

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT, 1900

(Copy of the Report of the Board of Regents of the
University of Arizona. January 1, 1901.)

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA,

Tucson, Arizona.
(Dec. 1, 1900)

President Millard M. Parker,

Sir:--I have the honor to make the following report of the condition and needs of the University Library on December, 1900, adding thereto such other information as is naturally connected with a report of this department:

Bound volumes, catalogued4713
" " , not catalogued, consisting mostly of Government Reports	467
Unbound volumes, periodicals.	<u>210</u>
Total	5390

Pamphlets and unbound reports, estimated.	10000
Total cost to University of bound volumes	\$8,026.92
" " " of periodicals unbound	315.00
Total value of gifts (estimated) not including government reports--	

Books	\$.100	
Pictures.	60--	160.00

Total value of fixtures--		
Catalogues.	\$.300	
Tables.	60	
Cases	220	
Desks	20	
Miscellaneous	25--	625.00

Total value of library, not including pamphlets and
government reports, \$9126.92

The sum of one thousand dollars, which according to established custom has been appropriated annually for the purchase of books, periodicals and bindings, has up to the last two years been sufficient for the growing needs of the Library. Last year an extra amount of \$500, appropriated from the Morrill fund, met the demands upon the Library, caused by the increased attendance of students. This year the thousand dollars is insufficient to allow the Library to keep pace with the other departments of the institution, or to supply the demands made upon it by instructors and advanced students. We must have more money if the library is to fill its natural place in an institution of well balanced equipment.

I take the present occasion to call again to your attention the urgent needs of the Library for more room and for quarters less in danger from fires.

At the beginning of the present school year it seemed impossible that the Library could continue longer in its present crowded quarters. In considering the proposition of enlarging the Library by removing the partition between it and the English Class-room, we found that there were no rooms in the building where English Classes might be held if the present class rooms were done away with. We were then forced to re-arrange totally the Library room, filling up our already crowded space till the cases now stand from sixteen to twenty-six inches apart. Even this crowding leaves the reading room less than twenty feet square, and since this room is used by all University Students as a study room in vacant hours, no farther comment upon the narrowness of space is necessary.

The risk to the Library from fire is not lessened as the years go by. The main University building which houses the Library, is constructed of inflammable material and is exposed to such menacing conditions as are constantly present in the chemical laboratories, in the heating of the building by eighteen stoves, in the use of kerosene lamps and in the imperfect wiring of the electric light system. I am informed that last year an incipient blaze caused by defective wiring was discovered in the room immediately beneath the Library, but fortunately was put out before any damage was done. Furthermore the fire apparatus of the building seems quite insufficient even for slight emergencies.

The Library has reached such a stage of growth that its loss would be almost irreparable to the institution. I will mention one case only in illustration. We purchased last year the North American Review complete from 1815. This set, so far as we could find, was the only set on sale in the United States, and came partly from the library of the famous book collector, George Brinley. If this set were lost, so rare has the periodical become, that even if we could again collect it, the expense to us would be far beyond the original cost of \$312. This periodical is only one of several that we have completed, others going back from twenty to sixty years, and constantly increasing in value.

With the sanction of yourself, I have procured preliminary plans of and estimates on the cost of a Library building, such as our necessities here demand. It is found that a handsome and substantial stone and iron structure, housing the Library, the Museum, the administrative offices of the President of the University, and the Board of Regents, together with the offices of the Director of the School of Mines, and containing two special class rooms, could be built for the sum of \$30,000. This would be a practically fire-proof structure.

The use of the Library is constantly increasing. From October 1st to December 1st, 440 volumes were drawn out by students and instructors, not counting the reserved and reference books in constant daily use in the reading room.

Owing to the re-arrangement of the stacks made necessary by the crowded condition, almost the entire time of the librarian and the assistant librarian from the beginning of the school year up to date, has been consumed in handling, assorting and replacing the books and pamphlets. We are now ready to begin a further extension of the system of classification, and we hope to reduce the Library as speedily as possible to the same system used in the majority of libraries in this country. In order to carry out this work we shall need some fifty dollars to be expended before June next in Library fixtures.

At present the Library is open to students from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on school days and it requires the constant presence of the librarian or the assistant librarian during that time, except during the forty minutes recess for luncheon. On Saturday it is open seven and one-half hours, a student assistant taking charge on these last two days except for Saturday afternoons.

Very respectfully submitted,

HOWARD J. HALL, Librarian.

University, December 1, 1900.