

Biennial Report

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LIBRARY

1938-'40

I hereby present my biennial report as director of libraries for the biennium 1938-'40:

UNIVERSITY BOOK HOLDINGS ON JULY 1, 1940

At Lawrence	303,365
At Medical School (bound)	16,717
Total volumes	320,082

This represents an increase of 19,706 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	1937-'38	1938-'39	1939-'40
Books issued at Watson Library	292,846	297,671	315,090	322,796	317,548

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

PREPARATION

	1937-'38	1938-'39	1939-'40
Book Titles Ordered	4,169	4,980	4,214
Titles Cataloged	3,988	4,166	4,269
Volumes Cataloged and Marked	12,964	14,077	12,896
Catalog Cards Prepared	35,771	33,147	35,700

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, emergency stacks set in the middle of corridors, and the new storage room have raised the capacity of the whole building to 255,000 volumes.

THE PROBLEM

Cataloged books on campus	303,365
Stock of Science Bulletins, Catalogs, duplicates	15,000
Total to be shelved	318,365
Shelving capacity of the campus	302,000
Books without shelves	16,365

SHELVING CAPACITY

Watson Library:	
Stack	120,000
Room and corridor shelving	55,000
Storage room	80,000
	255,000
Branches capacity	47,000
	302,000
Total capacity	302,000
Total books on campus	318,365
Books without shelves	16,365
Annual increase in books	10,000