

Brookens
Bldg

SANGAMON STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
Shepherd Road
Springfield, Illinois 62708

Planning for Brookens Library commenced in March and April 1970 with research and planning being carried out by the firm of Becker and Becker Associates, Inc. of New York. It is interesting to note that at the time this planning was done, none of the present campus buildings were even under construction. The university offices were located in the Myers Building in downtown Springfield; the Library was on the second floor of the Osco building. Only a handful of library employees were then working for the university, and the university librarian had not yet been hired.

The preliminary plans and specifications for the Library were approved by the Board of Regents on February 21, 1971. These specifications called for a four-story library constructed in a hexagonal shape, with extensive exterior use of glass and brick. Although groundbreaking for the building was anticipated in the fall of 1971 with completion by September 1973, delays in the final plans prevented this plan.

Groundbreaking for the building was held on June 23, 1972. The architectural firm for the building was Murphy, Downey, Wooford, and Richman of St. Louis. This firm has specialized in libraries and built the Olin Library at Washington University at St. Louis, Illinois State University at Normal, Illinois, and Illinois College at Jacksonville, Illinois.

It was realized from the beginning that the Library as the first permanent building would have to house both the library and faculty/classrooms, until other permanent structures could be built. Therefore, the building was especially designed to have offices and rooms built of movable partitions to allow flexibility in design and to enable adjustments to changes. Presently, there are 24 classrooms and 200 faculty offices.

The building itself consists of 201,132 gross square feet and cost \$10,395,100, including construction equipment and furniture. The first level consists of work areas and offices for Acquisitions Department, Cataloging Department, the University Archives and Oral History, and the Media Department. The auditorium is also located on this level and has a capacity of 200 seats. It can be used for speakers, films, and other activities and can handle both forward and rear visual projection of films and slides.

The second level is the entrance and houses the library administrative offices, the Circulation Department, Interlibrary Loans, and the Library faculty offices. The reference or Get Help Here Desk is located here as well as the library card catalog, the reference collection, the indexes and abstracts collection, and the Illinois and Federal Documents.

The third level has the remainder of the Federal Documents and the periodicals collection in both hard copy and microform. This floor also has the classrooms and faculty offices, as does the fourth floor, accessed by a separate entrance on level two. The library book collection is located on level four. All levels have a smoking lounge off the main staircase.

Throughout the building, the walls and designs have followed the lines of the roughly hexagonal shape. The ceilings are bare to show the aesthetic beauty of the massive concrete forms, which allow the floors to support exceptionally heavy loads typical of libraries. The carpet is composed of antron and nylon with metallic fibers woven in to reduce static electricity. The color of the carpet is known as "coppertones."

The main staircase is an unusual feature of the building in that it is free-flowing and does not have noticeable support. The elevator next to the staircase is exceptional in that it has a window that looks out over the plaza as the elevator ascends.

Outside the Library, by the main staircase is the courtyard. The metallic structure is the Spaulding Memorial Fountain, the gift of Kathleen S. Spaulding in memory of her husband Charles H. Spaulding. Mr. Spaulding was an internationally recognized authority on chemical engineering and water purification. He is best remembered for the invention of the water precipitator which purifies water and is used throughout the United States today. The Spaulding precipitators are in use at Lake Springfield and at the Sanitary Treatment Plant in Springfield. The fountain is a stylistic representation of the precipitator and was designed by Scopia, Inc. of Chesterfield, Missouri. It is 8 feet in diameter and 4 feet high, and constructed of polished stainless steel.

Both the plaza level and the concourse on level one will be joined with the Public Affairs Center in the future and will enable underground transportation between the two buildings.

LIBRARY FACTS AND FIGURES

Books	202,000
Government Publications	56,000
Periodical Subscriptions	2,700
Microforms	315,000
Non-Print Items	14,000
Number of Library Faculty	11
Civil Service Support Staff	44
Administrators	3

Revised October 1977