

University of Oregon

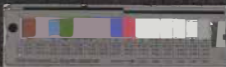
MAIN LIBRARY
BUILDING
1937 – 1987



Self-Guided Tour



Main Library Building 50th Anniversary
Committee
1987



SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Welcome to the University of Oregon Library. There have been many changes to the library building and usage of space since 1937. We invite you to reacquaint yourselves with the Library as it has evolved over the past fifty years. Rooms are listed in the suggested tour order and titled by their current usage; former usage and some points of interest are also provided. Only rooms in the 1937 portion of the building are on the tour, but you are welcome to roam in the stacks and see the services available in the 1950 and 1966 additions to the Library.



Room #102

Newspaper Reading Room

Former usage: Reserve Reading Room

This large, open space is perfect for a reading room, and has thus retained that function. Current newspapers from Oregon, along with papers from major cities in the United States and abroad, are available here. Dr. Joseph Schafer, History, initiated the collecting of all Oregon newspapers shortly after the turn of the century. In 1953 the newspaper section began microfilming Oregon newspapers, and the Oregon Newspaper Microfilming Project continues today. Copies of microfilmed papers from Oregon and other major U.S. and foreign cities can be found in the Microforms and Recordings Department, located on the third floor of the 1966 addition of the Library.

Changes to this room include the refinishing of the 1/2" cork tile floor in 1966, which reduced it to 1/4" thickness, and construction of the glass wall and service counter to provide processing space.

2

Room #101

Office of the Library
Development Coordinator

Former usage: Burgess Room

This room, named for Edward S. Burgess, originally housed the Burgess Collection of Rare Books and Early Manuscripts. In 1978, the Burgess Collection was moved to another room on the third floor where better security and environmental controls could be provided. When this became office space in 1986, the remaining rare materials which had been stored here over the years, were transferred to areas in the Special Collections Department.

3

East Stairway

As you ascend the stairs to the second floor, note the mural on the east wall depicting the evolution of the arts, by Arthur and Albert Runquist, graduates of the University. Facing the mural across the staircase is an illuminated inscription from the writings of Luella Clay Carson, Dean of Women, 1900-1909. Nowland B. Zane, professor in the School of Art, lettered the statement.

At the top of the stairs is a model, ca. 1921-1923, which shows a grand plan of the campus as conceived by President Prince Lucien Campbell. None of the proposed buildings were constructed; buildings looking as they do today were constructed prior to the date of this model.

4

Room #206

Oregon Collection
Reading Room

Former usage: Open Shelf Reserve
Reading Room

This beautifully designed room with its high ceiling and tall windows contains many interesting features. At either end are three large, intricately carved wood panels featuring Oregon mountain peaks and symbolically depicting resources, hopes, and problems of Oregon. Art Clough, of Eugene, was the designer and lead carver of these 1" thick Oregon cedar reliefs; Ross McClure, first assistant, and Jim de Broekert, apprentice, were workers on this WPA art project between 1935 and 1937. The oriental rugs, which were originally in the Browsing Room, were handmade in Northern China in 1935-36. Propped in the window farthest east is a bison relief, sculpted by Edna Dunberg.

From the windows, there is a grand view of the Memorial Quadrangle: Prince Lucien Campbell Hall (PLC) and Condon Hall to the west, the Museum of Art and Chapman Hall to the east, and Gilbert Hall straight ahead.

The exhibit cases in this room feature displays of materials from the manuscript and rare book collections; exhibits are changed each term.

5

Room #201

Oregon Collection Stacks

Former usage: Special Collections
(accessed from Room #206)

The library of printer John Henry Nash, who taught fine printing at the University, was on loan to the Library and housed in this room between 1938 and 1942. It was later purchased by the University of California at Berkeley and is housed there in the Bancroft Library. This room is now a stack area of the Oregon Collection which contains over 30,000 books, pamphlets, and periodicals written about Oregon or by Oregon authors. The Special Collections Department has expanded to occupy the entire second and third floors.

6

Room #220

Manuscript processing area

Former usage: Open Shelf Reserve Stacks

Across the corridor from the Oregon Collection, this area provides space for student assistants who arrange and describe manuscript collections acquired by the Library. Typical materials included in an individual's personal papers would be correspondence, diaries, literary manuscripts, organizational records, collected research material, and memorabilia. These materials are organized according to archival standards and an in-house finding aid is produced to provide access to the collections.

The original Rare Book Room opened off this room to the east; it now houses the library of Ernest Haycox, Western fiction writer from Portland, Oregon. His library, from which he researched his novels about the West, nicely complements the Oregon Collection. The Haycox Library was established in 1961. The Library received Haycox's manuscripts of stories and novels in December, 1986.

7

Room #211

**Manuscript and Rare Book
Reading Room**

Former usage: Map Room

In 1967, the map collection of the Main Library was combined with the collection of the Department of Geography creating a Map Library in Condon Hall. This space was then assigned to the Special Collections Department, and is currently used as a reading room in which patrons may examine, under supervision, the nearly 2,000 manuscript collections and 40,000 rare books.

The drawers, which once housed the maps, are now filled with architectural drawings.

Room #320

The Frank L. Beach
Conservation Laboratory

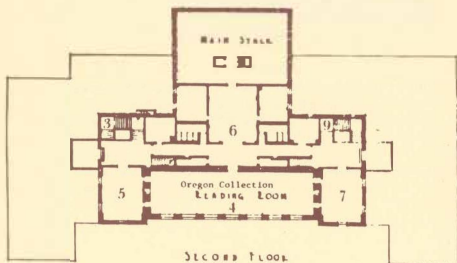
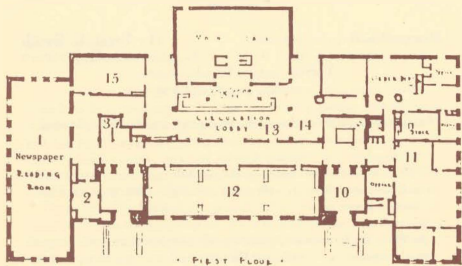
Former usage: Faculty studies,
seminar room, hallways

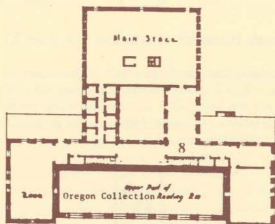
(Stairs are to the right as you face the Manuscript and Rare Book Reading Room.)

NOTE: This is the only room on the third floor which is open to the tour. If you have difficulty with stairs, you might want to proceed back to the first floor.

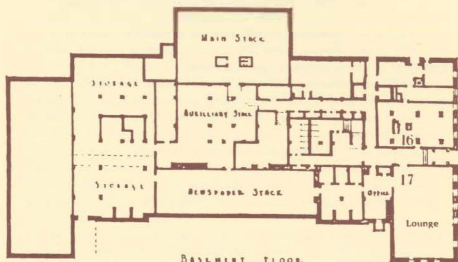
In 1984, the University allocated funds to remodel this space into an area where preservation work could be performed on fragile items. Current operations include making protective enclosures for rare books, oiling and dressing leather bindings, encapsulating broadsides (posters), and humidifying and flattening architectural drawings.

A separate room off the lab, which was once a classroom, now houses the Photograph Collection. This collection consists of approximately 125,000 images depicting life and scenes from Appalachia to the Arctic with an emphasis on the Pacific Northwest. Artwork acquired with collections of illustrators of children's literature is also kept here. This room and the Rare Book Room at the east end of the third floor, are the only air conditioned rooms in the 1937 portion of the Library. A constant cool temperature helps to preserve library materials.





THIRD FLOOR



BASEMENT FLOOR



9

West Stairway (between second and first floors)

On the way back down to the first floor, please notice another mural by Arthur and Albert Runquist, this one depicting the evolution of the sciences. On the opposing wall is an illuminated inscription from the writings of Frederick George Young, Professor of Social Science and Dean of Sociology, 1895-1928, lettered by Nowland B. Zane.

10

West Lobby

Take a moment here to admire one of the two main entrances to the Library. The stone used in the West Lobby, and the identical East Lobby, came from the same cut of Belgian marble. Note the similar designs in each marble panel. The pillars flanking the door to the main hall way are made of black and pink marble from Italy. Brass is used in the floor to divide the terrazzo into squares. The ceiling is composed of hand placed gold leaf tiles which have turned to a greenish patina. The upper edging where the ceiling meets the walls is plaster molded to look like metal. The iron work on the outside doors is a design of leaves mixed with ferns and reeds and was created by Orion B. Dawson, as was all the decorative iron work in the building. Note also the brass sunburst over the door leading to the main corridor, also by Dawson.

The walls of the interior lobby are finished in Kasota stone from Minnesota; the flooring is of travertine.



11

Room #113

Office of the University
Librarian

Former usage: Reference and Periodical
Reading Room

This once big, open room was partitioned off in 1966 to create office space. The south wall of this room was also constructed at this time to make separate space for the Acquisition Department. A central reference desk was relocated on the first floor of the 1966 addition. Adjacent to the new reference stacks is the Reserve/Current Periodicals Room.

Dispersed among the usual office furniture and filing cabinets are several beautiful art objects that were once in the Browsing Room. Please note the statues, two matching blue vases, a green vase and the copper bowl.

12

Rooms #107,108,109

Center for Academic
Learning Services

Former usage: Adelaide Church Memorial
Reading Room, more commonly known as the
Browsing Room.
(Midway off the Main Hallway)

The Browsing Room and its furnishings, complete with two working fireplaces, were designed to create a comfortable, pleasant atmosphere for leisure reading. The Browsing Room was replicated on the second floor of the Erb Memorial Union, and moved to that space when the Union opened in 1950. That room in the Union is now the International Student Lounge. Most of the art work has been distributed to other locations in the Library. When the room was partitioned for use by the School of Librarianship in 1967, care was taken to duplicate the beautiful white pine paneled walls. Since 1974 these rooms have been used by various non-Library departments.

The room at the east end originally housed the Pauline Potter Homer Collection of Beautiful Books in the glass cases on the walls. This collection is now housed with the Rare Book Collection.



Room #121

Circulation Lobby

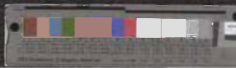
Former usage: Circulation Lobby

The entryways to the Circulation Lobby are adorned with the Hall Memorial Gates, beautiful products of craftsmanship in wrought iron designed by Orion B. Dawson. The gates, as noted in the plaque, are dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Arnold Bennett Hall, former president of the University.

Note the facsimile reproductions of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence mounted in the main corridor. These two historical documents came to the Library on deposit through the U.S. Government Depository Program. The Library began receiving government documents in 1885. Today there is a separate department, Documents and Public Affairs Service, which includes publications of the U.S. Government, the United Nations, some foreign governments, international and inter-governmental organizations, as well as Oregon State documents. These materials are located on the second floor of the newest (1966) addition to the building.

Set in the walls of the Circulation Lobby are display cases designed to feature library materials. Exhibits are changed eight times a year, and responsibility for mounting them rotates among the different departments within the Library. The vertical cases at the east end were constructed as a gift from Albert and Carrie Sweetser and are dedicated to the display of watercolor floral artwork of Carrie Sweetser.

In 1950, the Library changed its policy of closed stacks, from which individual books had to be paged, to open stacks. The pneumatic tubes located behind the desk and in the stacks, are no longer in use and the book elevator has been welded closed. The original counter where books were requested was behind the one visible here.



14

Room #H121

Hallway

Former usage: Card Catalog

This area is now used to display new books received by the Library. The original 1937 building ended near the photocopy machines. The card catalog has vastly expanded and is located near the Reference Desk on the first floor in the 1966 addition. The Library is developing a computerized catalog and already has input nearly 500,000 records into machine readable form as a step toward that goal. Currently, all catalog records are added to the OCLC (Online Catalog Library Center, Inc., Dublin, Ohio) bibliographic network. The Library also has an automated acquisitions system, INNOVACQ, which tracks books from the time they are ordered until they are cataloged. Public terminals for OCLC and INNOVACQ are located near the Reference Desk.

15

Room #133

Classroom

Former usage: Reserve Reading Room

This room was once connected to what is now the Newspaper Reading Room (Room #102 where the tour began) as an extension of Reserve Reading Room space. In the early 1950s it was converted to a classroom and was used by the School of Librarianship from 1966 until that program was suspended in 1978. The room is now used as an open classroom and is scheduled through the Registrar's Office.



Now exit through the center double gates, turn left and descend the stairs to the ground floor. Turn left again to:

16

Room #1 **Collection Development Office**
Former usage: Closed periodicals stacks

Directly in front of the door is a dumb waiter, large enough to carry a book truck, which was used to return bound periodicals from the periodicals desk in the Reference and Periodicals Room to the stack areas above. These stacks are now used for storage. The stairs lead to what is now the Acquisition Department. The shelves in this area hold new books and books received from gifts which are reviewed by library subject specialists who determine their appropriate location in the Library.

17

Room #2 **Lounge**
Former usage: Newspaper Reading Room

This area has been adapted to many uses since newspapers were displayed and read here in 1937. Since 1981 it has been a lounge where users can snack and take a study break. In all other parts of the Library there is a very strict "No food, no drink" policy in order to protect library materials.

If energy suffices, you are invited to return to the first floor, walk through the circulation lobby and visit the Reference Desk. There you will see the catalogs, OCLC and INNOVACQ terminals and the extensive reference collection that is needed to support research in the humanities and social sciences. A walk to the second and third floors will take you through the stacks of the general collection (approximately 1.2 million volumes) and past the Documents Collection (2nd floor), the Microform Collection (3rd floor) and into the Douglass Listening Room.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the University of Oregon Library and we invite you back at any time in the future.

NOTES





50 YEARS 1937-
1987



MAIN LIBRARY BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

