

Biennial Report

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LIBRARY

1936-38

I hereby present my biennial report as director of libraries for the biennium
1936-'38:

UNIVERSITY BOOK HOLDINGS ON JULY 1, 1938

At Lawrence	286,014
At Medical School (bound)	14,362
 Total volumes	 300,376

This represents an increase of 21,909 volumes since my last report.

SERVICE

Circulation statistics show only a fraction of the service that a library renders its patrons, but as they represent about the only phase that can be expressed in figures they are at least useful in indicating the use made of the library.

	1932-'33	1935-'36	1936-'37	1937-'38
Books issued at Watson Library	292,846	297,671	319,313	315,090

These figures represent serious reading, as the library does not buy current fiction.

SHELF SPACE

The library must have more shelf space for its books. Without this relief it is rapidly heading into a chaotic condition that no amount of administrative skill can avert. Books without shelves can neither be preserved nor found when wanted. 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	15,000
Total to be shelved	300,000
Shelving capacity of the campus	222,000
 Book surplus	 78,000
Storage room (when finished)	50,000
 Books without shelves	 28,000

SHELVING CAPACITY

Watson Libraray:	
Stack	120,000
Room and corridor shelving	55,000
Storage room	50,000
	225,000
Branches capacity	47,000
 Total capacity	 272,000
Total books on campus	300,000
 Books without shelving	 28,000
Annual increase in books	9,000