

# Future Library Building Trends Among Colleges and Universities

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IT IS SAFE to predict that over one hundred million dollars is going to be spent by American institutions of higher education for the construction of new library buildings in the next five to 10 years. In addition, perhaps forty million dollars will be spent for additions to existing structures. According to a survey conducted in the fall of 1949 by the A.C.R.L. Committee on College and University Library Buildings, 103 institutions are currently working on preliminary plans for new library buildings, and 84 institutions are planning additions to existing library buildings. About one half of the institutions reporting new buildings in the offing have completed preliminary drawings, and 60 per cent have made cost estimates.

## *Cooperation*

Such a tremendous volume of construction calls for cooperation among librarians. By pooling their knowledge, their observations and their talents, they may be able to avoid the pitfalls to which the independent worker is often subject. The accompanying tabulation is designed to enable librarians and architects to locate institutions of similar size and nature if they feel that by exchanging their experiences, they can help each other. Such a use of the tabulation is eminently practical. Another possible use is that it may provide justification for not discontinuing the Cooperative Com-

mittee on College and University Library Building Plans, which has been of inestimable benefit to the many institutions that participated in its deliberations since its establishment in 1944.<sup>1</sup> If the Cooperative Committee continues in existence, it is likely to continue to be the meeting-ground chiefly for librarians and architects of very large institutions. There is much at stake in the planning of a large library building, and there still remains a sufficient number of large buildings in the early stages of planning to provide ample subject matter for discussion in future meetings of the Cooperative Committee.

Nevertheless, it should not be overlooked that approximately 75 per cent of the library buildings expected to be constructed in the near future will cost less than one million dollars each. Cooperation among librarians in the planning of these smaller buildings is unquestionably desirable. These smaller buildings will generally provide storage facilities for not more than 200,000 volumes; and the number of readers to be accommodated in any one of these buildings will be less than 500.

## *Seating Capacity*

Present seating capacities are insufficient in many of the 103 libraries, especially in those of larger institutions. Only three out of 21 institutions enrolling 3300 or more stu-

<sup>1</sup> The architects and librarians present at the 1950 meeting of the committee at Ann Arbor, Mich., reacted unfavorably to a suggestion that the committee might now disband since most of the original members appeared to have solved their library building problems.

# Library Building Plans of Colleges and Universities

## January 1950

Name of Institution	Estimated Cost (including equipment)	Volumes Planned for	Seats to Be Provided	Enrollment, 1948	Preliminary Plans Drawn	Library in Separate Building Now and Year Completed	Volumes Main Building, 1948	Seats Main Building, 1948
Indiana University, Bloomington <sup>1</sup>	\$4,000,000	1,000,000	2000	23,974	..	Yes, 1907	500,000	500
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia <sup>2</sup>	2,000,000	600,000	1900	18,916	..	Yes, 1891	707,440	650
Wayne University, Detroit	4,000,000	1,000,000	3000	18,455	x	No	269,388	618
Michigan State College, East Lansing <sup>3</sup>	2,500,000	500,000	3000	15,870	..	Yes, 1925	220,000	655
University of Maryland, College Park	2,000,000	500,000	2000	12,302	x	Yes, 1931	135,000	500
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	10,223	..	Yes, 1926	247,247	375
University of Chicago <sup>5</sup>	6,000,000	1,500,000	2000	9519	x	Yes, 1912	516,830	580
University of Utah, Salt Lake City <sup>6</sup>	2,000,000	750,000	1200	8924	x	Yes, 1935	200,000	900
University of Houston, Houston, Tex. <sup>7</sup>	1,500,000	..	241	8692	x	..	41,300	100
Alabama Polytech. Institute, Auburn <sup>8</sup>	1,500,000	500,000	1500	7655	..	Yes, 1908	140,000	235
Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.	2,500,000	1,000,000	750	7402	..	Yes, 1904	264,953	277
Virginia Polytech. Institute, Blacksburg <sup>9</sup>	1,500,000	400,000	1200	5546	..	Yes, 1905	123,009	110
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta	1,500,000	250,000	950	5376	x	Yes, 1906	102,000	150
North Carolina State College, Raleigh <sup>10</sup>	1,500,000	350,000	800	5227	x	Yes, 1926	96,415	220
Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind.	..	300,000	200	5115	x	No	125,000	360
Florida State University, Tallahassee <sup>11</sup>	1,000,000	1,000,000	1277	5109	..	Yes, 1930	165,578	700
Youngstown College, Youngstown, Ohio	650,000	100,000	550	4679	x	No	..	..
Rensselaer Polytech. Institute, Troy, N.Y.	750,000	200,000	600	4268	..	No	47,000	200
University of Idaho, Moscow <sup>12</sup>	..	..	..	3634	..	No	125,000	573
University of Wyoming, Laramie	1,000,000	..	..	3488	x	Yes, 1923	142,458	237
Canisius College, Buffalo, N.Y. <sup>13</sup>	600,000	100,000	200	3457	..	No	44,000	139
Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh <sup>14</sup>	2,000,000	350,000	750	3350	x	No	..	250
Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia	..	..	..	3347	..	No	..	..
Fresno State College, Fresno, Calif.	700,000	150,000	1200	3052	..	Yes, 1933	73,000	450
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale <sup>15</sup>	2,300,000	350,000	1500	3002	x	Yes, 1904	92,892	428
St. Bernardine of Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y. <sup>16</sup>	500,000	250,000	300	2752	..	No	..	..
Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland <sup>17</sup>	..	..	..	2567	x	No	..	..
De Pauw University, Greencastle, Ind.	..	..	..	2168	..	Yes, 1908	107,109	312
Texas College of Arts & Industries, Kingsville	800,000	150,000	500	2099	x	No	41,000	110
East Texas State Teachers College, Commerce <sup>18</sup>	850,000	300,000	800	2097	x	Yes, 1930	93,639	450
University of Portland, Portland, Ore.	500,000	250,000	750	1970	x	..	..	..
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind. <sup>19</sup>	..	..	..	1957	..	Yes, 1880	90,998	272
Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield	900,000	200,000	..	1893	x	No	64,000	265
Upsala College, East Orange, N.J. <sup>20</sup>	..	200,000	..	1800	..	Yes	29,797	130
Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. <sup>21</sup>	..	500,000	..	1744	..	Yes, 1910	261,108	539
State Teachers College, Milwaukee, Wis.	800,000	130,000	600	1715	..	No	65,000	150
Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash.	500,000	250,000	750	1642	x	No	..	112
Idaho State College, Pocatello	750,000	100,000	250	1605	..	No	25,000	130
Colgate University, Hamilton, N.Y.	1,000,000	300,000	500	1528	x	Yes, 1890	180,000	215
Evansville College, Evansville, Ind. <sup>22</sup>	..	100,000	400	1502	..	No	..	..
Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio <sup>23</sup>	..	200,000	300	1468	..	Yes, 1892	80,000	135
Simmons College, Boston, Mass. <sup>24</sup>	1,000,000	100,000	300	1425	..	No	100,000	240
Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia	850,000	300,000	800	1422	x	Yes, 1903	83,000	146
Trinity University, San Antonio, Tex. <sup>25</sup>	350,000	250,000	500	1414	x	Yes	44,900	150
Furman University, Greenville, S.C. <sup>26</sup>	..	..	..	1400	..	Yes, 1906	..	150
Western Illinois State College, Macomb	2,500,000	100,000	800	1389	x	No	..	..
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena	..	..	..	1271	..	No	..	80
Howard College, Birmingham, Ala.	1,000,000	200,000	800	1210	..	Yes	40,000	175
State Teachers College, Cortland, N.Y.	..	..	..	1162	x	No	..	..
College of the Pacific, Stockton, Calif.	400,000	150,000	550	1146	..	Yes, 1925	45,000	170
Beloit College, Beloit, Wis.	..	..	..	1061	..	Yes, 1905	120,000	160
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.	500,000	250,000	350	1035	x	Yes, 1906	151,504	236
New York State Teachers College, Brockport	..	..	..	1013	..	No	25,000	130
State Teachers College, California, Pa.	..	..	..	1012	..	No	4,000	115
Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio	..	..	..	944	..	No	38,000	160
Trinity College, Hartford, Conn. <sup>27</sup>	700,000	500,000	908	908	x	No	200,000	100
Pacific Union College, Angwin, Calif.	..	100,000	..	907	..	No	38,100	120
State Teachers College, Mansfield, Pa.	..	..	..	856	x	No	25,000	130
Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash.	..	..	..	835	x	Yes, 1904	82,000	140
Anderson Coll. & Theological Seminary, Anderson, Ind. <sup>28</sup>	250,000	75,000	..	827	..	No	..	..
Houghton College, Houghton, N.Y.	..	..	..	816	x	No	..	128
Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss.	300,000	..	..	790	..	Yes, 1924-25	33,000	80
West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon	350,000	40,000	200	787	x	No	..	90
College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn.	500,000	100,000	400	786	x	No	68,389	158
Nebraska State Teachers College, Wayne <sup>29</sup>	200,000	100,000	300	756	..	No	38,741	156

1 Maximum cost estimate: \$5,000,000. Addition built 1927. Plan to erect undergraduate building at estimated cost of \$1,500,000, and enlarge and remodel present building for a graduate and research library. 2 Earlier preliminary plans rejected. Contract expected to be let within a year. Ultimate capacity: 2,000,000 volumes, 2400 seats. Cost excludes equipment. 3 Appropriation requested from state legislature. 4 So far, study of needs only. 5 Maximum capacity: 2,000,000 volumes. Maximum cost: \$8,000,000. 6 Maximum capacity: 1,000,000 volumes 1500 seats. Maximum cost estimate: \$3,000,000. 7 Building under construction. 8 Cost of first unit only. 9 Expansion to 600,000 volumes planned. 10 Maximum capacity: 400,000 volumes, 900 seats. 11 Seating capacity:  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of enrollment at time of construction. 12 Building in 1960 or later. 13 Earlier plans rejected. Building not expected before 1953. 14 Maximum seating capacity: 1000. 15 Contract drawing completed; 25 per cent of building will be only partially finished and without equipment; ultimate expansion: 500,000 volumes, 2000 seats. 16 Preliminary plans of 1948 rejected. Maximum seating: 400. Maximum cost estimate: \$700,000. 17 Other buildings have priority. 18 Maximum seating: 1000. 19 Contract with architect signed. 20 Other buildings have priority. 21 Addition built 1916. 22 Maximum capacity: 500,000 volumes, 500 seats. Location determined. 23 Addition built 1925 and 1947. 24 Prewar plans to be revised. Maximum seating: 400. 25 Present building is a temporary structure. 26 Entire school to be moved to new campus. 27 Maximum cost estimate: \$1,000,000. 28 Maximum cost estimate: \$350,000. Maximum capacity: 100,000. 29 Expecting to build by 1951. Maximum cost estimate: \$300,000.

Name of Institution	Estimated Cost (including equipment)	Volumes Planned for	Seats to Be Provided	Enrolment, 1948	Preliminary Plans Drawn	Library in Separate Building Now and Year Completed	Volumes Main Building, 1948	Seats Main Building, 1948
State Teachers College, Whitewater, Wis.				750		No	45,000	128
Goucher College, Baltimore, Md. <sup>30</sup>	1,000,000	120,000		740	x	Yes, 1893	100,000	113
Maryland State Teachers College, Towson	700,000	100,000		736		No		
Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.				722		No	28,000	72
Humboldt State College, Arcata, Calif. <sup>31</sup>	350,000	90,000	300	712	x	No	24,500	110
University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa		75,000	125	680	x	No		
Thiel College, Greenville, Pa. <sup>32</sup>	350,000	75,000	200	659	x	No	25,000	80
Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md.	300,000	60,000	200	655	x	No		
Kentucky State College, Frankfort				654		Yes	20,275	115
Roanoke College, Salem, Va.				633	x	Yes, 1879	27,000	74
Eastern New Mexico University, Portales	450,000	250,000	700	623	x	No		
Samuel Houston College, Austin, Tex.				616		No	14,243	120
Southwestern College, Winfield, Kan.	150,000			601	x	No	26,000	85
Beaver College, Jenkintown, Pa.		100,000	300	600		No	20,000	112
Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio	700,000	229,000	287	600	x	Yes, 1912	105,000	70
Eastern Oregon College of Education, La Grange	260,000	50,000	176	600	x	No	23,337	140
Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa.	341,000	75,000	150	549	x	No	32,000	120
Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Mich.		75,000	400	532		No		100
College of St. Rose, Albany, N.Y. <sup>33</sup>	400,000	80,000	120	523	x	Yes	20,000	70
Shepherd State College, Shepherdstown, W.Va.				497		No	21,000	79
State Teachers College, Oneonta, N.Y.				485	x	No	34,704	150
State Teachers College, Valley City, N.D. <sup>34</sup>	200,000	60,000	150	485		No	38,000	103
New Jersey State Teachers College, Glassboro	150,000	60,000	300	473		No	33,535	86
Principia College, Elsau, Ill.	450,000	100,000	250	455	x	Yes	40,000	125
Adams State College, Alamosa, Colo.				454	x	No		
Keuka College, Keuka Park, N.Y.	125,000	60,000	100	431	x	No	36,591	48
D'Youville College, Buffalo, N.Y.				428		No	27,312	96
Nazareth College, Rochester, N.Y. <sup>35</sup>		75,000	250	426	x	No		
Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, S.D. <sup>36</sup>	50,000			388	x	No	21,000	60
St. Mary College, Xavier, Kan.		150,000		369		No		
Hollins College, Hollins College, Va. <sup>37</sup>		90,000	231	347	x	Yes, 1908	45,358	124
Blackburn College, Carlinville, Ill.		50,000	150	345		No	15,000	100
College of Med. Evangelists, Loma Linda, Calif.				329	x	No	19,900	46
Bennington College, Bennington, Vt.				307		No	30,000	64
Coker College, Hartsville, S.C.	150,000	75,000	200	291	x	No	24,000	75
Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss.	50,000	100,000	100	266	x	No	18,500	50
Georgian Court College, Lakewood, N.J.	100,000	150,000	200	234	x	No	30,000	88
Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Mont.				220	x	No	30,000	40

30 Present building occupied by library since 1934. 31 Maximum seating: 350. 32 Maximum seating: 250. 33 Present building is a residence purchased 1939. 34 Architect engaged. Maximum capacity: 80,000 volumes. 35 Plans drawn 10 years ago will probably be changed. 36 Plans are for museum, later to be used as library. 37 Maximum capacity: 100,000 volumes.

dents reported seating capacities in the main library of over 10 per cent of the enrolment. Out of 87 libraries reporting seating capacity, only 16 provided seats for 20 per cent or more of the 1948 student body in their old library buildings.

Library buildings of the future are expected to provide seats for not less than 10 per cent of the 1948 enrolment. Relatively few buildings (18 out of 62 reporting) will provide seats for over 40 per cent of the current enrolment, and most of these will be for smaller institutions anticipating great increases in enrolment.

The larger institutions enrolling 3500 students or more generally plan to seat between 10 and 20 per cent of their students in their future main libraries. However, whereas most smaller institutions will merely dou-

ble or treble their present seating capacities in their new buildings, several of the large institutions will provide from four to six times as many seats in their new main library buildings as were available in 1948.

### Volume Capacity

With the exception of the University of Pennsylvania, which is planning only the first unit of its new library building, all institutions reporting appear to provide book storage facilities in excess of what is available in their main libraries at present. Planned book storage capacity is most commonly two to three times as large as 1948 holdings. Only 10 out of 54 institutions reporting on this aspect expect to have over four times as much book storage space in their new buildings as was needed for their 1948 holdings.

### *Combination Buildings*

Only a very small number of institutions are planning buildings that will combine facilities for the library with facilities for other campus functions. Where such combination buildings exist, expansion is often possible by gradually pushing the extraneous operations out of the building occupied by the library.

### *Other Solutions*

In a few cases, expansion will take the form of separate storage facilities, such as are being planned for the University of Kentucky. On several campuses, the construction of departmental libraries will bring about relief in the main library building.

A few librarians faced with the problem of overcrowded stacks have found limited solutions in the preservation of records through microfilm and microcard, the substitution of storage stacks for regular stacks and, most ingeniously, the shelving of books by size and in cardboard boxes, as recommended by Fremont Rider.<sup>2</sup>

The problem of squeezing more readers into a given floor area is not quite so easily solved. In many libraries the lack of adequate facilities for readers seems much more serious than the lack of storage facilities for books.

### *Why New Buildings?*

What are the forces that give rise to library building construction? In the case of additions to existing buildings, the answer is that expanded acquisitions programs and increased enrolments have often made existing buildings too small. Of the addi-

tions to existing buildings currently planned, over one third are additions to buildings constructed within the last 20 years, indicating that many library planners of the recent past seriously underestimated future requirements. There are, however, a few institutions that have carefully designed programs of expansion. An outstanding example is the University of Illinois (1926), which constructed its first additional unit in 1928, another one in 1929 and a third one in 1940.

Of the 103 *new* buildings, 62 are being planned for institutions that have never had a separate library building. Most of these institutions are small, with enrolments of fewer than 1000 students. A library building may enable them to become academically more respectable. Of the 41 buildings that are to replace existing buildings, only 18 will replace buildings that are over 40 years old.

Summarizing the forces that make for new library building construction, the most important one seems to be the current non-existence of a library building on many campuses. Three other influences are expanded acquisitions programs, unprecedented increases in student enrolment and obsolescence of old buildings.

The accompanying tabulation includes only those institutions which returned the questionnaire that was mailed to all institutions listed in *American Universities and Colleges*.<sup>3</sup> The tabulation is the second in a series of three, the first of which appeared in July.<sup>4</sup> The third and final tabulation will list library buildings completed between 1929 and 1949.

<sup>3</sup> Brumbaugh, A. J., ed. *American Universities and Colleges*, 5th ed. American Council on Education, 1949.

<sup>4</sup> Muller, Robert H. "Library Building Construction Among Colleges and Universities, 1950." *College and Research Libraries*, 11:259-61, July 1950.

<sup>2</sup> Rider, Fremont. *Compact Book Storage*. New York, Hadham Press, 1949.