

2. EXTENSION TO LIBRARY STACK

The Watson Library Book Stack, which was inadequate to shelve the book collection when it was built fourteen years ago, has a capacity of 121,000 volumes. Shelving in the reading rooms and emergency stacks set in the middle of corridors have raised the capacity of the whole building to 175,000 volumes.

The Problem

Catalogued books on campus	285,000	
Stock of Science Bulletins, Catalogues, Duplicates	<u>15,000</u>	
Total to be shelved		300,000
Shelving capacity of the Campus		<u>222,000</u>
Book surplus		78,000
Storage room		<u>50,000</u>
Books unprovided for		28,000

Shelving Capacity

Watson Library		
Stack (6 x 20,000)	120,000	
Room and corridor shelving	55,000	
Storage room	<u>50,000</u>	225,000
Branches' capacity		<u>47,000</u>
Total capacity		272,000
Total books on Campus		<u>300,000</u>
Books without shelving		28,000
Annual increase in books		9,000

The surplus books are being handled in various ways:

1. Placed on temporary shelves in public corridors, exposed to theft.
2. Turned down in stacks to enable more shelves to be placed in case.
3. Placed in the sub-basement where the books are deteriorating from damp and mould.
4. Placed in cartons and stored in the attic and rendered not available to the public.
5. Shelved in one of the staff toilet rooms.
6. All unnecessary duplicates have been eliminated.

No storage space is available elsewhere on the campus.

The Results

This overcrowding of the book collection produces the following bad results:

1. As over 36,000 volumes are shelved out of their regular order, from the sub-basement to the attic, the service to the public is slowing up each year.