Doris W. Neustadt Wing

Bizzell Memorial Library

The University of Oklahoma

May 7, 1982
"Without an excellent library
no university can fulfill its responsibilities
either to instruction or research.
No priority can be higher, no progress more consequential
than the achievement of excellence
in our university libraries."

Dr. William S. Banowsky
President
The University of Oklahoma
With the opening of the Doris W. Neustadt Wing of Bizzell Memorial Library the University of Oklahoma takes a significant step forward in its quest for academic excellence. In this handsome, well-ordered building, 1,000 new study spaces afford quiet surroundings for concentration and reflection; advanced information and research services provide appropriate support for the University's outstanding programs. Most of the Libraries' basic services—including circulation, reserve, photocopying, current periodicals, microforms, interlibrary loan, and the card catalog—are located here. Two special collections, the Bass Business History Collections and the History of Science Collections, are housed in specially designed, environmentally controlled facilities.

The superior quality of design and construction in the Neustadt Wing reflects the strong commitment on the part of the state and its private citizens to strengthen Oklahoma's teaching facilities. The University of Oklahoma and its Libraries are a major resource in the Southwest. Today, they are better able than ever to help meet the educational and research needs of tomorrow's students and scholars.

SuH. Lee
Dean, University Libraries
Doris Westheimer, daughter of Oklahoma pioneers Mr. and Mrs. Max Westheimer, was born in Ardmore, Indian Territory. While attending Barnard College of Columbia University, she met and married Walter Neustadt of New York City. From the time of her marriage in 1917, Ardmore has been her home and center of her rich and full life.

The raising of three sons (Walter Jr., Jean, and Allan of Ardmore) and one daughter (Joan Weil of Dallas) did nothing to diminish her involvement in civic and cultural affairs. She was a charter member of the Ladies of the Leaf, one of the oldest literary clubs in Oklahoma; has been an active participant in garden clubs, musical organizations, and other civic groups; and since 1970 has accumulated over 1400 hours of active service with the Women's Auxiliary of Southern Oklahoma Memorial Hospital. For many years she has been a trustee of the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, Colorado, and currently serves as a board member of the Goddard Center for the Visual and Performing Arts.

Her active association with the University of Oklahoma began in 1940 when she, along with her husband and sister, Mrs. Alexander Wells, gave to the University the land which became the nucleus of the Max Westheimer Airport. More recently, she was responsible for the endowment of the Neustadt International Prize for Literature. She has been a fellow of the University as well as a University of Oklahoma Associate. Above all, her love for and appreciation of both the spoken and written word has resulted in her children's desire to have her name connected with this new addition to the Bizzell Memorial Library.
The Doris W. Neustadt Wing is the first of several important additions to campus facilities undertaken by President William S. Banowsky. Designed by Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum of St. Louis, this striking structure is architecturally harmonious with and faithful to the style of Bizzell Memorial Library as well as Evans Hall. The magnificent plaza and garden areas under construction ensure that the Neustadt Wing of Bizzell Memorial Library will become the focal point of the campus.

The building contains seven floors, two of which are below ground, and occupies 150,000 square feet. The interior was designed and finished with its users in mind. Open and airy with few interior walls, this library offers great flexibility for future change. The Neustadt Wing will provide students and faculty with a very pleasant atmosphere for study and scholarly inquiry.
Main Floor

The first floor of the new library with the main entrance on the west side of the building offers the Libraries' three main service areas: card catalog and bibliography, circulation, and information. On the north side of this floor is the card catalog and bibliography area with consultation and study tables. It will also contain computer terminals for catalog access.

To the south is the circulation desk where students can charge out books using the Libraries' new on-line circulation system. Reserve reading materials are obtained at the circulation desk. A low counter at one end accommodates physically disabled users. Interlibrary loan pickup and return are available at the circulation desk.

Directly opposite the main entrance is the information desk where users can receive assistance and instruction in using the card catalog, the reference collection, periodical indexes, and the computer terminals for the OCLC and RLIN bibliographic networks as well as all other services in the Libraries. A reading room for visually impaired students is nearby. Bookstacks and additional study areas occupy the remainder of this floor.
Lower Level 2

A large, beautifully landscaped lightwell at the base of the clock tower provides a high degree of natural light to Lower Level 2. With one entire wall of glass, the home of the Libraries' technical processing operations does not seem to be two floors below ground.

Primarily a non-public area, Lower Level 2 contains acquisitions, cataloging, serials cataloging, and data processing. This open, spacious floor features modular work stations and handsome landscape dividers for maximum flexibility. An under-floor conduit system for electricity, telephone lines, and computer cable allows for easy relocation of work stations. The Libraries' data processing operations, which support a new on-line circulation system, are on this floor.

Lower Level 2 contains a 144-seat auditorium which will be used for staff meetings, bibliographic instruction, and special events such as the Libraries' annual Shakespeare festival.
Lower Level 1

The large lightwell also benefits users of Lower Level 1, an area of extremely high activity. Located here are the current periodicals room, microforms, newspapers, the copy shop, and a student/faculty lounge. The current periodicals room contains attractive comfortable lounge chairs, numerous individual study carrels, table seating, and shelving for 10,000 current journal titles.

The microforms area contains 52 reader stations, many with new microfilm and microfiche readers, three coin-operated microform reader-printers, storage cabinets, and dimmable lights for good reading conditions. The copy shop contains both photocopy machines and microform reader-printers, and two service counters provide convenient access for library users. With vending services provided, the student-faculty lounge is an attractive, comfortable location for taking a break. A large loading dock allows easy access to service vehicles. Beyond these areas to the east in the older part of the building are bookstacks, study areas, and faculty studies.
Second Floor

The Libraries' administration occupies the second floor in the new wing, except for a typing room. Included in the dean of Libraries' office are a reception area, administrative offices, and a conference room. Beyond the dean's office to the east are bookstacks, reading areas, and faculty studies.
The third floor is devoted to bookstacks, faculty studies, reading areas, and group studies. A variety of seating is found in this area: lounge seats, individual study carrels (including some for physically disabled users), table seating, etc. Around the edge of the stack area are several faculty studies, group studies, and a large smoking lounge. Near the stairway at the building’s center is a service area containing a computer terminal, periodicals printout, and copy machine. A “reference hotline” telephone connects users directly to the information desk on the main floor. The stack area to the east in the old building contains additional seating and study rooms.
Fourth Floor

This floor is identical to the third floor in the new wing. Government documents, a major resource and service area, is located in the east end of the old building on this floor with a large reading and reference area, microform readers, and a new service desk.
Fifth Floor

Two of the Libraries' outstanding special collections, History of Science and Business History, are attractively located on the top floor of the new addition. Each has its own reading room, staff offices, and stack areas. Major features include load-bearing floors for movable compact shelving, a Halon fire-extinguishing system, and environmentally controlled shelving areas. Space for graduate and faculty research has been provided as well.