Annual Report of the Library Committee, 1959-60

1. For the fifth consecutive year the Library was given a larger budget for its purchases. The amount for capital expenditures, largely books and periodicals, rose from $24,000 in 1958-59 to $47,000 for 1959-60. In addition the administration in response to pleas increased these amounts by a grant of $8,500 in 1958-59, and three successive grants in 1959-60 providing further funds of $10,000 for books and equipment and $2,500 for additional part-time aid to catch up in cataloging. Beyond that an allocation of $2,750 to the Renaissance Guild permitted a significant gain in library holdings in books and microfilms in that field. The financial aid for cataloging has permitted the processing of all currently ordered volumes but not that of a large backlog of gifts and previously purchased libraries still stored in the basement.

2. The Committee, with members from the science departments participating, consulted with Mr. Leo Jakobson, the University Planner, and consequently passed on January 29, 1960, the following resolutions for his guidance:

   (a) "That the present site of the Baker Field House and heating plant should be reserved in the master plan of development for the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee for the construction of a large, centrally located general university library.

   (b) "That space should be reserved in the area to the west of Maryland Avenue for an interim Science Library, if necessary.

   (c) "That the present library must be expanded shortly to meet continually growing needs.

   (d) "That any buildings or additions constructed outside the site reserved for the general library should be so planned that they could be converted to other than library use. Even with additional building, the possibilities of the present site of the Library are not adequate for the library needs of an institution of 20,000 students."

3. On March 18, 1960, the Committee and the Librarian met with UW--M Campus Planning Committee and jointly made these points:

   (a) Stack space will be exhausted by the spring of 1962 even at the present rate of expenditure.

   (b) Study space for students is well below the recommended percentage of library seating to the student body. The Librarian estimated that by the fall of 1961 students will have to be turned away at all busy hours.

   (c) Faculty work space must be provided.

   (d) The Library staff must be enlarged.

4. The Library Committee urgently requested a number one priority for the expansion of the Kenwood Library in the budget for 1961-63. However, the library building project remains in the 1963-65 budget with no assigned priority.