"A Great University... A Great Library"

by Lance Query, Dean

Under the leadership of Diether H. Haenick, the University has undertaken the most ambitious of all courses that an institution of higher education can elect: to be a research university while at the same time recognizing the importance of quality teaching for undergraduate and graduate students, traditional and non-traditional students. In the best of times, the election of such a course is commendable; in these times of fiscal constraint in which higher education finds itself, it is remarkable.

In support of the University’s mission, the Libraries, too, must undertake a most ambitious course. We must build quality collections and provide access to information in all formats whether it be paper, electronic, or multi-media. And this must be done in an environment in which information proliferates exponentially and costs have increased to such an extent that even the largest and richest libraries can be expected to acquire only a fraction of what is available. Moreover, we must educate our students and faculty in the use of the powerful tools that enable them to obtain the information they need not only for today but also—and equally important—for their future roles as productive and fulfilled members of our society. We, as teachers, administrators, and librarians, must be sure that our graduates are literate not only in their general and specialized fields of study but also “literate” in information retrieval. Samuel Johnson stated it well more than two centuries ago, “Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves or we know where we can find information upon it.” That simple, yet powerful, observation captures what I regard as the mission of our teaching and library faculties: to ensure that Western Michigan University graduates possess both kinds of knowledge.

Libraries have always been integral to the social and intellectual fabric of our communities. They still are! However, they may never look the same since multiple computer terminals and other automated resources are intermixed with bookstacks, research and reading areas, and service desks. In addition, technology has enabled us to obtain access both to bibliographic records and to full-text documents without leaving our homes and offices. Computers make it possible to search catalogs of libraries and databases found throughout the world and to obtain materials directly from those libraries and information brokers. Electronic delivery systems provide actual documents to users by mail or fax machine at the touch of a key and the entry of a credit card number. By cooperating in networks of larger and smaller libraries and information systems, we have access to materials we did not even know existed just a decade ago.

While computer technology provides students and faculty with powerful access to information, it is merely a part of what academic libraries are. Libraries are still books, journals, reference tools, manuscripts, and maps. Libraries are still the most egalitarian of all our institutions—places where those for whom matters of the mind are important can engage one another in discourse and discovery, where a student is as important as a scholar, and where no question is unimportant, however ill-defined it might be.

Most of all, our libraries are people: professional librarians who comprise our faculty, highly trained paraprofessionals and clerks, and our incredibly dedicated student assistants. The academic research library is a labor intensive enterprise where, like the rest of our society, technology has not reduced our need for skilled staff. Rather, technology has enabled libraries to offer better collections, expanded access to information, and more responsive services to our users.

Western’s libraries enable the University to meet its mission and enrich the community. In return, our libraries need the support of our entire community. We ask the rest of the faculty to be engaged with our librarians in the building of collections which are essential to

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Lance Query, Dean of University Libraries
Dedication

The William Harold Upjohn Rotunda was both a special and striking setting for the April 24, 1992 dedication of the "new" Dwight B. Waldo Library and the University Computing Center. The impressive architectural design provides an external view that has already become a campus focal point. From the south, the visitor's eye ranges from the far eastern wall across the massive circular window section to the clock tower and on to the west side of the computer center—a distance equal to the length of two football fields laid end to end. On the northern side, the visitor crosses an attractively landscaped plaza with the circular entrance to the library rotunda directly to the left and the horizontal window structure of the computer center to the right. When entering the library, the eye is caught and carried upward through the three floors of the atrium to the sunlight at its pinnacle.

The three stories of the atrium offered different visual perspectives to the dedication as those attending heard George A. Franklin, Chair, WMU Board of Trustees; Richard F. Chormann, Co Vice-Chair, WMU Foundation; Harold O. Sibley, Executive Vice President, The WBDC Group; Harold G. Reinke, Jr., President, Reinke Construction Company; and Diether H. Haenicke, President, Western Michigan University, officially dedicate the Library and the Computing Center.

Waldo Library, remodeled at a cost of $19.5 million and the University Computing Center, built for $7.6 million, were the culmination of four years of planning, fund raising, relocation of the library's entire collection and all its service points, and the actual construction. When completed, the Library was completely transformed from both the original 1958 structure and the 1967 expansion and remodeling. The Waldo Library of 1993 has more than doubled its seating capacity, has thirty-eight faculty research carrels, offers a sophisticated online computer catalog to its resources, and provides access to dozens of electronic data bases through its inhouse terminals as well as by remote access. The building houses 2.3 million items from the collection of over 3 million—the remainder are found in the four specialized branch libraries of the University: Education, Music and Dance, Physical Sciences, and Regional History and Archives.

The dedication of Waldo's new building in April of 1992 has set the stage for further growth and development including additional resources and services for its public of students, faculty, staff, and community users. As the largest library system in West Michigan and the fourth largest academic library system in the state, Waldo is uniquely positioned to be the research library that a major university demands as well as an essential component of excellent undergraduate instruction.

Friends: A Beginning

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A Letter from the Friends' President

Dear Friends,

Some twenty-eight years ago, I first brought my portable Olivetti typewriter into the cataloging department of the original Waldo Library; Dr. Necla Musser, Acquisitions Librarian, introduced me to the staff, found me a place to work, and I began to copy portions of the library's holdings in French on the ubiquitous 3 x 5 cards that every librarian and researcher remembers so well. WMU Professors Frances Noble and Ben Ebling had obtained a Russell H. Seibert Undergraduate Assistantship in order to pay me for this work. That award earned me my first Western Michigan University paycheck—only $100 but, at the time, it seemed a large sum and, since that long-ago time, I have received many more "paychecks" from the University and have made significantly more sophisticated use of the library as its size—measured by square footage, staff, budget, and collection—increased dramatically.

In that seemingly long ago time, Eddie was still driving the shuttle bus from the original east campus to the west where all the "new" buildings were located. My modest student apartment was located across from Eddie's Lane—the cutoff street between West Michigan and Oakland that Eddie forged as he traversed his daily route—and cost the amazing sum of $12 a week with heat and electricity included. When the price of a gallon of milk went up a few cents, there were irate letters to the Kalamazoo Gazette about the high cost of living. And, it must be noted, the cost of any library resource has become equally controversial.

Nearly three decades later, I still feel "at home" in Waldo Library despite the many changes in its size and organization. I have learned that what our library is and what it does so well is based on the efforts of many dedicated people—working in many different capacities. I am especially honored to support their work and many contributions by serving as the first president of the Friends of the University Libraries at Western Michigan University. I hope to repay—in a most pleasant way—the hospitality and service offered to me almost thirty years ago. I know that this task will be made easier by the many other Friends who contributed to our successful inaugural year and who are continuing to contribute as we move into a more active and involved second year. The Friends are here to assist in the development of the rich collections found in the University's libraries. If you are not currently a member, I urge you to join formally and to share our enthusiasm for and our support of the resources and services of the University Libraries at Western Michigan University.

Cordially,
Peter W. Kravutschke
President of the Friends
and Professor of German
Western Michigan University
Waldo's large collection—and has learned to see the world differently. "When I used to drive north to visit my family, I would simply notice that the countryside was green. Now, I observe that there are ten to fifteen different shades of green." Her latest interest, aside from a trip to China, is highly specialized needlework, the counted cross-stitch. Not surprisingly, she likes the challenge of this work because of its orderly nature but, more important, she can see something emerge where nothing had been before.

All who work with the Friends of the University Libraries, where Judith has been active as a member of the Board of Directors and in implementing its programs, recognize her continuing contributions to the success of the group. Judith Canaan does her homework and brings thoughtful and imaginative insight to the Friends' leadership.

The Gwen Frostic Reading Lounge

Distinguished artist, poet, and naturalist Gwen Frostic was honored on Friday, April 16, 1993, during the dedication of a reading lounge in her name at Western Michigan University's Waldo Library.

The presentation to Miss Frostic was made by WMU President Diether H. Haenicke and Richard F. Chormann, chairperson of the WMU Foundation, and president and chief operating officer of the First of America Bank Corporation of Kalamazoo.

Miss Frostic, a 1929 WMU graduate, owns and manages Gwen Frostic Prints and Presscraft Papers, a company she founded in Benzie, Michigan nearly forty years ago. She writes verses and carves her illustrations on linoleum blocks that are then used to produce stationery, books and other items that reflect her commitment to the beauty of nature and life.

A director emerita of the WMU Foundation, Miss Frostic was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities from the University in 1971. She has received several other awards, including induction into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1986. Frostic has returned to campus numerous times to present seminars for WMU students.

The Gwen Frostic Reading Lounge is on the second floor of the library in the rotunda area. It was named in her honor "in grateful appreciation of her lifelong devotion to the University," according to a plaque in the lounge. The walls of the specified area are decorated with a photograph of Miss Frostic and ten prints personally selected by her for this location.

The blockprints were carved by her and are representative of scenes found on the 285-acre wildlife sanctuary in northern Michigan that is her home and studio. The prints displayed add to the quiet ambience of the lounge and suggest a retreat for study and reflection. Altogether, they create a fitting environment to recognize this extraordinary alumna.

The Library profession is...a profession that is informed, illuminated, radiated, by a fierce and beautiful love of books. A love so overwhelming that it engulfs community after community and makes the culture of our time distinctive, individual, creative and truly of the spirit.

Frances Clarke Sayers
A Collection in Miniature

Langescheidt's Lilliput Ordbo, 1-1/2" x 2", donated to the University Libraries by Gordon Eriksen, an emeritus librarian, is the latest addition to a unique collection of miniature books housed in the Rare Books Room on the third floor of Waldo Library.

The LeFevre Miniature Book Collection was started by Alice Louise LeFevre, founder of the University's School of Library and Information Science (originally the Department of Librarianship), and donated to the school by Eunice LeFevre, her stepmother. In 1986, after the School was closed and its collections dispersed, the miniature books found a protected home in the University Libraries.

Miniature bookcases, dedicated to Eunice LeFevre, were built to house and display the collection that currently consists of 313 "tiny" volumes. All of the items in the collection conform to the standard for miniature books that requires the books to be under four inches in height. Dollhouse material, such as reduced copies of magazines, newspaper, etc., is not included.

The subject content of the collection is diverse. Many of the volumes are religious in nature, but there are also a number of classical works and books for children. There is even a miniature cookbook! Many of the books have provenance information penciled in—purchase price, date of purchase, and/or name of the donor. A few volumes have personal inscriptions.

A truly unusual and precious "special" collection, the items have had only one public showing in April of 1992. However, they can be examined by visiting the Rare Book Room and requesting a "viewing."

Branches to Waldo's Trunk

Branch libraries have traditionally been established to serve special user groups, often because those users are physically located in one area of the campus. The library system at Western Michigan University has four branch libraries each with discipline-oriented books, periodicals, and reference sources.

The Education Library, located in Sangren Hall, serves the six departments which make up the College of Education and the Department of Blind Rehabilitation. One of the principal resources which these disciplines use is the ERIC materials, which consist of nearly 400,000 microfiche and the indexes necessary to access this huge collection.

Recently, the University libraries obtained the files for the three very large databases—ERIC, ABI/Inform, and PsycInfo—and installed them as DataQuest I on its online system, WESTNET. When ERIC became available online, use of these materials increased four- or five-fold. In fact, portable fiche readers became a necessity. The Education Library now has ten of these readers, which circulate for one week. There is always a waiting list. A small collection of Curriculum Guides and Tests on Microfiche is also available. A collection of textbooks for elementary and secondary schools keeps students informed about what is available for classroom use.

The Music and Dance Library, located in the Dalton Center, collects materials in a variety of formats. As might be expected, Music and Dance collects records, tapes, and CDs, as well as the necessary equipment for listening to them. Since musicians usually read a great deal of music in selecting what to perform, the library also has many scores. This part of the collection is divided into two parts—research scores, usually large sets of the complete works of principal composers, and performing scores, which is all the rest of the collection including sheet music. Music and Dance also collects scores and parts for small chamber ensembles. A core collection of operas on video has also been started. These tapes should prove valuable to the Dance and Theatre departments as well as the School of Music.

In part because two past presidents of the International Trumpet Guild have been faculty members of the School of Music, Music and Dance became the depository for the archives of that society.

The Physical Sciences Library, located in Rood Hall, serves four departments—Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics and Statistics, and Physics. These departments are unusual in that all four departments have Doctor of Philosophy programs as well as undergraduate majors and master's degrees. The Physical Sciences Library must provide highly sophisticated research resources as well as a strong basic collection.

Finally, the Archives and Regional History Collections Library, located in East Hall on the old campus, is the repository for all University materials that must be preserved including University publications and all official University records. Almost every University office, program, and service also deposits a variety of manuscript items with this special collection. In addition, the Regional History Collections is designated by the Michigan Historical Commission as a repository for public records of 12 counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa, St. Joseph, and Van Buren. The public records, on deposit from the State Archives of Michigan, are original documents created in county, township, city, and village governmental agencies and include tax records, court records, township minutes, and selected naturalization records. Other southwest Michigan resources include original papers, manuscripts and diaries; family, church, business, and organizational records; area newspapers; county/local history books; atlases/maps; and photographs.

Each of the branch libraries does serve a special purpose and clientel. However, each also has available the University's online system that can inform users of other resources located at Waldo or a different branch. As a result, the complete collection can be searched from each physical location and the status of materials determined.
The Friends of the University Libraries: Call for Membership

Dear Friends:

"We are very proud of Waldo Library. I've always felt that a library is the heart, the true centerpiece of any academic institution."


Slightly over two years ago, Western Michigan University was delighted to reopen a totally remodeled, uniquely contemporary, and state-of-the-art academic library built on and around the foundations of the original 1958 building. Many of you to whom this letter is addressed played significant roles in that tremendous effort and we will always thank you for that support.

However, we continue to need your involvement and contributions in order to achieve the important goals that are essential to a fine university library. This letter is a special invitation to you to become an official member of our growing organization, the Friends of the University Libraries at Western Michigan University, and, through your membership, assist in the development of the library collections and information resources.

The Friends of the University Library was established in 1992. A brief history of its first year and a half of activities is found elsewhere in this newsletter. Its purpose, however, bears repeating:

"...to strengthen and support the activities of the University Libraries, to offer an opportunity for interested individuals to come together with a common interest in the literary and cultural activities of the University Libraries, to encourage gifts and bequests, to assist in special projects, and to aid in the development of special collections."

Membership in the Friends of the University Libraries offers: (1) use of the University's library collections, (2) invitations to Friends' programs throughout the year, (3) an invitation to the annual reception and meeting, and (4) subscription to the newsletter, Gatherings. Activities of the Friends include a variety of cultural and social events that are focused on special acquisitions or additions to library services or resources.

When you complete the form below and return it with your donation, your name will be entered on the membership rolls for 1993-94. You will become a part of the exciting future of the Friends of the University Libraries, Western Michigan University.

"A Great University... Continued from page 1

the teaching and research needs of the University. We ask them to work with librarians as partners to enable our students to become "information literate." We ask our students to be not only consumers of our collections and services but also partners with us in the preservation of information so that future generations will have access to the resources which students enjoy today. We need the support of the local and regional community as we share the depth and breadth of our collections and the utility of our services with you. As the University Libraries' goals inevitably exceed our ability to attain them, we look to the Friends of the University Libraries to support the libraries in any way possible, be it through financial contributions, the donation of library materials, or time volunteered as partners with us.

I am excited about being part of a library that so many have worked so hard to build. I am also excited about being part of the ambitious course Western Michigan University has elected. As our mission and stature as a great research and teaching institution evolve, we would do well to understand that there has never been a great university without a great library. We're on our way. I hope you will join us.

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FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Western Michigan University

Annual Membership Application

☐ Personal  ☐ Corporate

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

__________________________________________

City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Phone ____________________________

Make check payable to:
WMU—Friends of the University Libraries

Return To:
Waldo Library
Attn. William Smith
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5080

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIPS

☐ Student* $5.00
☐ Associate* $10.00
☐ Contributing $25.00-$99.00
☐ Donor $100.00-$499.00
☐ Patron $500.00-$999.00
☐ Benefactor $1,000.00 or more

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

☐ Donor $100.00-$499.00
☐ Patron $500.00-$999.00
☐ Benefactor $1,000.00 or more

Contributions above $5 are tax-deductible ($5 are dues)

*Contributions above $2 are tax-deductible ($2 are dues)
Friends of the University Libraries...A Beginning
The Friends of the University Libraries, Western Michigan University, was formally established in April 1992. A general "call to organize" was originally sent, in the summer of 1990, to individuals who had indicated their support of the University Libraries through a variety of actions. From the response an informal steering committee emerged that met officially on November 6, 1991. Although less than a dozen library supporters were involved, they were active and set a firm agenda for the coming months that included the drafting of a constitution and bylaws that would define the role of the Friends and the steps to a formal structure. A few months later, in early 1992, a new Friends organization was founded in Kalamazoo—the first at the University.

In the eighteen months since that official date of "incorporation," the membership and newly elected officers have laid the general foundation and means by which the organization can function. The officers for the first year were: Peter Kravuchke, President; Ian Dommer, Vice President; George Hebben, Secretary; and William K. Smith, Treasurer. A Board of Directors was composed of Hazel DeMeyer Rupp, Robert L. Hegel, Judith Canaan, and the President of the University and the Dean of University Libraries ex officio.

During the same period, a number of special events sponsored by the fledgling organization were held. Members of the Board staffed an information table in the Waldo Library Rotunda on October 31, 1992, the University's annual Family Festival, and greeted family members who came to view the impressive new structure that had been dedicated a few months earlier. The first public relations venture, pencils inscribed with the name of the organization, and Friends' membership forms were distributed.

Following in the footsteps of other Friends' organizations, the WMU chapter also sponsors an annual used book sale, held in Waldo Library, during the fall semester. All funds are used to support the library collections and other special needs.

The University Friends was also one of the sponsoring organizations in the community-wide event celebrating National Library Week, April 18-24, 1993. Sandy Dolnick, the Executive Director of The Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) was the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting of the WMU Friends on May 6, 1993. Ms. Dolnick gave an informative presentation and offered several suggestions to assist the membership in its planning. At that meeting, the membership reelected the officers and Board members who had been selected in 1992 in order to take advantage of their experience and leadership. They also reaffirmed the basic purpose of the organization that is "to strengthen and support the activities of the University Libraries, to offer an opportunity for interested individuals to come together with a common interest in the literary and cultural activities of the University Libraries, to encourage gifts and bequests, to assist in special projects, and to aid in the development of special collections."

Finally, an important activity of the organization has been the production of this newsletter. The name Gatherings is a special term in book production that describes a section of a book; when all gatherings are bound together, the book is complete. The name reflects both the Friends' historical identity as well as the organization's hope for the future. A number of members have been involved in writing articles and editing the publica-

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