Waldo Library Expansion

What brought Diether Haenicke, Carol Waszkiewicz, Harry Gast, Charlene Renner, Thomas Gabriele, Robert Self, and Carl Reinke together on April 21, 1989? The groundbreaking ceremonies for the $19.3 million Waldo Library addition and remodeling and the $7.6 million Computer Center at Western Michigan University. For some of you who may not know all of these people: Diether Haenicke is the President of WMU, Carol Waszkiewicz is the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Harry Gast is the State Senator from St. Joseph, Charlene Renner is the Dean of Libraries, Thomas Gabriele is the Director of the Academic Computer Center, Robert Self is the project architect for the WBDC Group of Grand Rapids, and Carl Reinke is the President of Carl J. Reinke and Sons, the general contractor of South Bend.

This addition to Waldo Library is the second since the building was first constructed in 1958. The original building was designed to house 500,000 volumes and provide study space for 2,000 users. The 1967 addition increased the space to 145,000 square feet, which has long since been filled to overflowing. The present collection contains 1.7 million print and non-print items but seats only 800 users. The second addition will add 105,000 square feet of space to the building, providing housing for a rapidly growing collection and 1,900 study spaces.

The new addition to Waldo Library will be off the south and west sides of the existing building. This section will be completed and library services will have to squeeze into this space while the existing building is remodeled. Since remodeling will increase usable space, the figure of 105,000 square feet of added space is actually somewhat understated.

The Computer Center will be constructed immediately to the west of Waldo Library in space formerly occupied by Maybee Hall, the old music building. The Library and the Computer Center will be joined on the second and third levels by a pedestrian bridge which will include a clock tower, a student study area and lounge, and a conference room. Under the pedestrian bridge will be an entrance to a landscaped plaza surrounded by Waldo Library, the Computer Center, Kanley Chapel, McCracken Hall, and a new pre-cast concrete colonnade. The exterior of both buildings will be buff/tan structural glazed tile and bronze reflective glass for the windows.

When completed the new Waldo Library will have five levels. The main entrance will be on the west side of the building. This entrance will lead to a rotunda featuring an interior atrium open on three levels with a circular skylight. The walls of the rotunda will repeat the glazed tile of the exterior of the building; the floor will be a special four-color terrazzo design. The walls throughout the building will be white to reflect as much light as possible. The carpeting and furniture will be red, gray, and black.

In addition to the usual library service areas—Reference, Circulation, Technical Services, Reserves—the new Waldo will include a rare book room, an exhibit room, special study areas for visiting scholars, and a copy center. The Institute for Cistercian Studies Library will be merged with Special Collections and the two will be housed in the new rare book area. Since the Haworth College of Business will be housed in a new building on the West Campus, the Business Library collection will be merged with the general collection in the new Waldo.

How much will this new facility cost? Not counting furnishings, $19.3 million. Of this total, $15 million is provided from state funds and $4.3 million from private sources. All of this money will have been spent by spring of 1991, or to put it another way, the building will be completed in the spring of 1991.
The University Libraries of Western Michigan University have benefited greatly from the dynamic leadership of University President Diether Haenicke. President Haenicke's commitment to libraries as a major university resource has shown itself in at least three major ways. The first and most visible is the $15 million building project which the state has funded to renovate and expand the Dwight B. Waldo Library. This project, when completed in the fall, 1990, will almost double the size of the existing facility. Together with the new academic computer center building, the expanded Waldo Library will create a dynamic information center on the Western Michigan University campus. The library building will house the major portion of the University Libraries' collections and will incorporate the Business Library now situated in North Hall. In order that all the state funding could be applied to adding much needed space, President Haenicke has pledged to raise the $4 million needed to furnish the new facility from private sources as part of the University's Capital Campaign. As part of the emphasis on electronic access to information which this facility will support, President Haenicke has also approved the implementation of a major online information system for the campus. This system called NOTIS was originally developed at Northwestern University and has been installed at most of the major university libraries in Michigan. This system, called FINDER on the Western Michigan University campus, will replace and upgrade the existing online library system with more sophisticated access to journal and book holdings of the University Libraries. In addition, a number of major reference databases are being loaded on the same University mainframe computer which will make subject online searching of journal citations and similar information available from any of the network of terminals being installed on campus. The first such database, ERIC, was mounted this fall, providing access to materials primarily in the field of education and related social sciences. This project is a joint venture of the University Libraries and the Administrative Data Processing Department. Currently funding is being sought to extend this system to other libraries in the Southwestern Michigan region. This system, when in place, would form the backbone of a major information network for the region, enhancing the access to information and library resources for citizens in this area. When linked to the other NOTIS systems in the state, all citizens in the state will have greatly improved access to information.

With this much improved access to bibliographic citations comes the responsibility to provide the documents themselves. In response to this need, President Haenicke has made a major commitment to improving the library's collections by making substantial increases to the University Libraries' book and journal budget. This is another area where private funding will be sought to supplement the state and university contributions. Many of you have given generously in the past to the Dwight B. Waldo Library Endowment Fund, and we would encourage you to consider this again as an opportunity to strengthen the collections available to our students, faculty, and community. The cost of scholarly materials continues to outstrip inflation in other areas and certainly exceeds the new dollars provided by the state. In addition to the increases in costs of traditional library materials, are the costs associated with providing access to information now being produced exclusively in electronic or other non-print formats.

These then are the major areas of change for the University Libraries: a new facility, an expanded online information network, and an accelerated growth of the libraries' collections. We invite you to become partners in this exciting process of change and welcome you as Friends in this enterprise.

Library Memorial to Joan Boucher

In his annual Fall Semester alumni letter, School of Music Associate Director Carl Doubleday announced plans to place a gift in the Harper C. Maybee Music and Dance Library in memory of Dr. Joan A. Boucher. Alumni who wished to do so were invited to be a part of this memorial.

The response was overwhelming, thus making possible a much more significant tribute than had been planned. Over forty School of Music alumni and colleagues returned gifts totalling nearly $550. All have been processed as tax deductible contributions to the WMU Foundation. This will make

A concert was presented in Dr. Boucher’s memory on December 7, 1989. The program featured the Collegium Musicum, Matthew Steel, director, and the Kalamazoo Society for Old Music, Audrey Davidson, Director. The printed program included these comments by Music Librarian, Greg Fitzgerald, a special friend of Boucher:

Dr. Boucher taught at Western from 1967 until illness forced her to retire in 1983. Of her many activities—teaching early music and non-Western music, writing program notes, directing the Collegium Musicum—Collegium was undoubtedly her favorite. It was the “baby” she tenderly and tenaciously nurtured through trial and triumph. We’ve now lost the warmth of Joan’s physical presence and the zing of her lightning-fast wit, but her indefatigable spirit and hard, honest labor here continue to bear sweet fruit. Vivat Collegium! Vivat ‘Boucher’!

The University Libraries are staffed by many talented people with a wide range of interests. We should like to introduce you to some of these people, starting with Michael McDonnell, the Maps and Documents librarian.

Early in his career, Mike became interested in the arts and crafts movement which flourished in England and the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This movement stressed the spiritual importance of art in everyday life, not just the aesthetics of the end product but the personal involvement in crafting the object. The movement stressed the design and building of furniture; in addition, pottery, needlework, and the design and printing of fine books came in for special attention. William Morris’s Kelmscott Press is perhaps the best known of the small presses which were established in England and the United States.

Interest in this artistic movement led Mike to weaving, which he has been doing for almost ten years. He has a four harness jack loom capable of weaving a piece of material up to 45” wide. Recently, he has become interested in rugs especially the work of the Navajo, who weave on a very simple loom capable of a wide variety of widths. Mike is presently building himself a loom similar to those used by the Navajo. If his previous work is any indication, his rugs should be quite spectacular.

Mike is also interested in the pottery of the movement and he collects examples of American potteries. His principal collecting interest, however, is books. He has two special interests, the writings of the Beats, especially Jack Kerouac, and the “Montana School.” The name “Montana School” is Mike’s name for the work of Tom McGuane, James Crumly, Richard Ford, Rich Bass, and Russell Chatham, who operates the Clark City Press in Livingston, Montana. Jim Harrison, one of Michigan’s most respected writers, is an associate of these authors.

Mike’s favorite months are May and October.

Former Students

The University Libraries is particularly pleased when one of its student workers chooses to study Library Science.

Four of our former students are now studying:

Kim Ranger, who worked in the Education Library and Government Documents, is completing a degree at the University of Michigan.

John Matylonek, who worked in Science Reference, is completing a degree at the University of Michigan.

Kim Smith, who worked in Interlibrary Loan, the Education Library, and Circulation, is completing a degree at the University of Michigan.

Johanna Masnari, who worked in the Reference Department, has begun a degree at Indiana University.

Publications

It is always a pleasure to recognize the publication efforts of the University Libraries staff. With this issue of “Gatherings” we have a double pleasure. Beatrice Sichel, our Physical Sciences librarian produced:


Maria Perez-Stable of our Education Library produced:


Congratulations on two very fine scholarly additions to bibliographic literature.
Beginnings

What is a friend? The Random House Dictionary says a friend is “a person who gives assistance; a patron; a supporter.” Friends come in all sizes and shapes, from all walks of life: students, teachers, retirees, homemakers, business persons, doctors, lawyers, engineers, and community volunteers. Through the years many of you have been friends, supporters of the University Libraries with your donations, your volunteer work, your support for our activities and programs, and by your continuing interest in the enriching of the University Libraries’ collections.

During 1990, the University Libraries will organize a Friends of the University Libraries group which will afford its many friends and supporters the opportunity to join with like-minded people to bring their concerted efforts to bear on its activities and programs. The efforts of a group are many times more productive than those of the individual; groups can tackle projects which would be impossible for an individual to accomplish. But groups consist of individuals with common interests, the support of Western Michigan University, the University Libraries, and the literary and cultural affairs of our community.

In this first issue of “Gatherings,” we invite you to express your interest and support for a Friends of the University Libraries group by returning the statement of interest below and/or contacting us at:

Friends of the University Libraries
Dwight B. Waldo Library
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5080
(616) 387-5143

☐ I am interested in serving on the steering committee to plan a Friends of the University Libraries organization.

☐ I am interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the University Libraries, Western Michigan University.

☐ Please contact me at the following address/phone number:

Name _____________________________
Address ___________________________
Phone _____________________________

The interest of many of you will make possible the organizing of a steering committee to plan our new organization and to establish procedures for its operation.

In anticipation of your continuing support, the University Libraries have become a member of Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA), a national organization which works to develop and support local and state Friends of Library groups throughout the country. There are currently over 3,000 Friends of Library groups throughout the United States with nearly 750,000 members actively working to support their libraries. Friends groups throughout the country share their ideas and programs in the publication IdeaBank as well as in meetings at the American Library Association Annual Conference. Friends groups also have the opportunity to participate in state and national activities such as the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Friends do make a difference!

Opportunities to participate in the Friends of the University Libraries exist at every level. There is always room for dedicated, interested people who want to support the University Libraries in an organized way. We look forward to hearing from you.