PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
Study Feasibility of New Privately-Financed Engineering Library

The College of Engineering and the University of Illinois Library System at Urbana-Champaign are working together to develop a plan for a new Engineering Library and Information Center. It is anticipated that private funds will be necessary to complete the project. To that end the Engineering College and the University of Illinois Foundation are conducting a confidential study to determine the potential for such a project.

The proposed new Engineering Library would provide nearly four times the space of the one it would replace, and would permit greatly improved service to undergraduates, graduate students, faculty members and other researchers. The new structure would be located on the south side of Springfield avenue, west of Mathews street, in the heart of the engineering campus.

Expanded seating capacity, group and individual study carrels and seminar rooms would be provided by the increased space. The new Engineering Library would allow all engineering materials to be consolidated in one location, whereas they are now in three separate sites.

The present Engineering Library has been in Engineering Hall since 1916. The original collection included 2,000 volumes and 50 periodical titles. Today there are 100,000 volumes and 3,600 periodical titles in the existing library at 221 Engineering Hall. Another 200,000 volumes are housed in Altgeld Hall or in the main Library stacks.

The rapid growth of the Engineering Library has simply overwhelmed the facility. The sheer weight of the stacks has required the addition of supports beneath the floor and within the stacks, and there is not enough space to take care of all the engineering campus activities and services that are performed daily.

Total available space in the present Engineering Library is 16,606 net available square feet (NASF), of which 12,174 is in Engineering Hall and 4,432 (some 8,000 linear feet of shelving) in Altgeld Hall.

The proposed Engineering Library would include 65,000 NASF.

While the present library provides seating for only one hundred, plans for the new facility would have seating for more than 800. There would be group study rooms, seminar rooms, and faculty carrels, none of which is available now. It would have the capability for compact shelving, a current periodicals room, and an Information Retrieval Service area.

The new Engineering Library and Information Center would combine the traditional library role with state-of-the-art information technologies, with an information retrieval service providing access to local and remote databases and an engineering information network.

The Engineering Library supports the instructional and research needs of the degree-granting engineering departments, and a number of other programs, research laboratories, and centers, such as the Bioengineering Program, the Coordinated Science Laboratory, the Materials Research Laboratory, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, and the Center for Supercomputing Research and Development.

The Library serves approximately 5,400 undergraduates, 2,000 graduate students, and 500 faculty. With substantial growth in the faculty expected in the next few years, the demands on the Library will increase dramatically.

The staff must contend with an information explosion unparalleled in history. Between 1939 and 1977, the number of scientific journals alone grew by 742 per cent. More periodical articles, technical reports, and theses have been published since 1970 than in all previous history. At the same time, the role of the Library has changed in response to advances in computer technology. Libraries depend more and more on computer database searching and online public catalogs to provide easier access to rapidly growing collections.

The new Engineering Library and Information Center would blend modern storage facilities with a sophisticated information retrieval service. This would complement the Library system's existing innovative Online Catalog, which was the first in the world to serve as the primary access to the collection of a large academic library.

William H. Mischo is the head of the Engineering Library, which is one of the 38 departmental libraries in the UIUC Library System.
These two views are of the front of the proposed new Engineering Library and Information Center which, if approved and funded privately, would be constructed on the south side of Springfield avenue, west of Mathews street. One view is of the entire front of the structure, and the other is a closeup of the entrance.

The Library is Looking...

For the videotape *The Corporate Conscience* which would be used for the course in communications ethics and possibly for media law classes. It is a series of five half-hour radio documentaries examining current trends in corporate responsibility, and can be purchased for $89.95 for the Communications Library.

For a 60-minute documentary, *The Classics of Political Television Advertising*, which contains more than 75 of the most effective and innovative political commercials ever produced, some of which never aired. The 3/4-inch tape costs $130, and would be made available in the Communications Library.

For the Census of Agriculture, including search software and the user guide, for the Agriculture Library. The price is $1,200.

If you can help with the purchase of any item cited, please contact the Library Friends Coordinator, Lucie W. Clark, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, or telephone 217/333-5683.

Friends Respond

Library Friends have proven to be generous in responding to “Library Is Looking” items for departmental libraries of the UIUC Library system. Since the last issue a UI alumni club in California and three individuals have donated funds with which to purchase special requests of departmental librarians.

The U. of I. Southland Alumni Club of California became the first alumni organization to respond to a “Library Is Looking” request when members provided funds for the purchase of an additional set of *Descriptions of Plant Viruses* for the Agriculture Library. This type of alumni support for the UIUC Library is welcomed. An anonymous gift, reported in the last edition of *Friendscript*, was used to purchase back items in the important monograph series from England. The Southland gift will allow the Agriculture Library to maintain a standing order for these important items in the series.

Mr. Thomas Page, Urbana, and Mr. John Kruesi, Umatillo, Florida, donated funds to purchase two stereoscopes and two stereometer bars for the Map and Geography Library. Although only one of each was requested by Map and Geography Librarian David Cobb, two individuals responded. Both agreed to make duplicate purchases when they were told that the Library’s huge aerial photo collection is heavily used. The additional equipment will facilitate research by individuals and by classes meeting in the library department.

Mrs. Janice Wood of East Northport, New York, also responded to the request for a stereoscope. Her gift will be used to purchase a microfiche reader for the Map and Geography Library.

These gifts are most appreciated, because they provide important material or equipment that can’t be supported by the budget.
From the Librarian's View

The history of great research libraries can usefully be viewed as consisting of three overlapping and complementary ages. The first stage was that of collection building. This period, which lasted from the time of the founding of the research libraries until well into the twentieth century, was the time when large numbers of books and other library materials were amassed and many libraries went from insignificance to richness, sometimes in a remarkably short period. During this First Age, whole collections were purchased or acquired by other means (donation, exchange, etc.) and the art and science of collection building was developed and refined. It is true to say that this emphasis on the collection led to something of a neglect of the means of access to the collection. In many cases, finding materials became a quasi-scholarly pursuit in itself.

The second stage built upon the smashing success of the collection building era and, without neglecting the collections themselves, concentrated upon the provision of services to the users of the library and, in particular, upon the improvement of access to the collection. This Second Age has been the time of improvement in cataloging and catalog systems, of an intensification of the service ethic in direct public service (reference and other user advisory services), of the development of bibliographic instruction programs, and of the dramatic growth of cooperation between libraries leading to the sharing of library resources. The Second Age did not supplant the First but complemented it. In the same way, the emerging Third Age will complement and continue the achievements of the past and present.

The Third Age of research libraries may, I believe, be the age of preservation and conservation. This library is justly proud of its seven million and more volumes and of the quality of the content of those volumes. They truly represent the cream of the world’s literature in a dazzling range of subjects and languages. We are also proud of the advances that we have made in the past decade in library automation and in the improvement of services of all kinds. We have less reason to be proud of the circumstances in which many of those volumes are housed and in the alarming deterioration in the physical state of hundreds of thousands of volumes, many of them unique, rare, and important. This sad situation has been brought about by a combination of factors. For many years, the central bookstacks were inadequate both in terms of the space which they afforded and in environmental terms. Books, if they are to be preserved for as long as possible, require a certain rather narrow range of environmental factors—temperature, ventilation, humidity, etc. The old stack additions to the library signalised failed to provide that environment. The new addition has given us a few scant years of adequate space and a notable improvement in the environment. The first will soon be gone—the stacks will be full again in 5 to 7 years—and the second only affects the two million or so volumes which are housed in the new addition.

Another major headache is the state of the thousands and thousands of volumes which were printed on paper with a high acid content. The heyday of such paper lasted from the mid-19th century until the Great Depression, but books are still being produced, though in lesser numbers in North America and Western Europe, with this fatal flaw. Paper with a high acid content yellows, becomes brittle, and, eventually, crumbles into dust. We can and do preserve some of these volumes by microfilming them, an expensive process, and by de-acidulating the paper, an even more costly process. The true dimensions of this problem, nationally and internationally, have only recently been discerned. Major cooperative efforts are being discussed and the Library of Congress (which is, of course, even more afflicted by this problem than the rest of us) has taken a lead in pioneering technology.

However, all the proposed schemes are enormously expensive, and the financial outlook for the research library is less than rosy. It seems that this library and all other research libraries may well, in the near future, be faced with wrenching choices in balancing expenditures on new acquisitions, the focus of the First Age, maintaining and improving services, the focus of the Second Age, and the preservation of our cultural heritage, the focus of the emerging Third Age.

Not all is gloom, however—preservation activities are increasing, new technologies are being developed, and, perhaps most importantly, our awareness of the problem and desire to tackle it have never been more in evidence.

—Michael Gorman
Acting University Librarian

We Need Your Help

You can ensure the UI Library's continued excellence by:

- telling others about the Library Friends and encouraging them to join
- sending us lists of potential members and contributors
- helping the Library solicit grants from foundations
- obtaining your company's or organization's participation in a matching gift program
- passing the information about Library Friends membership on in your newsletter or publications.

The Benefits of Membership

As a Friend of the University of Illinois Library, you receive:

- Special circulation and stack privileges for Library materials
- Invitations to exhibits, lectures and receptions
- Non Solus, the quarterly newsletter
- A 30% discount on University of Illinois Press publications

The Friends welcome everyone interested in the continued excellence of the University of Illinois Library. There are now over 2,200 members of Library Friends.

YES, I/We wish to become members of the U of I LIBRARY FRIENDS

□ University Librarian's Council at UIUC: $5000  □ Sponsor: $100
□ Life: $3000  □ Subscriber: $50
□ Benefactor: $1000 □ Contributor: $25
□ Patron: $500 □ Student: $10

Please make your check payable to University of Illinois Foundation/Library Friends, 224 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana, Illinois 61801. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Name
Address
City
State & Zip

friendscript

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Richard Stair, a Library Friend volunteer and chairman of the shelf-reading activity, pauses as he works through a section of the Library stacks.

**Railroader Richard Stair Leads Shelf-Reading Volunteers**

A lifelong career as a railroader led Richard P. Stair to a retirement activity in which he is a regular “shelf-reader” for the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign. He now chairs the Library Friends volunteer shelf-reading activity.

Mr. Stair is one of a relatively few individuals who was able to use his training and principal career interest to benefit his country in two wars. During World War II he served with an Army railroad battalion in Europe. Following his separation from the service at the close of the Second World War, he entered an Army reserve unit. When the nation later became involved in the Korean Conflict, Mr. Stair was again called into service, again became a member of a railroad battalion, and served in South Korea.

An employee of the Illinois Central Railroad (now the Illinois Central Gulf), Mr. Stair worked at the interlocking tower in Champaign, and occasionally at other sites where railroad lines crossed, at Kankakee, Gibson City, and at other rail crossings along the IC road.

During those years Dick Stair was interested in reading all he could find about railroads, and his quest brought him to the UIUC Library. He had a stacks pass for years, having discovered the “really fine collection” of virtually everything in print about railroads. With his research, combined with his own extensive knowledge of railroads, he wrote several articles for rail publications. He began research for a book he plans to publish at some undetermined time in the future.

Mr. Stair, who first became a railroader in 1940, retired three years ago after 42 years of service.

At one point he heard about the Library Friends organization, the annual funds program of the Library’s Office of Development and Public Affairs, and attended a Friends meeting. Richard became a Friends member because he felt a need to “do something to repay the Library” for all the help he had received in his research, and for access to the collection itself. He felt he couldn’t afford a large financial contribution, but he knew the problem the Library staff has in keeping materials in proper order, so he volunteered his time and effort to be a shelf-reader. He was welcomed to the growing force of Library volunteers.

Mr. Stair learned the rudiments of the Dewey decimal system, so that he could recognize when items were out of order on the shelves in the Library stacks. For nearly two years Richard has devoted much of his spare time to the task. Loose materials have to be placed in jackets as he works along a shelf, and he adds the proper call number so that it may be properly identified. “You get an unusual sense of accomplishment when you find a volume that isn’t where it should be,” Mr. Stair said. “It’s like finding a lost treasure,” which is exactly the sense conveyed by Hugh C. Atkinson, the late University Librarian, when he talked to Library Friends about the value of shelf-reading. For all intents and purposes, a misfiled book is lost to those who may want to read it.

That is why shelf-reading carries a high priority in Library Friends activities, and why Richard Stair takes such an active interest in it.

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**Illini: Your University Library Needs Your Help**

Dear Friends:

The University of Illinois, one of the most important educational and research institutions in the country, is faced with a major funding crisis. In the absence of tax increases along the lines suggested by Governor Thompson in his budget message, there is a very real threat that the there will be no increase of any kind in next year’s budget. That budget will take effect on July 1st, 1987, so time is short.

Such a “no-growth” budget would have a particularly cruel effect on the Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As you know, our library is not only one of the largest and most important research libraries in North America but is also a leader in innovative service and the sharing of library resources. It is, in the truest sense of the word, vital to the University and to the State. You will probably have read or heard of the tremendous financial problems with which the Library already has to deal and the terrible effect which these constraints have had on our ability to purchase much needed materials. Those problems center on the fact that book and journal inflation is considerably higher than both the general price index and the increases in our book and journal budgets. In addition, the steep decline in the purchasing power of the dollar has had a catastrophic effect on this library, which has to buy a considerable number of foreign materials. The Library’s collections are suffering now. If we do not receive substantial increases, we will be suffering more in the future. If we receive no increases at all, the wound may be mortal. This is why we are asking you, our staunchest friends, for your assistance at this critical time.

This is how you can help. If you live in Illinois, will you please let your local legislators know that additional tax support is needed to keep this Library and this University in their present positions of leadership. Your legislators will be in a better position to make this difficult decision if they know they have your support.

Michael Gorman
Acting University Librarian

Carl M. Webber
President, Friends Executive Committee
Quotable

"Mr. Dederick Ward
Geology Library
223 Natural History Building
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Mr. Ward:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the University of Illinois Libraries and the Geology Library, in particular, for the superior level of service provided to Marathon in delivering (on loan) obscure geological materials for our exploration department in Singapore. Your libraries were the sole source for this material in North America, and you and your professional associates are to be complimented on the breadth of the fine Illinois collection.

Very truly yours,

Clarence A. Sturdivant
Supervisor, Technical Information
Marathon Oil Company

Librarian's Council Adds Six: Four New Life Members

Six more individuals have joined the ranks of the University Librarian's Council, bringing membership to 48. In addition, four Library Friends have become Life Members, making a total of 47.

Making contributions of $5,000 or more, and therefore qualifying for the University Librarian's Council, were Raisa Bratkiv of Inverness, Illinois; Anthony R. Gould of Bethesda, Maryland; Nancy Rankin Jeckel of Urbana; Evert F. Nelson of Potomac, Maryland, and Joseph J. Hasman of Chicago.

New Life Members, having made donations of at least $3,000 within a 12-month period, are Elaine F. Hall of Champaign; Howard E. Walker of Providence, Rhode Island, and Kenneth E. Oberholtzer and Florence C. Oberholtzer of Danville, California. The Oberholtzers are also University Librarian's Council members.

The new names will be placed on the appropriate plaques maintained in the main corridor of the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign.

1987 — The Year of the Reader
Calendar

Exhibits
May
"Graduates of 1887, 1912, and 1937." University Archives, 19 Library.
"Chinese Arts and Crafts." Main Corridor, University Library.
"The Meine Collection." Rare Book and Special Collections Library, 346 Library.

June
"Other Alumni." University Archives.

June and July
"Aleksander Sergeevich Pushkin, 1799-1837." Main Corridor.
"18th Century Musical Scholarship." Music Library.

Special Events
Saturday morning, May 2, dedication of a plaque in the Music Library honoring the gift by the Kasura family of the Walter J. Kasura collection of Russian pre-revolutionary music.

H.G. Wells traveling exhibition will return and be on display in the browsing area of the Undergraduate Library during May and June.

Greg Dolph was one of a team of UUC students who participated in a telethon on behalf of the Library Office of Development and Public Affairs during March. On this particular call, Greg was talking with Carolyn of Claremont, California. Carolyn, who earned her master's in 1973 and doctorate in 1975 at the University of Illinois, both in Family and Consumers Economics, agreed to contribute to the Library's continued development. The 1987 telethon, although not complete at press time, had brought in a total of $22,200 in pledges. The fund drive was conducted by the University of Illinois Foundation Telemarketing staff.