



Creighton Cornerstone

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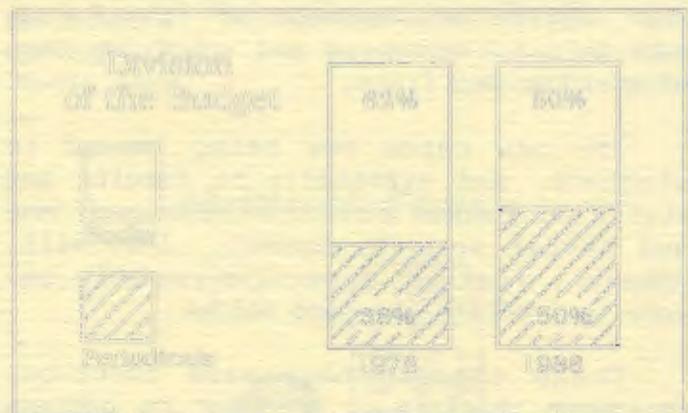
From the Director

The book allocations for 1988 are very similar to those of past years. Periodicals, however, are another matter. The periodical prices rose 9.9% in 1987, and the average cost of a U.S. periodical subscription is now more than \$70. The price of a single subscription at this library ranges from \$1. for an English Department title to \$3,407 for *Olympe*. Of all subject areas, Political Science has had the greatest percentage price increase, an average of 19.5% over 1986.

Each department was asked to cut their subscriptions, and others were asked to hold the line. All were generous in their responses in response and in their understanding of the situation. In addition, the library is not to blame for these sharp price increases and limited titles have made their appearance.

The culprit is inflation compounded by expansion. Periodical prices have more than doubled over the last ten years. Through the library's periodic budget has nearly doubled between 1978 and 1988—from \$45,000 to \$214,000. This increase includes the addition of 667 new titles. These additions, coupled with inflation, have had a dramatic impact on the periodicals budget.

We must live within our budget. The only choice is whether to reduce book or periodical subscriptions. According to the *Library Journal's* latest survey of large university libraries, a customary split of 45% for books and 55% for periodicals is typical. The following graph shows how the University of Akron library's dollars are divided:



The library staff will continue to do what it can to ease this situation, such as purchasing only the best bargains and shopping for the best prices. Again, thank you for your help and understanding. The library and the faculty share the goal of securing the best for our dollars and the best for our students. May we all have a profitable learning and teaching year.

-Ray Means

Albert Who?

Last spring in a segment of *Sixty Minutes* a junior college professor asked his students to identify prominent figures. One identified Albert Schweitzer as a WW II criminal, another thought he was a piano player. One thought Jesus felt was a character in a Civil War drama, while Joe Kennedy was identified as a criminal. Jesse James was identified as the first female Supreme Court justice. These are obvious examples. But such students do exist. We have our own set out for us!

-Ray Means

New Check-Out Procedures



Students, faculty and staff will be notifying changes at the Circulation desk this fall as new procedures are gradually implemented. Because of the University's decision to change the ID card, the Library must devise new methods of circulating materials to borrowers and notifying them of overdues and fines.

The new cards now being issued to students, and eventually to faculty and staff, no longer include an embossed name and social security number. They will, however, feature a machine-readable bar code to identify the card holder.

These changes have made check-out equipment obsolete. In order to address this problem, the Library has purchased

three microcomputer workstations, which will include optical scanners and printers. Installation of this equipment should take place during September. The Computer Center will provide a database of student, faculty and staff records.

The new circulation procedures will require that all borrowers present their ID card at the time of check-out. Labels will be printed with the borrower's ID number only. This label offers borrowers greater privacy. For student overdues, a computer-generated notice will be sent listing the titles and any fines incurred. Faculty will continue to receive the same monthly listings of borrowed materials they now receive.

We hope that all borrowers will understand our need to enforce an "ID required" policy, and that by doing so we will be able to offer better service in the form of greater privacy and better customer-orientation. Until the new system is fully implemented, we ask that borrowers bear with us if they experience occasional delays at the Circulation desk since we still need to write an ID number by hand on each book card. This will continue to affect faculty and staff until they receive a new ID card. -Kara Price

Reciprocal Borrowing in Effect

Traighton faculty, students and staff may now check out books from 34 other academic libraries in Nebraska, thanks to a reciprocal borrowing agreement that became effective in March. Several libraries, including UNO, have for many years extended borrowing privileges to visiting faculty. These privileges are now available to students and staff as well, and from virtually every academic library in the state.

Reciprocal borrowing is a faster alternative to interlibrary loan (ILL). The Library's average turnaround for an ILL request within Nebraska (from the time a request is received until the book arrives) is 6.4 working days. This is faster than the national in-state average of 10.4 working days. But researchers with deadlines to meet can go directly to another library and check out the books they need in a fraction of the time required for an ILL request.

To check out books at a participating library, patrons must show their University ID. A separate library card may then be issued for use after the initial check. Borrowers are asked to return materials directly to the lending library, and not abide by whatever policies that library may have. This includes returning books promptly and paying any fines for lost or overdue materials. The Research/Alumni Library will enforce these policies as we do our own.

Traighton faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to ask the Reference staff of the Research/Alumni Library for help in determining where a particular book is held. Microfilm and electronic union lists are available to help locate titles, and checking these could save time and effort. You may call the Reference staff at 227 for a referral. -Mary Nash

New Book Announcements

and

Collection Development

New acquisition announcements forms are distributed to department chairs on a weekly basis to assist with collection development decisions. These forms are provided by the library's primary book vendors, and there are no fees charged to departments for this service.

Currently four vendors supply new title announcement forms to the library: Baker & Taylor (trade, university), and each publisher: Barnes Book (academic, society, professional), Elsevier, B.H. Blackwell (British publications), and Otto Harrowowitz (German language titles). At this time the Harrowowitz forms are distributed to the History and Modern Language Departments only.

Profiles are set up for the library by each vendor, and the forms vary according to comprehensiveness of subject matter and academic level. This includes basic information such as author, title, publisher, date of publication, ISBN number and price, along with the appropriate academic level (undergraduate, graduate). Approximately 5,000 publishers are represented, including 130 university presses.

This current awareness service is not intended to substitute for approval plans or to replace critical reviews in the selection process. Its purpose is to notify department chairs or others responsible for book selection of new titles available from a wide variety of subject areas and publishers.

These forms may be discarded, held for further review, or approved by the department chair and returned to the library for immediate order. The appropriate academic department will then be charged for the cost of the material. Any questions or suggestions concerning this service or other aspects of general collection development should be addressed to Laurence Drake, Head of Technical Services, at 2216. Carrolla Grebe

Look and Listen

During the summer the library added several new items to the media collection. These include four VHS-compatible software programs:

- PPS: First Choice
- PPS: Plus
- PPS: Professional File
- Programming with Turbo Pascal

Twenty videocassettes have been added in the areas of astronomy, psychology, and sociology, and forty-nine record albums have also been added, including pop/rock, classical, jazz and recent Grammy Award selections. All software, videotapes, and record albums can be checked out at the Media desk. Christie Payne

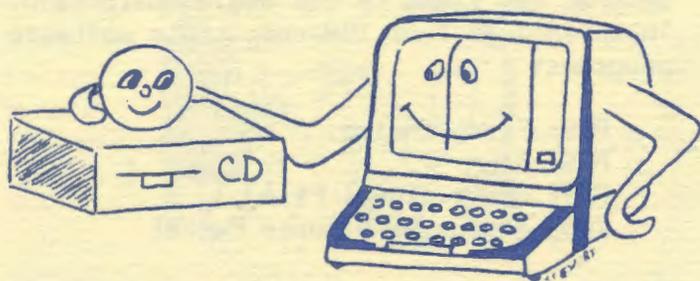
Matter of Facts



For the curious of hearts:

Total Budget	\$886,151
Number of Books	317,000
Volumes added last year	3,962
Items checked out	89,200
Number of Journal Titles	1,500
Number of persons	678,317
Reference questions	11,821
Interlibrary loan requests	3,645
Number of professional staff	128,360
Full-time staff	59
Student Assistants	80
Number of seats	897

Computer Search Corner



Test Our CD-ROM

The Library will be testing a new compact disc reference service during the month of September. Business Periodicals Index has been chosen for its high volume of usage. The H.W. Wilson Company will make available on loan an IBM System/2 model 30 computer, color monitor, Proprinter II and Phillips CM100 CD ROM player. This will be set up in the Reference area for a good public workout. We will be interested in your reactions. Remember, September only!

Departmental Allocations

... may be used to purchase more than just books. Software, videotapes, audio-cassettes, and all forms of media are "fair game," provided they are housed in the Library where they are accessible to all library users.

Faculty Computer Search Usage

The latest figures are in on faculty use of the search service as a research tool. Results must be prefaced by stating several factors influencing the use of the service. First, price differences for databases favor certain disciplines; second, research needs in some disciplines are more dependent on current literature than are others; third, some departments choose to allocate much more funding for computer search research than do others. Lastly, certain faculty have been more successful than others in obtaining grants to aid their research.

Mindful of these considerations, the ten departments which use the search service the most are:

First:

Accounting
Education
Mgt/Mkt/Systems

Second:

Economics/Finance
History

Third:

Biology

Fourth:

Medical School (Non-
medical Searches)

Fifth:

Psychology

Sixth:

Classics/Modern Languages
Theology

-Chris LeBeau

Newsletter of the Relnert/Alumni Library, Creighton University

1987

Year of the
Reader

 in the Library