

UO Students Library Contest Largest in United States

By THORA WILLIAMS
Emerald Feature Editor

"Reading is the key!" This is the national library week theme this year. And apparently the idea is accepted by 183 students who have entered their libraries in the University's annual Library Day contest today.

The student libraries, each with up to 50 books, will be displayed for public viewing at the Main Library from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and 2-4 p.m. Sunday. Prizes totaling \$695 will be awarded in the Newspaper Reading Room at 3:30 p.m. today by Carl W. Hintz, University librarian.

"This is the most entries we've ever had," said Miss Bernice Rise, who originated the Library Day

contest in 1938 to celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the Main Library. She has been in charge of the yearly contest ever since and has seen it take its place as the largest student library contest in the United States.

Moving Day

Miss Rise, readers' consultant and Browsing Room librarian, was head of circulation when the Main Library opened for the first time. "I'll never forget that day—May 3, 1937," she said. "It was a terrific job, moving all of those books from Fenton Hall. We had plans and diagrams all worked out and first moved the ones that were the least used."

The new library was built under the sponsorship of Mathew Hale Douglas, head librarian from 1908 to 1942, Miss Rise said. "He was so proud of the new library, and he asked me to think of some activity to celebrate the day it opened. We started the contest, and we've had it every year since."

The day is sponsored by the Association of Patrons and Friends of the University Library. Most important in judging is "the selection of titles as they reflect the broadening interests of the person." The monetary value of the books or their total number is not considered important.

Tea After Awards

Graduate and undergraduate students have entered libraries in specialized and general categories and in a special paperback section. Prices in each category range from \$10 to \$25, but one library might win more than one prize. Twenty-five businesses, community organizations and individuals are sponsoring the prizes.

After the awards are made Saturday afternoon, there will be a tea honoring the contestants in the library circulation lobby. Winners of the Peter Pauper Press essay contest, held earlier this year, will also be announced with the student library prize awards.

Those attending Library Day events this afternoon will be able to view a special exhibit of audio-visual materials arranged by Don Hunter, head of the library audio-

visual department.

As another Library Day feature, the Josephine Evans Harpam Silver Award for the best living organization library will be presented at the All-Campus Sing, 8 p.m. Saturday in McArthur Court.

Information Asked

"The Library Day contest kindles a great deal of student interest in books and reading," Hintz said.

Miss Rise said she has had requests for information about the University contest from libraries throughout the United States. An English librarian, touring American college libraries under the British Library Association, was so impressed by the Library Day contest that he wrote about it in articles after returning to England, she recalled.

Department Buys Spectro Machine

A \$14,000 grant from the National Science Foundation has made possible the purchase of an ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometer by the University department of chemistry.

The machine is used in complicated chemical analyses and makes possible the recording and analyzing of the spectra of a large number of substances with great rapidity.

This is the third such machine to be acquired by the chemistry department. Need for the equipment was dictated by the increase in research and graduate training activities in the department which has made it necessary to schedule experiments on the two previously acquired machines on almost a round-the-clock basis.

This is the second piece of equipment to be acquired by the University under an NSF program to provide important pieces of equipment to research centers where there is special need.

Earlier, the chemistry department received nuclear magnetic resonance equipment, also used in chemical analyses.

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