Oklahoma's Crown Jewel
Library to Have Capacity of Million Books When Finished

By Jesse L. Rader, '08, Librarian

The modern university library plan has been standardized, usually the only variation from this type being due to local needs and problems. Thus in the new library of the University of Oklahoma, the reference room is on the second floor; the graduate rooms are on the ground floor; and the reading rooms for undergraduates are on the first floor. This division of work is regarded as of fundamental importance.

The new library building is collegiate Gothic in style of architecture, and is located at the head of the proposed new oval facing south; although the main entrance will be on that side, provision has been made for two entrances on the north side of the building. Located on the same side of the building the book stacks will be seven stories high, but it is probable that only five stories will be constructed at this time. The five stories will have an estimated capacity of 281,000 volumes, and the total capacity of the stacks when finished will be well over one million volumes. As the library now has well over 100,000 volumes, and sixty-five per cent of these have been acquired in the last eight years, it will be seen that the room for expansion is not too great.

The reserve reading room and the periodical reading room are on the first floor. The loan desk on this floor will be used for reserve books only; provision is made for the main loan or circulation desk on the second floor opposite the main reading room, but it is possible that this desk may not be used until the stack room is completed. The offices and work rooms are also on the first floor; the bibliography room will be located between the cataloging and order departments.

A special feature will be the browsing room which is also on the first floor. The newer university libraries have what is known as the standard library room, composed of selections from the best books in the world. In addition to this we hope to have in this room a selection of the newer books to give students and faculty an opportunity to see and perhaps read them. As nothing will be circulated from this room, the new books will later go to the stacks for general circulation. Contrary to the general belief this room will be strictly supervised at all times, but unfortunately it is not probable that this room can be finished at present.

Adequate provision has been made to encourage graduate study. On the second floor of the stacks provision is made for carrels or cubicles. These are small rooms (about four by five) partially shut off from the stacks. In addition to this al-
ternate rows of stacks will be so constructed that a desk may be inserted in place of a shelf. As the aisles are wide, this will permit free passage for those using the stacks. A few of these will be kept free from assignment; others will be assigned for a limited time only to those who can show a real claim to them. In no case will anyone be assigned a private office in the building, nor will keys be issued to anyone except administrative officials.

It is of fundamental importance that a library building should be susceptible of expansion. It should be planned so that all corridors, reading rooms and stack rooms may be added to without injury either to the beauty or use of the building. No one now living can predict accurately the needs of a library twenty years from the present time. A great deal of space is required for books and readers.

If funds are available, the periodical reading room will be furnished with a series of cubby holes supplied with doors to keep out the dust. This will not only increase the neatness of the room but will prove convenient to readers. The University of Michigan library and the University of Kansas library, among others, have similar arrangement of their periodical rooms.

The main reading room on the second floor will be entirely shut off from any noise or confusion in the corridors; the windows are very high furnishing an abundance of light everywhere. It will also be a room of unusual distinction in beauty and design. The furnishings, designed primarily for the comfort of readers, and efficiency in use, will at the same time harmonize with the architectural design of the building. The reading rooms will seat over 500 persons at one time.

**A Helping Hand Needed**

While the budget requests of the university and the building program will be taken up in detail in the April issue of The Sooner Magazine, we pause for a minute to let Sooners know some of the major needs of the university, which the state legislature has been asked to supply.

The total requirements of the university for the first year of the biennium are $2,582,891.81 (which the state budget officer cut to $2,125,220), distributed as follows: $1,173,716.81 for salaries, $610,000 for new buildings, $333,363.77 for maintenance, etc.

The second year requirements call for $2,476,172.81 (which the state budget officer reduced to $2,094,000), which sum includes $1,065,000 for salaries, $358,863.77 for maintenance and $560,000 for new buildings.

First on the list of new buildings is the biological science building; and there are few who will gainsay the need of that department to first claim. At present, the department shares with the University of Oklahoma Press the genetics building, and houses its valuable equipment in the old frame building that once served as a gymnasium. Second on the list of buildings is the journalism building, already endorsed by the Oklahoma Press association.

* * *

Miss Dorothy Gilbert, '27 arts-sc., is court clerk deputy at Duncan.