

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY (1902)

(from Report of the Board of Regents of the University of Arizona for the year ending Dec. 31, 1902)

Department of Library  
University of Arizona

Tucson, Arizona, December 20, 1902

F. Yale Adams, President University of Arizona:

Sir: I have the honor to make the following report of the condition of the University Library on December 17, 1902, together with such matter as may be of interest in connection therewith:

Bound volumes, catalogued . . . . .	6,031
Bound volumes, not catalogued (reports) . . . . .	<u>925</u>
Total bound volumes . . . . .	6,956
Bound volumes added this year . . . . .	549
Outstanding orders, (est. vols.) . . . . .	300
Pamphlets (est.) . . . . .	12,000
Total cost of Library to University, including fixtures and card catalogue, but not including gifts (est. \$225) . . . . .	\$12,045.14

The value of the Library to the University lies in the fact that it has been chosen with much care. The policy in buying books has always been to equip each department of the University as completely as possible without infringing upon the deserts of other departments. The library is therefore a working library for the students and instructors in each branch of University study and investigation. We are making it, as far as possible, a reference library. This necessitates the buying of expensive works and sets of works, and the collecting of complete sets of periodicals. In this last specialty the library, considering its size and age, is especially strong. We have at present thirteen complete and twenty-seven incomplete sets of bound periodicals in general science, engineering, botany, zoology, chemistry, education, history and social science. Nearly all periodicals of permanent value are bound as received, and one or two complete sets are secured each year.

It is a matter of great congratulation that the library is soon to be housed in a new building where the present danger from fire will no longer be a menace.

Attention must be called to the fact that money will shortly be needed for furnishing the new Library. The \$25,000 appropriated by the last Legislature for building will all be needed in the structure itself, since it is planned to house under one roof the Library, the Museum, and the executive offices of the University. The need is all the more pressing, since the prices of materials and labor have risen greatly since the original appropriation was made.

In respect to the Library, the furniture required will be tables, chairs, desks, book cases, book stacks, filing cases and catalogue cases. All the furniture must be of the quality and style required for special library use, and as far as possible should be fire proof. Both wall cases and book stacks should be of metal throughout. A complete heating and ventilating system must be provided for the new building, and that all danger from fire be removed, the boiler or heater itself must be outside the building. All this will require an expenditure of at least \$5,000 in addition to the amount already at hand.

I would call your attention to the great desirability of establishing in connection with the University a system of traveling libraries, such as exists in at least nineteen older states. In this day of books and libraries no argument is needed to show the utility of circulating books among the people at large, and of bringing reading directly to the home. The traveling library system would involve the creation by the Legislature of a library commission of three or five persons or the constituting of a Board of Regents as such; this commission to serve without pay and to expend the funds given it by the territory. It would be their duty to buy books and send them out in small collections, for a limited time, to communities applying for them, and to keep them in constant circulation.

To illustrate: A library of 25 volumes, packed in a box which would also serve as a book-case, would be sent to one community applying for it in each county. After six months this library would be returned to the University and another of 25 volumes sent in its place. The first library would then be sent into another county and so on around the territory, till the books were worn out. It would take several years to go around. These libraries might be (1) general, including such subjects as education, sociology, science, applied science, literature, biography, travel, history; or (2) selected, on request of the community applying for them, on any subject of study, as art, history, travel, sociology, science, literature.

The communities applying for the books would pay all transportation charges and a small fee for wear and tear, say \$5 each year. During the second year the annual appropriation would furnish a second library in each county, and during the third year a third library, till the money would be no longer sufficient to buy new libraries, but would all be required to keep up those in circulation.

Some reasons for establishing a system of traveling libraries are:

- (1) In a sparsely settled country like our own territory it is impossible for people to get good books to read unless they buy or rent them.
- (2) The University should make all possible efforts to extend its work to the benefit of all the people, and could with the greatest propriety and with little expense reach many communities, find their needs and supply these, and thus come into closer practical touch with home wants.
- (3) Through women's clubs, societies, guilds, and fraternities that undertake some form of study, the University could spread its influence by promoting a popular kind of education that is greatly in demand.

(4) Young people especially could be reached, at first through books, with the hope and reasonable expectation that their ambition would be aroused to seek the advantages of the University. Many people would be brought into sympathy with the whole University, if they should find that through books it supplies some one of their needs. The University would reach through this means the very class of people it wishes to reach and can most benefit.

(5) The books circulated, whether of general nature or on some particular subject, would be of the highest class, selected by persons of experience, in touch with the library commission work of other states and profiting by their experience. This is not the case when books are rented by a commercial circulating library whose object is to rent the greatest number of volumes regardless of quality.

The sum of \$1,500 annually would place at least one library in each county the first year, two the second, and three the third year, and would probably maintain four or five libraries in circulation in each county thereafter. I should be pleased to supply further information, and statistics of what the older states are doing in this line of work.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOWARD J. HALL, Librarian