The Board looks forward to seeing as many members as possible at our annual gathering. You will receive formal invitations at a later date. If you do not receive notice by March 31st and wish to attend, please call the Library Office, (503) 754-3411. Any friend, who has an interest in Oregon State University, its Library and the Center for the Humanities, is welcome to attend. The speaker will surely bring his own challenging remarks and stimulation to all present.

Agricultural Cooperation

Thanks to a planning grant from the Fred Meyer Charitable Trust's Library and Information Resources for the Northwest (LIRN), Kerr Library was able to bring together the agricultural librarians from five northwestern states in order to discuss possible cooperative projects. The first of two meetings took place in February 1985, in Portland, and included librarians from Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Alaska, and Montana. Joseph Howard, the Director of the National Agricultural Library, was also present at the meeting. A second meeting in March in Spokane, Washington, led to a general agreement to focus on a project relating to the indexing of Pacific Northwest agricultural literature — particularly material that is difficult to identify using the traditional indexing sources.

Subsequent meetings between OSU librarians and staff at the National Agricultural Library have defined possible cooperative projects which involve all five northwestern states and the NAL. A grant proposal in the works would utilize developing technology to create a videodisk/microcomputer system to search the full texts of selected PNW agricultural publications. The system would allow a searcher to access and display texts and graphics on the spot.

Another proposed cooperative project would be an OSU-hosted major conference dealing with emerging trends in agricultural information, including new means to publish, index, access and deliver that information. At present these cooperative ventures are in the planning stages, and will be implemented in 1986 and 1987 if funding is obtained.

Library Staff Participate in Statewide Continuing Education Activities

Continuing education opportunities for Oregon State University's Library staff include workshops, seminars, and conferences on a local and national level through professional associations, library schools, and the information industry, among others. Participation in such activities provides Library faculty and other Library staff members with opportunities to enhance their skills and maintain up-to-date knowledge in a rapidly changing discipline.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, continuing education for library professionals in Oregon depended primarily on professional organizations and the information industry. This situation is gradually changing with the addition of Paul Gregario as a coordinator for the Continuing Library Education Project — Oregon, a program sponsored by the Oregon State Library and Portland State University, and the interest of organizations like the Oregon State System of Higher Education and the Fred Meyer Charitable Trust. Several of the OSU Library faculty are actively involved in supporting these continuing education activities of Oregon library personnel on a statewide basis.

During 1985, OSU librarians participated in the Library Information Resources Network (LIRN) collection assessment project funded by the Fred Meyer Charitable Trust. The first phase of the project consisted of training librarians from over 200 participating institutions in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

In April 1985, the OSU Library sent Bonnie Avery to participate in a program which resulted in her designation as a LIRN trainer. She is one of thirty such individuals from the five-state region. These trainers conducted workshops throughout the Pacific Northwest during the summer and fall of 1985. Five librarians from OSU attended one of these sessions held in Corvallis in August.

The Oregon Library Association has for many years been concerned about the best methods for providing continuing education for library employees. Of particular concern has been training for paraprofessionals, especially those in small branches who often are unable to attend statewide conferences. In response to this need, OLA established a continuing education committee whose duties would include establishing a series of workshops to be held throughout the state.

Karyle Butcher from the OSU Library currently serves on OLA's continuing education committee. She has worked with Shirley George, Assistant to the State Librarian, and Carol Hildebrand, Assistant City Library Director for the City of Eugene, to develop a management workshop aimed at the paraprofessional in Oregon libraries. The success of the workshop, held in Portland, led to the development of a similar workshop for the professional librarian to be held at the annual Oregon Library Association conference in April 1986.

In 1982, the eight on-line searching coordinators for the Libraries of the Oregon State System of Higher Education formed a committee under the auspices of the OSSHE Inter-Institutional Library Council. Karen Starr serves as the OSU Library's representative on the committee. The committee undertook the goal of creating a forum for the continuing education of librarians in Oregon within the on-line searching field.

In 1984, the group hosted the first Oregon On-line conference at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Oregon On-line '85 was held at the LaSells Stewart Center at Oregon State University. Recently, Oregon On-line '86 was held at the Smith Memorial Center on the Portland State University campus. The conferences have covered various aspects of the computerized retrieval of bibliographic, numeric and full text information. Presenters included librarians from Oregon, and those attending the conferences have come from Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Thoughts From The Library Director

Recently I had dinner with friends in Chicago. It was a very pleasant occasion filled with catching up on one another's lives while we had been apart and the happiness of sharing a few hours with someone we like. My friends own and operate what they call a "head hunting" business; they locate potential sales executives and recommend them to businesses which need new personnel. In a sense they deal with specialized information and are able to sell that information to those who want it at a very good price. Their business is doing well.

During the course of our conversation my friend Jack said that he and his staff had been discussing me and my work; his staff had asked him a question which really perplexed him. What, they asked, was the real utility of libraries, and why should they be supported at public expense? Jack said that he had always taken libraries for granted as a "good thing; something that most communities willingly supported as a mark of the community's commitment to culture and education.

"But we have so many commercial avenues to culture and education — television, movies, newspapers, magazines, books — that I had a hard time explaining why I thought we needed libraries. What would you tell them?"

I did not have an answer that satisfied me very much and I have been thinking about it off and on ever since. Part of the answer is evident in the very title of a book written about the public library movement by Sidney Ditzion during World War II: *Arsenals of a Democratic Culture*. American governmental systems leave a lot of decision making up to the public.

It does not make any difference how rich or poor voters are or how much formal education they have. Each has a right to express an opinion at the ballot box. Thus, every individual who votes must be as well-informed on the issues as possible.

We go to considerable lengths in this country to insure a free press — not an unbiased press, but a free press. It is up to the citizens to note the differences among many biased presentations and to arrive at the truth for themselves. John Stuart Mill called this the market-place of ideas and our society is based upon it. We believe that if we allow all people to express themselves as freely as possible, the best ideas will surface. We fear that if self expression is controlled by even a benevolent force, some ideas will be submerged. The ideas that are thus withheld from the general discussion may be the very ones which would furnish the best result. Economic factors can be a constraint to the free circulation of ideas. While people have the right to express themselves at the ballot box, not everybody has the same ability to purchase access to information. Thus, unless society takes steps to assure equality of access some people will have better information than others and that superiority will allow them to manipulate others and to gain control of the market-place of ideas. The same thing happens when one group gains a monopoly in a financial market. One group controls the destiny of others. Libraries have been one of the mechanisms which society has used to promote equality of access to information and to prevent the development of monopolies. They are charged to represent, to the extent possible, all points of view and all persuasions, and not to prejudice the value or rightness of an idea. In other words, libraries are charged by society with the responsibility to promote a free and open market-place of ideas.

In the last few years some changes have been developing in the way that ideas are marketed. These changes may have a far-reaching impact upon the availability of ideas in America's intellectual market-place and they illustrate the utility of libraries as "Arsenals" for democratic culture and our economic well being. One of the ways in which libraries have created equality of access has been through the development or support of index and abstract services. Libraries are by far the major purchasers of such expensive services as Chemical Abstracts or Biological Abstracts and the Wilson indexes such as the Reader's Guide and Biological and Agricultural Index as well as the many other similar services which furnish access to specialized subject matter. The abstracting services adopt a neutral point of view toward the material which is indexed. The major consideration in developing the services is to furnish the widest possible access at a reasonable price. Libraries will base their decision to purchase upon whether the service is representative of the field or not, and thus special interest groups have little or no role in deciding what will be indexed. Indexes have been expensive because developing them is labor intensive and there are few subscribers, and they have been slow to produce and print and slow to search in their voluminous printed format.

New technology has been developed which speeds both the developmental and searching process by allowing both to be done "on-line," but the new technologies have been even more expensive than the traditional products. The traditional bodies which support indexing and abstracting services have not been able to capitalize on the introduction of on-line databases. Libraries are having trouble supplying both on-line databases and traditional print databases to users. They often charge for database searches, making that information available only to the person with the money to pay for it.

At the same time, however, because of competition from the automated systems, the number of subscribers to traditional indexes and abstracts is falling, making them even more costly. Eventually this will result in the demise of many such services. Private enterprise has stepped into the breach. The oil industry has created some new on-line energy databases and the power industry has developed others. Their interest in the databases is to distribute information about their own work representing their own point of view.

Readers of *Aramco World Magazine* know it as a beautifully produced and informative journal, but hardly one which provides an unbiased and dispassionate view of Arab culture and the oil industry's impact upon it. There is nothing wrong with the magazine, its emphasis, or that the Arabian American Oil Company publishes it. In fact the magazine contributes a point of view to the American market-place of ideas which would not otherwise be as well represented. However, the implications of databases, which provide the chief avenues to information about certain subject areas, built along similar lines is considerably more sobering.

If the database eliminates from easy access the work of certain groups or authors, its searchers will get a warped impression of the topic. The work of environmentalists may not be represented in databases dealing with the use of fossil fuels, and documentation of medical research may not be represented in a database about agriculture supported by a tobacco company. Clearly society has a considerable stake in maintaining open access to information and to do so, I believe, it must provide adequate support for libraries to allow them to compete in today's economic market-place.

A trip I was recently privileged to take to Bangladesh gave me further insight into the utility of libraries. I went to Bangladesh to help establish a library for a new institute for postgraduate study in agriculture. Before I could make recommendations I needed to look at existing agricultural libraries in the country. What I found was disheartening. Here was a country with 100,000,000 people packed into an area the size of the state of Wisconsin and where natural disaster is a regular accompaniment to life. The country has not been able to support its population agriculturally. With good harvests and imported foodstuffs, more than 60 percent of the people eat less than 90 percent of their minimum daily caloric need. The latest information and research about food production, storage and distribution is greatly needed in Bangladesh. Yet access to that information is limited and restricted.

The absence of hard currency makes it almost impossible for the country or its citizens to purchase printed material. Travel costs are high and the military government discourages scientists from traveling once they have been educated. Telephone services are erratic and expensive once the connections have been made, and inefficiency and theft result in the loss of much mail.

Scientists working in Bangladesh, a large portion of whom were educated in fine universities in the United States and Europe, lack the stimulus of continuous interaction with scientific colleagues elsewhere. Thus they are often unaware of advances in research and their own

The Electronic Security System

Collection security has always been a concern of librarians. Recent publicity about major thefts and vandalism has sharpened interest in the development of a systematic approach to the problem. The most famous case is probably that of James Shinn, who allegedly stole rare books valued at some \$500,000 from colleges and universities around the country before his arrest in 1982.

Libraries attempt to prevent the theft of books from their collections by installing electronic security systems. On June 19, 1985, the William Jasper Kerr Library closed its doors to the public for three days to install a 3M Book Detection System. Karyle Butcher, Head of Access Services, coordinated the project. All available Library staff and students participated in this endeavor.

Currently available electronic security systems operate in basically the same way. Special targets are placed in or on library materials. Patrons exit the library by walking between sensing screens, units or columns. These screens are equipped to detect the presence of targets that have not been deactivated, a process that occurs when the book has been checked out at a library's circulation desk. Active targets trigger audio/visual alarms and result in the locking of exit gates or turnstiles.

Unequivocally, electronic security systems work. Most libraries installing systems report loss reductions of 60 percent to 95 percent. There are some types of library losses, however, which they were never designed to prevent. They will not recoup unreturned overdues which are properly checked out materials that are not returned. They cannot control mutilation of materials. No system is foolproof, particularly against premeditated thefts. Under the circumstances in which they were designed to be effective, electronic security systems work well, and the spiralling cost of library materials contributes to their relative affordability.

work often replicates that already conducted and confirmed elsewhere. Strong research libraries are an obvious response to the need. Such libraries could reduce the cost of materials by avoiding duplication throughout the country.

If the libraries are kept up to date they can provide researchers in Bangladesh with continuing stimulus and information from the best minds throughout the world. Duplication of projects could be eliminated and Bangladeshi scientists could speed up their research by avoiding mistakes or distractions which have hindered researchers elsewhere. It is easy to see how improved access to information can improve the financial strength of the country and the lives of the people, who are poor in both resources. The introduction of high-yield strains of rice and other grains has already had a dramatic impact upon the country's food production capacity and, thus, upon the lives of the people. Rapid population growth and adverse weather conditions place so much stress upon that capacity that much more needs to be done as quickly as possible.

It is more difficult to see the relationship between expanded access to information and economic and social development in a country as rich and complex as our own. The current review of the space program reminds us, however, of the strong relationship between research and our own lives. NASA research has resulted in microcomputers, digital watches and hundreds of other products. Access to the research of NASA scientists has been available to OSU scientists through published papers available in the NASA and the general OSU libraries. Lay explanations of that research are available to the Corvallis citizen through the Corvallis Public Library and to school children through their school libraries. The same thing is happening all across the nation. How can we tell when a young mind is being stimulated by that research work toward the development of future marvels? How do we assess the utility and the economic impact of the vast information network provided by libraries across the nation? How much poorer in mind and spirit would we be without them?

I am still not satisfied that I have answered my friend's question. I have no research which reveals the direct connection between investment in library services and the economic, social and cultural well-being of the country. The evidence we have is anecdotal: a note of gratitude for the library in a research publication; a citizen who reports that a new job is partially the result of a resume written to guidelines found in a book in the library; a large crop of tomatoes grown in the manner recommended in a gardening book from the library and preserved in safety and with good quality as the result of instructions from a library book. How does one assess the value of these experiences by the availability of libraries and how can one total the worth of such experiences across the country? Perhaps the value of information and free access to it can best be weighed in assessing the impact of its absence elsewhere in the world. I believe it is demonstrable that poverty of information has led to constricted and impoverished lives. While countries with few natural resources are prosperous, no society is prosperous when information resources are restricted and impoverished.



The electronic security gate on the first floor of William Jasper Kerr Library was installed to detect books that have not been checked out properly.

The Winds of Change

Sometimes the years of chronic underfunding of collection development make it seem, for faculty, that the library is like the weather. It is something everyone likes to complain about but no one seems able to change. There has been one group of faculty at OSU that has taken steps — modest but significant steps — to reverse this negative trend by throwing financial as well as moral support behind the effort to renew one of the most precious intellectual resources of the University, its library collection.

In 1977, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded OSU a grant from its Education Division for \$800,000 to conceive and to implement new interdisciplinary curricula. This grant led to the establishment of the Humanities Development Office which administered the efforts of more than 50 faculty who, over the next six years, would build three new certificate programs in Northwest Studies, Marine and Maritime Studies, and Twentieth Century Studies.

The work of the Humanities Development Program from 1977-83 in curriculum development is well known on campus. Few realize, however, that the faculty decided to set aside a major portion of their grant funds — \$170,000 — to build the collection in William Jasper Kerr Library in the areas related to the new instructional programs. The Humanities Development Offices devised a strategy whereby faculty teaching the new courses recommended lists of titles for purchase directly to the program office, which in turn expedited the requests in coordination with the Library's order department. Thus, over the years of grant activity, some 9,400 new titles — above and beyond the normal acquisitions of humanities departments — were added to strengthen the new curriculum development. A bibliography of new acquisitions was published and sent to all program faculty.

Faculty who teach and students who take courses in these three new certificate programs are the primary beneficiaries. Even a glance at the categories of acquisition of, for example, the program in Twentieth Century Studies would quickly indicate that general users of the library across the campus will find titles of interest to them:

- A. The City
- B. Communal Groups
- C. Immigration
- D. Literature and Linguistics
- E. Religion and Philosophy
- F. Social and Cultural History and Theory
- G. Science, Technology and Values
- H. Science Fiction
- I. Film and Society
- J. Art, Architecture and Photography: History and Theory

This degree of focused library development would make a very happy ending to the story of the Humanities Development Program and its six years of work aided by the NEH Education grant . . . but this success is only the beginning of a much more ambitious effort.

In May 1984, the program's Director, Peter J. Copek, went back to NEH with a proposal to its Challenge Grants division. In addition to continued instructional development, the new OSU proposal argued for an extension of activity to include increased public programs and a new initiative in humanities research development. In December 1984, NEH responded by awarding OSU the second largest Challenge Grant ever made to a land grant institution. When the award was announced, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education commended the OSU faculty on this accomplishment and officially changed the name and status of the program to the OSU Center for the Humanities.

Once again, the Center has decided in its grant proposal and its long-range plan to set aside a significant part of the endowment — \$400,000 — for continued development of the humanities collections. When the challenge campaign is completed, interest income of approximately \$28,000 will be available each year as a continuing commitment initiated by Oregon State faculty to renew our most precious resource and leave this legacy to future generations of OSU faculty and undergraduates. Using the successful pattern of its prior effort in library development, the Center plans to ask faculty to recommend new acquisitions in areas of research and instruction that the Center happens to be coordinating in any given future year.

"So far we've managed quite a lot in developing new resources crucial to instruction," said Peter J. Copek. "The 9,400 volumes is an obvious instance. In addition, we've slowly developed what now amounts to an excellent collection of feature and documentary films that are being used widely across campus. With the help of prior grant funds, Professor Sponenburgh has put together a large and interesting slide collection of maritime art useful to our Marine and Maritime program, but this is only a beginning."

The Humanities faculty and the Center for the Humanities have set an example which Kerr Library hopes others will take up to reverse past trends and renew the commitment to build a research collection to which the University can look with pride.



The OSU Library received a copy of Hubert Howe Bancroft's classic work "The Native Races of the Pacific States of North America" from the library of Dr. Thomas C. Hogg. The set is being shown by Nancy Powell, collection development librarian; Bonnie Avery, anthropology librarian; and Debbie Hackelman, assistant head, cataloging department.

The Dr. Thomas C. Hogg Collection

Books are given to the Libraries of Oregon State University in memory of faculty, students, and friends of the community. These donations provide a means for the Libraries to add titles to their collections and enhance diversity and scope of coverage of the collections for the benefit of the University community.

In a tribute to his concern for students, the personal library of Dr. Thomas C. Hogg was donated to Oregon State University during 1985. Hogg was the principal founder of the OSU Anthropology Department, served as its chairman for nine years and was, at his death in September 1984, an Assistant Dean of Research. Hogg's concern for students won him the Elizabeth Ritchie Award in 1972 for his outstanding contribution to instruction at Oregon State University.

Hogg had a special interest in the peoples of Africa. He

was author of more than forty articles, reports and papers. Many of these were social impact studies of water and other economic development activities. He led participation by cultural anthropologists in contract research and applications that contributed to solutions of problems of local concern.

Hogg's personal library reflected his research interests. It contains original editions, collections of the classics of late nineteenth century and twentieth century anthropology, and an exceptionally wide ranging and inclusive amount of current anthropological writing. All aspects of the anthropological discipline are represented, including a considerable amount of archaeological material. The wide scope and the current and classic scholarship make the collection very desirable. Its addition to the University supports the applied research of the faculty as well as classroom instruction in both the social sciences and sciences.

"The Power of Suggestion"

On entering the Library a few weeks ago one might have noticed on a wall near the entrance a scrap of paper with the penciled message: "Don't let SPE's In!" Below that was a neatly typed reply:

"Better suggestion: Let's let them in, and then not let them out! What have the Sig Ep's ever done to you? To know them is to love them.
(Signed) The Library Beaver"

This exchange of messages is one of the more whimsical examples to have appeared on the Library's new suggestion board. A suggestion box was installed late last year, and instead of the suggestions being read and quietly passed into the circular file, each item has received a personal response and has been posted with the original suggestion near the box. The "Library Beaver" in most cases is a Library staff member who can respond most appropriately to a given suggestion.

Since the box was installed the suggestion area has become a focus of attention for many students and other Library users who see concerns similar to their own posted along side the replies of various librarians.

These suggestions have covered a vast spectrum of concerns from requests for specific books, newspapers and journals to such problems as lack of study space, as well as food and noise in the Library.

Some of the suggestions are made because of misunderstandings which the "Library Beaver" can often clarify. Other suggestions are often excellent ideas which may or may not be able to be carried out, depending upon budgetary and staff limitations. Some suggestions, however, have been most innovative and have been promptly implemented by the Library.

The Library is a dynamic institution which requires the kind of input offered in many of these suggestions. The next time you are able to visit the Library, stop by the suggestion box area to see the kinds of issues and concerns which are expressed by OSU students, and the replies of the "Library Beaver." All suggestions and responses are retained in a notebook which may be perused by asking at the main reference desk on the second floor.

A New Way to Pay For Photocopying

As a result of a number of requests from the Oregon State University faculty, the OSU Library investigated the acquisition of copy cards for its photocopy machines. The copy card system allows an individual to make photocopies by using a card rather than money for purposes of payment. Most people wanting the cards indicated that it was inconvenient to carry and/or obtain the necessary change, particularly during the evenings and weekends when the Library's photocopy office is closed.

In August 1985, the Library acquired several new copying machines with each machine capable of accommodating a copy card. Cards were ordered in various denominations, allowing an individual to purchase a \$5.00 card used for 100 copies; a \$15.00 card for 300 copies; and a \$45 card for 1,000 copies. Soon thereafter, \$10.00 cards were made available for 200 copies. In general, the results have been favorable. Since the Library's original order of 5,000 cards, there have been two additional orders of 5,000 cards each.

With the addition of the new copy card system, the Library had fewer coin-operated machines. To accommodate those individuals who do not wish to purchase a card, an agreement was worked out with Xerox. This provides two additional coin-operated machines which were installed in late 1985.

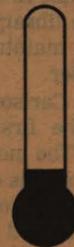
In general, the OSU Library staff feels the decision to use photocopy machines operated with copy cards has been a good one. It is a service which is convenient and useful to Library users and has added advantages, including less staff involvement in the photocopy process.

NEH LIBRARY CHALLENGE

\$300,000 goal

There is still a long way to go!
PLEASE HELP.

\$13,400



History of Oregon State University Library

From its beginning 108 years ago as a room five feet square in the college building of a downtown Corvallis Community Academy, the Oregon State University Library has grown to over a million volumes housed in a building six floors high. The nucleus of the present library came from the Corvallis Library Association in 1880 through the student organization, the Adelphean Literary Society. In 1890, the Adelphean Society officially transferred the library to the ownership of the College, which had moved it to the third floor of Benton Hall. For nearly a decade the Library continued to be entirely operated by young students who needed to work to finance their education.

Although the library grew during its early years, as William H. Carlson said in his detailed history of Oregon State University Library, published in 1976, "... there was a notable lack of vital administrative and faculty concern about the library. This does not mean a total lack of faculty concern. There was concern, obviously, but it is evident that the library committee under which the student librarians worked was casual to the extreme in its discharge of its responsibilities."

There was slow growth, however, and by the turn of the century the library had approximately 3,000 volumes plus pamphlets and bulletins classified in the Dewey Decimal System. The library provided service from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and books, other than the reference type, could be withdrawn for home use.

In 1908 Ida Kidder arrived to serve for twelve years as the first professional librarian at Oregon Agricultural College, a major turning point in the development of the library. With the arrival of Mrs. Kidder came the requests for help, books, space and staff, which began a litany that continues today. She acquired the first library building which was planned to be a library (the current Kidder Hall).

In 1912, the library occupied the entire second floor of Benton Hall. Appropriations for the new library were authorized in 1917, and the building was completed and ready for occupancy by the end of 1918. Transfer of the library collection to the new building was accomplished over an improvised trestle with the help of faculty and students. Mrs. Kidder, a legend in her own time, died in February 1920. Funeral services were held on the steps of the library.

Lucy Lewis succeeded Mrs. Kidder when the library contained over 41,000 volumes plus approximately 8,000 documents. During her tenure she constantly urged improvement and greater support for the library in all aspects of its operation. As was reported in one history of the OSU Library, "probably no library in the country achieved as much sound growth with so little money." The strength of the science library was developed and has continued to the current date. It was also under her direction that the library began reclassification from the Dewey Decimal System to the Library of Congress classification. Started in 1930, the job was completed in the 1960s.

By the late 1930s, the library had nearly tripled in size and pressures were growing again to expand the library building. There was no room for more books on the shelves, and students were complaining about the crowded reading rooms. In 1940, the State Board of Higher Education authorized a west wing for the library to be constructed with Work Progress Administration funds. By the fall of 1941, the building was ready for use. For the first time, there were "open stack" areas in the library. The collection had formerly been housed in "closed stacks" in an area where the floors were inch-thick glass sheets. Although solid enough, they generated sufficient static electricity to "snap, crackle and pop" all users of the closed stack area.

It was during Lewis's regime that the Mary L. McDonald collection and room were given to the library. It was also in this period that the Oregon Agricultural College Friends of the Library organization was established. This group continues to be a significant factor in the development of the library, through its program of memorial books and financial support.

When Lewis was replaced as Director of Libraries, she left as her legacy to the campus an expanded building, a carefully selected and well-organized collection of over 200,000 volumes and a high-caliber staff of 28 full-time members. She resigned in 1944.

William H. Carlson assumed the duties as Librarian of Oregon State College in March 1945. Under Carlson's leadership, the library continued to grow on a selective basis and in a reasonably healthy, if not in a spectacular, manner. That the library grew at all and had any support was due in large part to the close collaboration between the library and the faculty — a program which had been maintained and expanded from the time of Mrs. Kidder.

It was Carlson's happy responsibility to plan and occupy the first four floors of the current library building. The move into the building started September 5, 1963, and was completed in November. By November 9th, all aspects of the library had been moved from the old building and all resources were shelved in their new



This 1919 photograph shows the original William Jasper Kerr Library, now Kidder Hall, which takes its current name from Ida Kidder, OAC's first professional librarian. Always on the go, "Mother Kidder" (inset) could be found wherever her wicker cart, called the "Kidder Car," was parked.

location. By careful planning, it was possible to provide service, even off booktrucks, as the move progressed across the quad. Designed as a functional, no-frills building, contributions from Wayne Taysom and Nelson Sandgren, Oregon State University artists, added to the beauty of the building through unusual bronze work and mosaic murals.

Rodney K. Waldron assumed command of the library upon Carlson's retirement in July 1965. It was a time when librarians were listening with increased interest to the bright promises of automation of library processes. Meanwhile, the universities expected traditional service for the rapidly expanding needs of new and different academic and research programs.

In 1967, through collaboration with the University Computer Center, the library devised a system directed toward the automated ordering of books and maintenance of the account-keeping. This became known as LOLITA (Library On-line Information Text Access). The new system was placed in operation in March 1970. At first, it was a "state of the art production." As time went on, however, it became increasingly apparent that new, modernized and updated automation of library services was needed. Further funding was needed to expand and upgrade LOLITA, but this was not implemented as rapidly or as effectively as it could have been.

An additional two floors were constructed on the top of the existing four-story building, and for a few years there was enough space to house the resources comfortably. By the time the additional space had been occupied for three years, again it was necessary to recommend to the administration that additional space be provided.

Although the library operating budget reached into millions of dollars, inflation was such that it could only reflect reasonably moderate growth of the collection and negative growth in the staff. Financial reverses in the state and in the State System of Higher Education during the 1970s prompted the cancellation of a number of serial subscriptions which crippled substantially the research support offered by the University Library. Requests for an additional building (the third phase of the original architectural plan) even though supported for over a decade by the Faculty Senate Library Committee and the Library Administration, was rejected as "unnecessary," and as the library entered into the 1980s there appeared to be no possibility of an additional building for the library within that decade.

The administration of the Waldron era might best be characterized by strong support of students and faculty for the library and close cooperation between all of the libraries within the State System of Higher Education. He retired in March 1984, confident that he had managed to add to the significance of the library within the research programs and also that, within the funding available to it, the library had grown to nearly a million volumes.

Melvin George succeeded Waldron in April 1984.

During the first year of his tenure as Library Director, the library achieved its millionth volume and in 1985 had embarked on the acquisition of the second million volumes for the Oregon State University Library.

(For a detailed history of the Oregon State University Library through 1975, no better source can be found than the one published in the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, Vol. 20, 1977, written by William H. Carlson in 1975. This encyclopedia is in the reference department of the Oregon State University Library.)

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