

Experts converge on library issues

By MELODY WARD
Of the Emerald

Recent controversy over how the University should cope with a growing space shortage has resulted in a national symposium to be held on campus Thursday and Friday.

The symposium will feature six nationally known scholars and administrators from all over the United States. Their topic is "The Future of Research Libraries," and the goal of the symposium is to discuss several alternative strategies for library development.

The University Library is faced with an immediate need for alternative storage space, according to University Librarian William Axford.

The library currently receives more than 40,000 new volumes annually and has already resorted to temporary shelving. There also is storage of about 120,000 other books in the library basement and a dormitory basement.

State system librarians have presented a proposal to the chancellor of higher education recommending a central storage facility be implemented for use by all state system libraries. But several University faculty members are opposed to the prospect of removing any research materials from the University library.

The proposed central storage facility would be located at Camp Adair, a former military installation north of Corvallis, at a

cost of about \$400,000.

Another alternative is to build an additional wing on the existing library. Axford says the addition would cost from \$1-3 million and would depend on Legislative approval.

Scholars have expressed dislike for the concept of central storage because it would eliminate the opportunity to "browse" randomly and would slow down the research process.

Speakers for the symposium include Frederick Jackson, director of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation of the Big Ten Universities, Illinois; Gordon Williams, executive director of the Center for Research Libraries, Chicago; Donald Swain,

academic vice-president of the University of California, Berkeley; John Schaefer, president of the University of Arizona, Tucson; Stanely McElderry, director of the library and professor of library science at the University of Chicago, and Warren Hollister, professor of history at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

These speakers will address the symposium beginning at 9 a.m. Thursday. On Friday an "open forum" will join the speakers with members of the University community for discussion of topics including the central storage proposal. The session will be held from 9 a.m. until noon.

All symposium events are free, open to the public and will take place in the Robinson Theatre in Villard Hall.

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