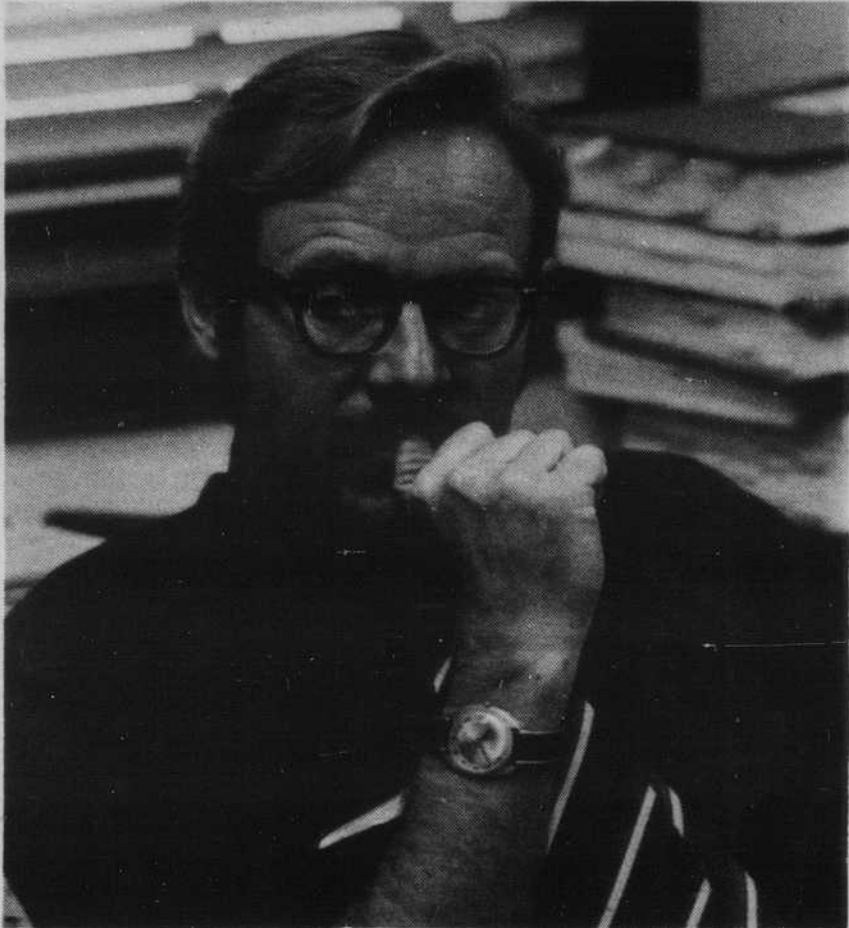




William Axford

Photo by Trish Weisman

New library head seeks systems that favor use, end aggravation

By TRISH WEISMAN
Of the Emerald

"We need systems that encourage people to use the library rather than discourage them," according to the first new University librarian in 25 years, William Axford.

Axford, who took office July 2 after the retirement of Carl Hintz, said in a recent interview that the present circulation system "forces the user to do certain things which are very aggravating. The user has to drive the system."

"It is a serious impediment to education," he continued, because when it takes so long to charge out books, "they (the students) will charge out as few as possible rather than as many as possible."

"We're going to be trying to develop library systems which are oriented toward the needs of the user of the library, rather than requiring the user to bend to the library system's needs. That is the main guiding principle," Axford said.

So how would he solve the problem of charging out books?

"The ultimate solution here is an automated circulation system. In a properly designed automated circulation system, it shouldn't take more than six to eight seconds to charge out a book," Axford said. "It is also possible at reasonable cost."

"An automated system," he said, "gives more reliable data, is more accurate and the data can be interpreted to pinpoint operator errors and to analyze circulation usage."

Axford brings these new ideas to the University from a career that has taken him all over the country, but which began in Oregon.

Born in Montana, he grew up in Portland and earned his bachelors degree in history from Reed College in 1950.

Axford has also studied at the University of Washington and at the University of Denver where he earned his masters in library science and his doctorate in history.

He has worked in New Mexico

for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, for the Denver Post as head librarian and as assistant director and then director of libraries at the University of Denver.

Axford has taught librarianship in various places, including the Universities of Illinois, Denver and Punjab in Pakistan, the last with his wife, also a librarian.

He was director of libraries at Florida Atlantic University from 1967 to 1970 and he comes to the University from Arizona State University, where he was university librarian.

Last June the Association of College and Research Libraries elected Axford their vice-president and president-elect.

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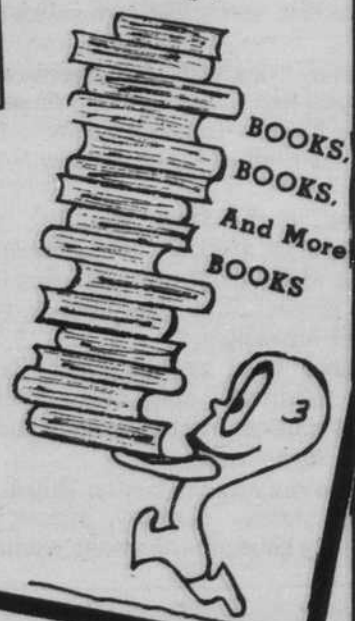
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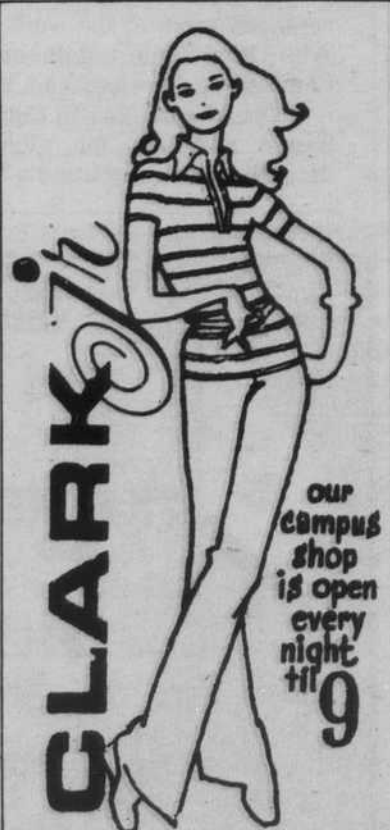


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