The University of British Columbia

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE LIBRARY

REPORT OF

The Library Committee

—TO—

The Senate

OCTOBER, 1929

October 8th, 1929.

Leonard S. Klinck, Esq., M.S.A., D.Sc., LL.D.,
President,
Chairman of the Senate,
The University of British Columbia.

Sir:—

The Library Committee presents herewith, in accordance with instructions contained in the Senate's resolution of December 15th, 1926, a Report made by the Librarian, and considered and approved at a meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday, October 2nd, 1929.

Very truly yours,

H. F. ANGUS,
Chairman.

Professor H. F. Angus,
Chairman, Library Committee,
The University of British Columbia.

Sir:—

I beg to present herewith, for your information and that of the Library Committee, a Report on the University Library for the period October 1st, 1928, to September 30th, 1929.

BOOK COLLECTION: IMPORTANT PURCHASES DURING THE YEAR

The book collection continues to grow at the rate of a little over 4,000 volumes a year. It now comprises 72,300 volumes. Of these, 68,900 are recorded accessions, while duplicates are estimated at 3,400 volumes. There is thus an increase of 4,211 volumes since the Report presented to the Senate in October, 1928, as compared with 4,373 for the preceding year. The details are:

	1928-29	1927-28
New volumes added	4,211	4,373
Total volumes accessioned	68,900	64,689
Duplicates	3,400	3,400
Total in collection	72,300	68,089

The following are among the interesting purchases made during the year:

Dickens: Household words (Original edition)	$25.00
U. S. Catalogue of Books in Print	96.00
Canada and its Provinces	75.00
English Dictionary, V. 10, Pt. 2	24.00
Richthofen: China, Vol. 3 and Atlas	26.40
Richen: Die Blatterpilze	22.50
Pauly-Wissowa Real Encyc. Vol. LX.-XIII.	
2 Reihe I.-II.	
Supp. II., III., VI.	145.75

English Catalogue, 1921-25	50.00
Makers of Canada	25.00
Van Marle: Italian Schools of Painting, V. 7-11	50.00
Engineering Index, 2 vols	110.00
Trietschke: Hist. of Germany in the 19th Cent.	43.00
Chodat Collection (French Drama)	368.00
Beilstein: Handbuch d. Organ. Chemie, V. 2	62.40

The Library has continued, throughout the Autumn and Spring sessions, the practice inaugurated two years ago of displaying, every Friday afternoon, the new books as catalogued. In this weekly exhibition of books great interest has been shown by an increasing number of students.

PERIODICALS

The Library regularly receives about 580 periodicals. It subscribes to about 450 of these at an annual cost of $3,800.00, while 130 are received as gifts. The current issues, alphabetically arranged, are displayed on racks in the Periodical Room. They are consulted by large numbers of students—some, in fact, are so used that duplicates have to be secured for binding, the consulting copy being worn out.

The Library's efforts to bring nearer to completion its files of important periodical publications have been continued throughout the year. The following is a list of new periodical sets purchased, or of gaps in the files that have been filled:

American Journal of Anatomy, Vols. 1-27	$200.00
American Journal of Archaelogy, Vols. 1-14	45.00
Anatomical Record, Vols. 1-24	110.00
Anatomisches Anzeiger, Bd. 15-46, with supp	150.00
Botanisches Centralblatt, Bd. 125-153	100.00
Catalogue Générale de la Bibliotheque Nationale, T. 1-92	423.20
Coates' Herd Book, Vols. 71-74	30.25
Historical Mss. Commission. Complete set to date (198 vols.)	193.00
Industrial Management, Vols. 66-74	29.00
Journal des Savants, 1924, 25, 26, 27	30.50

Journal of Farm Economics, Vols. 2, 3, 7-9 and parts	28.85
Milchwirtschaftliches Forschungen, Bd. 1-3	27.90
Mineralogical Magazine, Vols. 1-18	75.50
Mississippi Valley Historical Society. Proceedings, Vols. 1-5, 8-10	20.00
Modern Language Review, Vols. 1-11	48.90
Philobiblon Society, Miscellanies, 1854-76	30.50
Revue Internationale de Sociologie, 1914-27	50.65
Wheat Studies, Vols. 2-5	35.50

GIFTS OF BOOKS

Last year's Report to the Senate commented on the fact that the gifts of books to the Library during the period covered by the Report were the lowest in the University's history. The Librarian regrets this year to have to make a similar report. In the year 1926-27 the value of the book gifts was $1,200.00; in 1927-28 the value was $660.00. For the year just closed the amount is $307.00.

ANNUAL CHECK OF THE BOOK COLLECTION

The customary annual book stock-taking took place immediately after the close of the spring examinations. This discloses a loss of 134 volumes—129 from the ordinary and 5 from reserve loans. Of these 20 have been recovered, leaving a net loss of 114 to date. The approximate value of these is $250.00.

It is gratifying to note that in spite of the increase in the student body there appears to be an annual diminution in the losses of books. During recent years these losses have been as follows:

1925	247	volumes
1926	140	"
1927	166	"
1928	144	"
1929	114	"

In previous reports it has been pointed out that the book losses in this University are considerably less than those of other

institutions with a comparable number of students, and approximately equal book circulation.

RE-DISTRIBUTION OF BOOK COLLECTION

The installation of the shelving in Tier 1 of the stacks increased by about 25 per cent. the Library's book accommodation. The whole book collection was re-distributed throughout the enlarged stack system immediately after the completion of the annual check. The work took three members of the staff and four student assistants three weeks to complete.

The changes of location of every book in the Library necessitated the writing of new labels for each range and aisle, but a month after the transfer started, and before the opening of the Summer Session, the whole collection was again in referable order.

REGISTRATION OF READERS; AUTUMN AND WINTER SESSIONS

The total registration of degree-course students in the session of 1928-29 was 1,730. In addition there were 429 registered in the Arts Summer School, and a total of 175 in the short courses in Agriculture, Nursing and Botany. Of the 1,730 degree-course students, 1,674 took our readers' cards. Of the Summer Session students, 289 registered as readers. There were thus 196 students who, during the two sessions, did not avail themselves of the privileges of the Library. Of the 56 Autumn Session students who did not take out library cards, practically all were first-year students who failed to meet the University's requirements at the Christmas examination. With these exceptions, every student of the University made regular use of the book collection.

EXTRA MURAL READERS

The Report of 1928 stated that 94 persons in the Province, all engaged in some research or study for which the University's book collection is of value, were enrolled as "extra mural readers." These readers, by regulation of the Senate, pay a fee of $1.00 per calendar year, and, in addition, the cost of mail-

ing of books. At the present time there are 69 such readers. They include ministers, doctors, mining engineers, metallurgical and other chemists, and a number of teachers.

INTER-LIBRARY LOANS

In addition to the foregoing readers, unconnected with the University, but to whom the Library gives service, there are a number of institutions that find the University's book collection of assistance to their staffs in their work. Officials of the City of Vancouver, the staff of the Vancouver Harbour Board, the Vancouver General Hospital, the Marine Biological Station at Nanaimo, the Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, and the Consolidated Smelter at Trail are among the institutions from which the Library has frequent requests for books. In all 45 loans were made to these and similar organizations through the year.

The Library is under obligation to other university libraries, with larger collections, for greatly appreciated assistance given to members of faculty and students doing research work for which the University's own book collection is inadequate. Among the libraries to which this University has been indebted for loans of books throughout the year may be mentioned: University of Toronto, McGill University, Legislative Library (Victoria), University of California, University of Washington, Stanford University, Library of Congress, Library of the Surgeon-General (Washington).

CIRCULATION

The circulation for the year under review shows a decrease in both "ordinary" and "reserved" loans. Ordinary loans from September 1st, 1928, to September 1st, 1929, were 33,232 volumes, as against 33,426 for the preceding twelve months. This is a decrease of 194 volumes. "Reserved" book loans show a greater decrease. Loans for the year under review were 36,555, as against 41,280 shown in the Report of October, 1928—a reduction of 4,725.

The total loans of the Library for the past three years are as shown in the following statement:

	1928-29	1927-28	1926-27
Ordinary loans	33,232	33,426	30,407
Reserved	36,555	41,280	32,934
Summer Session Loans	1,487	401	487
Extra-Mural loans	1,138	1,639	.....
Inter-library loans	45	53	.....
	72,457	76,799	63,818

Monthly statistics of ordinary circulation for the ten years, 1920 to 1929, are as follows:

ORDINARY LOANS

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Jan.	.....	759	1,179	1,540	1,736	1,940	2,254	3,366	3,266	4,264	4,152
Feb.	.....	760	1,189	1,501	1,710	1,767	2,139	3,419	4,268	4,404	4,387
Mar.	.....	655	1,194	1,524	1,604	1,702	2,142	3,597	4,149	4,487	3,806
Apr.		379	684	853	1,147	1,104	1,271	1,915	2,599	2,464	2,652
May	.....	289	531	666	743	702	847	850	867	755	1,291
June	.....	285	487	641	732	656	680	616	618	583	723
July	.....	370	477	602	831	931	1,012	1,199	1,492	1,323	1,944
Aug.	.....	436	533	597	888	703	603	895	1,239	1,184	1,676
Sept.	.....	550	975	1,147	938	1,234	405	1,110	1,223	1,009	.....
Oct.	740	1,327	1,762	1,938	2,174	2,325	3,085	3,942	4,552	4,825	.....
Nov.	917	1,542	1,568	1,874	1,970	2,159	3,415	4,197	4,795	4,457	.....
Dec.	467	1,033	1,056	1,080	1,208	1,173	1,559	2,560	2,383	2,310	.....
	2,124	8,382	11,635	13,963	15,683	16,387	19,412	27,666	31,451	32,065	20,631
Average Monthly Circulation:	708 (3 mos.)	690	969	1,163	1,307	1,365	1,618	2,306	2,620	2,675	1,720 (8 mos.)

"RESERVED" LOANS

	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29
October	1,322	4,784	5,468	5,241
November	3,754	6,483	9,543	7,289
December	1,657	4,041	4,518	3,709
January	2,262	2,022	3,053	3,421
February	3,419	3,962	5,877	4,781
March	4,887	6,857	8,304	6,820
April	2,121	4,785	4,517	5,052
Total	19,422	32,934	41,280	36,314
Monthly average	2,744	4,705	5,897	5,188

SUMMER SESSION

	1926	1927	1928	1929
July	1,092	1,248	885	809
August	616	890	1,008	678
Total	1,708	2,138	1,893	1,487
Monthly average	854	1,069	946	744

EVENING ATTENDANCE

During the Autumn and Spring Sessions the Library gives to Faculty and Students a thirteen-hour service—from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 p.m.—on five days of the week. On Saturdays the hours are from 8:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Members of the Library staff take turns in doing evening duty. The use of the Library by Students in evening hours during the past year was about the same as for that preceding.

The records kept by the Circulation Department show the following as the attendance for the past three years:

	1926-27			1927-28			1928-29		
	Attend.	Even. Open	Aver.	Attend.	Even. Open	Aver.	Attend.	Even. Open	Aver.
October	792	24	33	848	23	37	852	25	34
November	1,284	25	50	2,070	24	82	1,574	24	65
December	1,791	18	99	2,050	18	114	1,658	15	110
January	379	19	20	542	20	27	554	22	25
February	976	24	40	1,309	25	52	915	22	41
March	2,310	26	59	3,087	27	114	2,739	25	105
April	4,176	24	124	2,730	21	130	4,015	23	174
	11,708	160	73	12,636	159	80	12,307	156	70

The Library was kept open in the evenings during the months of July and August, on petition from students of the Summer Session. The attendance was:

	Attend.	Even. Open	Average
July	226	18	13
August	407	16	25
	633	34	19

is one-half that of work done in Vancouver, and for this reason the Library's French purchases are bound before being forwarded.

The number of volumes bound was 1,375. Three hundred and twenty-five volumes were repaired at a cost of $250.00. The appropriation was slightly overspent, expenditures under this heading for the University Year 1928-29 being $3,072.25. For the present year 836 volumes have been forwarded for binding to date.

Among the larger items may be mentioned:

Anatomische Anzeiger	38	volumes
Mineralogical Magazine	18	"
Fraser's Magazine	106	"
Harvard Graduate Magazine	20	"
Elementary School Journal	18	"

In addition, 140 volumes of French history and literature, purchased by Dr. Ashton, when in Europe, were bound at a cost of $130.00.

DISCIPLINE

Last year's Report noted a perceptible decline of student discipline in the Library, due to an increasing tendency to use the reading rooms as a social hall, or place for conversation. It was further stated that the preservation within the building of conditions favourable to study had, for the preceding year, been left, at its request, to the Students' Council, but that, so far as could be observed, no systematic effort had been made by that body to maintain proper standards, and that it had asked to be relieved of further responsibility.

The resumption by the University staff of the responsibility for the conditions of orderly quiet that should prevail in a library building has been marked by a very satisfactory improvement. The elected representatives of the student body co-operated whole-heartedly in bringing about this change. A proportion of those using the reading rooms still indulge in unnecessary conversation, and there is still a tendency to make the halls and staircases places for keeping social appointments —though this tendency would appear to be on the decline. But

the improvement on conditions as stated in the last Report is notable—in fact, these conditions might now be considered satisfactory, if not excellent.

ACCOMMODATION OF LIBRARY

It was pointed out in the last Report that the Library Building will seat about 350 readers in reading rooms, periodical room and study carrels—about twenty per cent. of the present enrolment—and that this accommodation is insufficient for the students desiring to use it. This condition is steadily becoming more acute. In the present session practically every day sees students unable to find seats. Never, since the present building was occupied, has such congestion occurred so early in the season. As examinations approach, the situation is bound to become worse. If the present use of the building can be taken as a criterion, the conditions during the six weeks before the Christmas and Spring examinations will constitute an insoluble problem.

The necessity for the enlargement of the building, pointed out in last year's Report, is thus emphasized. The erection of the south wing, to accommodate the "Reserved" reading room and the permanent Periodical room, is one of the major requirements of the general building extension problems confronting the University. It is hoped that, if this is not possible during 1930, the wing may be constructed in 1931. Preliminary plans have been drawn for it by the University Architects.

LIBRARY STAFF

With great regret the Librarian reports the death, on August 2nd, of Miss Frances M. Woodworth, Reference Librarian, and Head of the Circulation Department since 1920.

Miss Woodworth was a graduate of the University of New Brunswick and of the University of Washington Library School. She was competent in every aspect of her work, sparing neither time nor trouble to render the best of service alike to the teaching staff and to students, among whom her obliging disposition made her deservedly popular.

Miss Woodworth's successor is Miss Norah Bateson, a graduate of Manchester University, and of the Pratt Library School, Brooklyn. She was this summer on the teaching staff of McGill University Library School.

Another change in the staff was created by the marriage of Miss Mary S. Robertson, typist. She is succeeded by Miss Florence L. Ranking.

It is a pleasure to report that all members of the staff are giving to the Library and to the University excellent service.

The staff at present consists of:

John Ridington, Librarian.

Dorothy Jefferd, Cataloguer.

Norah Bateson, Reference Librarian.

Mabel Lanning, Circulation.

Roland Lanning, Periodicals.

Lionel Haweis, Accessions and Government Documents.

Alice E. Hearsey, Stenographer.

Florence L. Ranking, Typist.

Richard D. Buchanan, Call Boy.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Library Committee consists of the following:

Prof. H. F. Angus, Chairman, representing the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Dr. A. E. Hennings, representing the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Dr. W. L. MacDonald, representing the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Dr. S. J. Schofield, representing the Faculty of Applied Science.

Prof. H. M. King, representing the Faculty of Agriculture.

Dr. L. S. Klinck, President of the University (ex-officio).

John Ridington, Librarian and Secretary.

Regular meetings of the Committee are held monthly on the second Wednesday during the session, and special meetings as needs arise. In all, ten meetings have been held since the Report of October, 1928.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN RIDINGTON,

Librarian.

8th October, 1929.