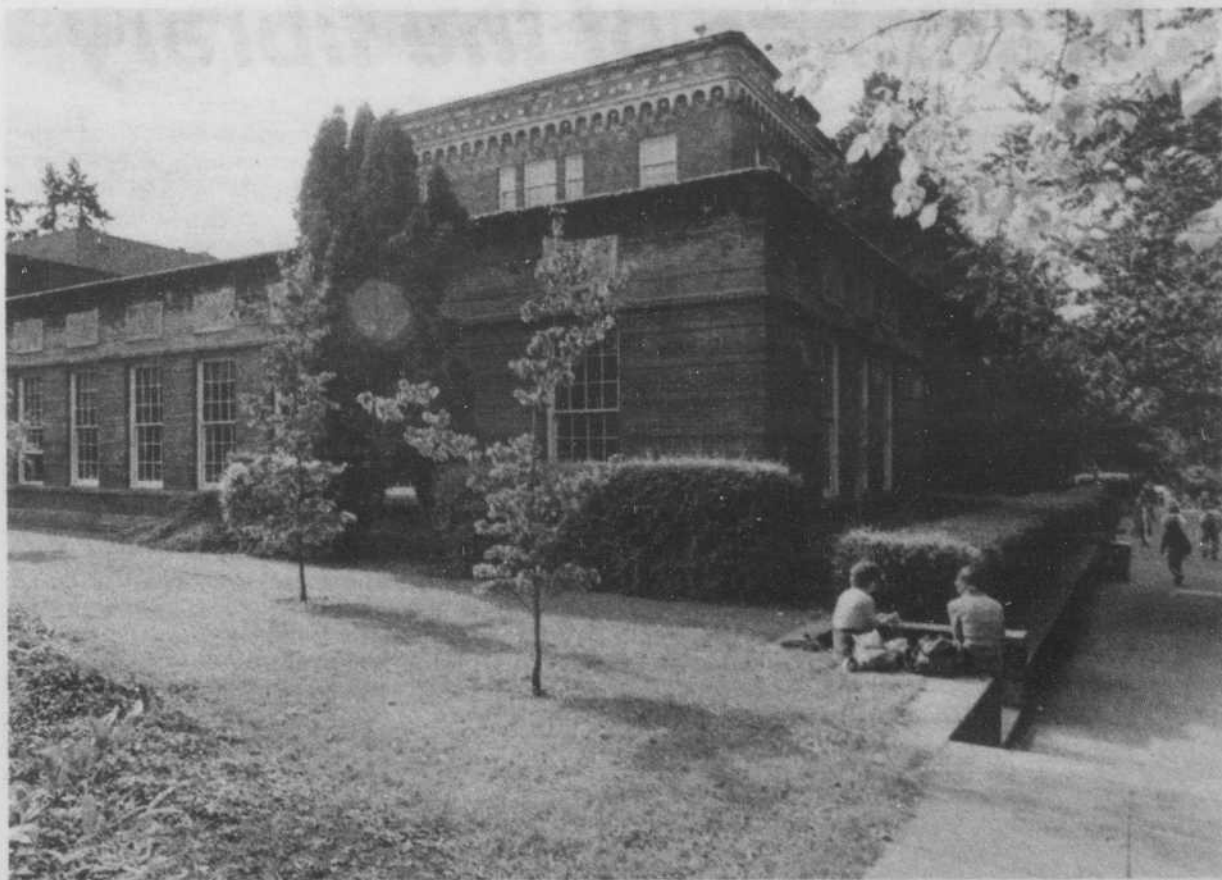




Emerald photo

Shipman says the library has dropped behind its peer institutions.

Library's standard slips

By David Steinmetz
Of the Emerald

With over a million and a half volumes, 20,000 periodicals, and 45 faculty, the University library still ranks as the largest in Oregon.

And students will find a wide variety of services to help them use this and other information in the library.

According to University Librarian George Shipman, the library is quite well-used by students.

"It's been a long time since I've been in a library over-run with students. They know what they want and go after it," Shipman says.

However, the state's budget problems are threatening to make for less to go after, and harder to get after it, Shipman says.

Although it is "a good general collection for a liberal arts university" which "has been very well cared for over the years," inflation has made it difficult to maintain this standard in recent years.

The library's acquisition budget has increased 32 percent since 1977, while the price of published material has risen 60 percent.

Shipman says this has dropped the University library

behind its peer institutions, which includes Colorado, Kansas, and Washington universities.

Despite the decline Shipman remains optimistic.

"I have faith and I have hope that we can turn things around."

This year's budget for the library is expected to be about the same as last year's, and it will depend on student enrollment and the upcoming special legislative session, Shipman says.

A quality faculty at the library can help the situation, Shipman suggests. He is trying to hire more of them as a major turnover in personnel takes place at the library, presumably due to

retirement.

Six faculty positions, including assistant librarian for public services and assistant librarian for technical services were recently filled.

The selection process is continuing for seven other positions.

Shipman says an insufficient budget will leave several positions unfilled.

According to Patricia Silvernail, assistant librarian for public services, students will continue to be employed at the library, and are essential to its operation.

Many work-study students and others will be hired this fall,

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