

By G. FLINT PURDY

Wayne University Library Buildings

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WAYNE UNIVERSITY was established in 1933 by action of the Board of Education of the City of Detroit consolidating the administration of six separate colleges and professional schools. Enrolment during the fall semester of 1933 was 6209, of whom approximately 2600 were full-time students. By the fall semester of 1949, the university had, in its ten colleges and schools, 20,257 students of whom 8937 were full-time.

In 1933, the entire university, except the Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy was housed in a building which was erected in 1897 to house the City's Central High School. Except for the Medical Library, the Law Library and a small Nursing-

Social Work collection, the university's library facilities remain in that building today, in former classrooms, laboratories, offices, auditorium and cafeteria.

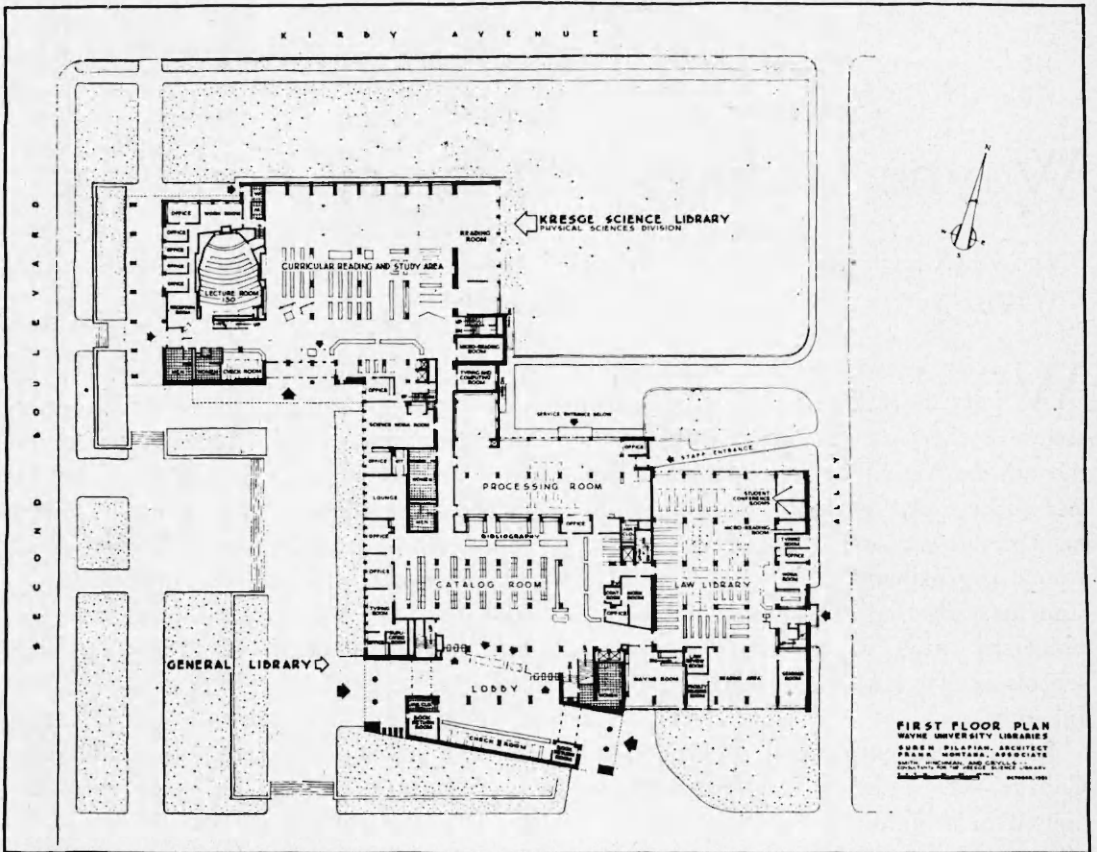
During 1949, the taxpayers of the school district approved a 2½ mill special annual levy for five years, primarily to enable the Board of Education to expand its school plant, which lagged seriously behind needs. One-half mill was assigned to the university and 3 million dollars allocated to construct and furnish a university library building. Shortly thereafter, the Kresge Foundation granted one million dollars to the university to erect and equip a science library building.

In July of 1949, a library building program was presented to the architects (Pifalian and Montana of Detroit). The program was subsequently revised to provide a separate Kresge Science Library building



Detroit Times

The Kresge Science Library Building (left) and the General Library



and further revised to bring costs within the budget. Construction of the Kresge building was begun in June, 1950, the General Library about a year later. Schedules have been in the realm of mythology, but the Kresge building is now scheduled for completion on February 15, 1953. We devoutly hope to be in full operation in both buildings by the opening of the fall semester of 1953.

Our building program evolved over a dozen years and through as many distinct stages. The University Library Committee played a major role in the planning process. We gradually agreed on the following basic conclusions and assumptions:

1. That our full-time enrolment would reach 12,000 within a decade, and that a building which would meet the needs of full-time students would also be adequate for part-time students, the two groups being on the campus largely at different times.

2. That centralized library service to the colleges and schools located on the main campus is dictated for the foreseeable future by economic considerations.

3. That changing patterns of higher education, here and elsewhere, dictate a high degree of flexibility of plant.

4. That maximum accessibility of library materials is a primary necessity, conservation important but secondary.

5. That our projected 12,000 full-time students will be served more efficiently by four subject-divisional service units (plus the Law Library), under one roof, than by a smaller or larger number of units.

6. That maximum accessibility will be furthered by a separate open shelf collection in each subject division for undergraduates.

The program presented to the architects prescribed a broad subject organization of materials and services, "designed to facilitate the subject approach to print, with user-level recognized as a subordinate or-

ganizational factor within the . . . divisions" (humanities, science and engineering, the social studies, and education). The Law Library constitutes a fifth service unit, the first floor general circulation and information desks a sixth.

In the General Library building, the first floor will be occupied by the public catalog, the collection of trade and national bibliographies, an information desk with a small collection of ready-reference tools, the general circulation desk with its accompanying office and workroom, the acquisitions and processing area, the administrative offices, the staff lounge, the Law Library, and the Wayne Room.

The second floor will house the Humanities Division, the third floor the Social Studies Division, and the fourth floor the Education Division. The Humanities and Social Studies floors each have:

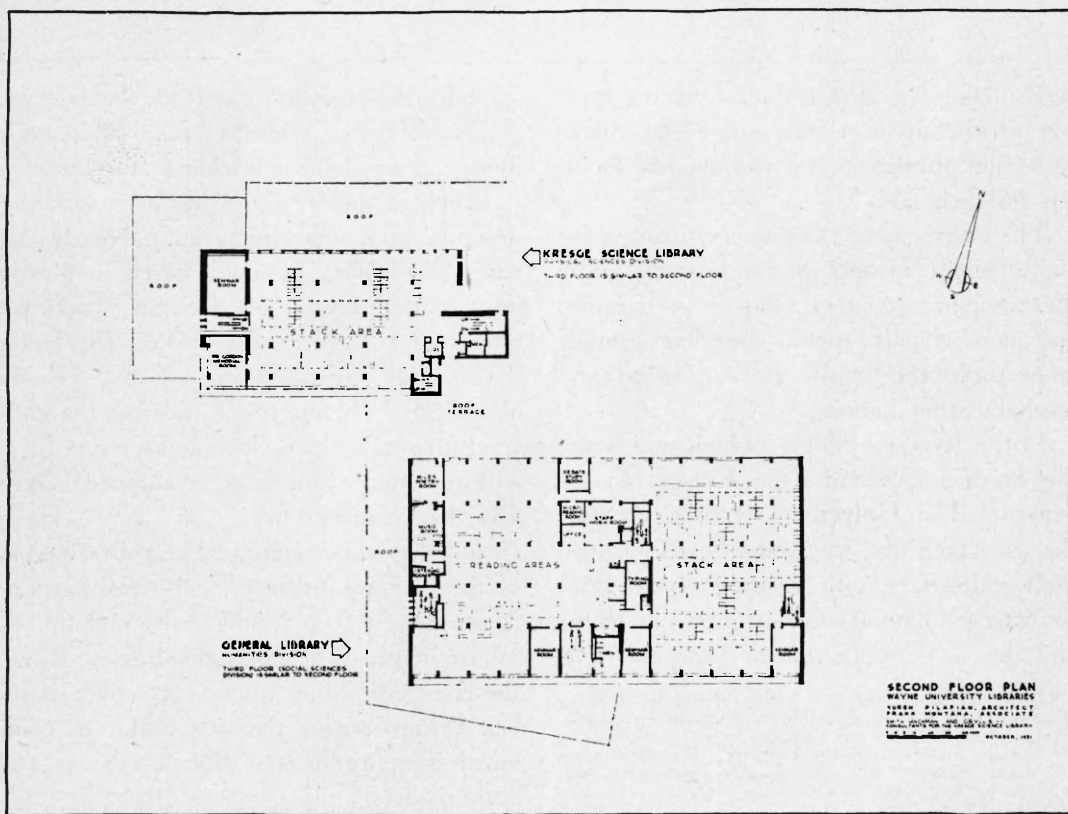
1. A central core area with a circulation

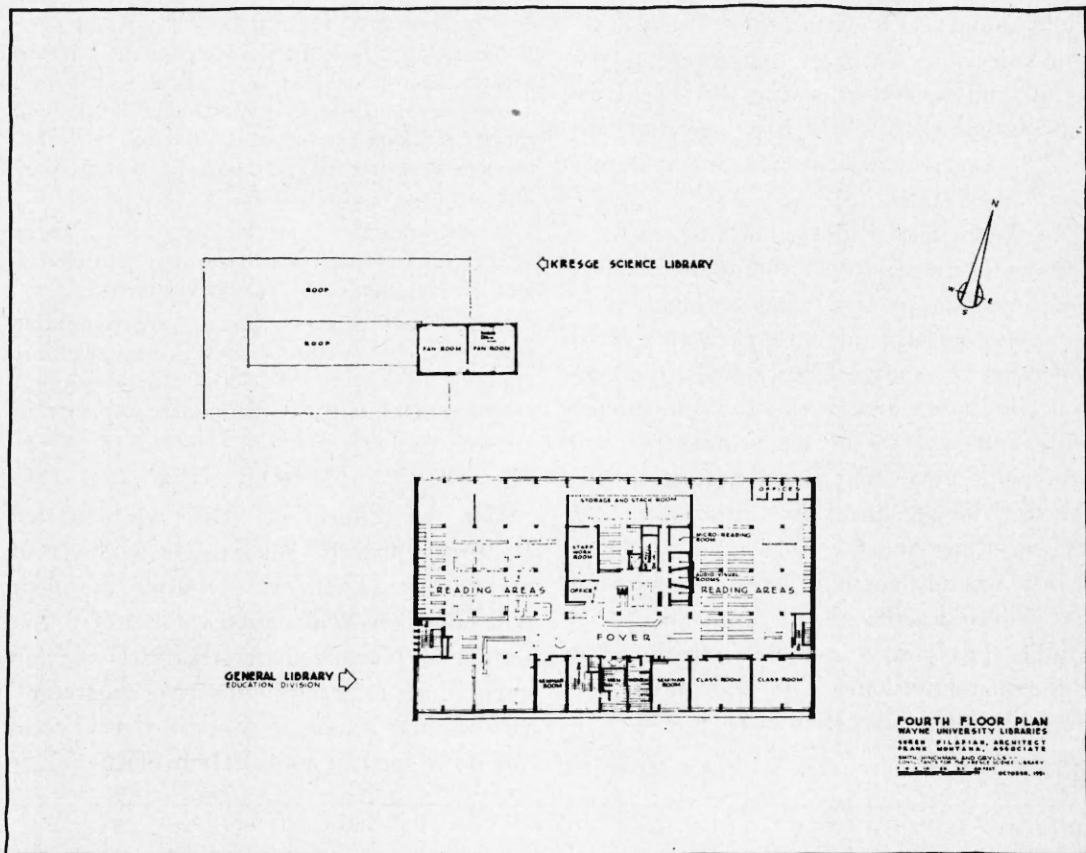
desk, a reference desk and collection, the divisional catalog, a limited collection of current periodicals on display-type shelves, a small closed-reserve collection, staff office-workroom space, the book conveyor and pneumatic tubes, elevators, stairways, restrooms, a typing room and a micro-reading room.

2. An undergraduate reading area (about 10,000 sq. ft.) with approximately 250 chairs, and alcove-stacks for 25,000 volumes.

3. A stack-research area (approximately 12,000 sq. ft.) with 55 carrels, six graduate study alcoves with 78 chairs, three seminar rooms, stacks with an immediate capacity of 125,000 volumes, and 135 lockers (15" x 15" x 18" and 18" x 15" x 18").

On the Education floor, we departed from the plan of subdivision by level of user. Instead, the east end of the floor will house the "Education Laboratory" collection of juvenile materials, textbooks and curriculum materials, plus two classrooms, two seminar rooms, four audio-visual rooms and four faculty consultation offices. The





core includes a closed stack and the west end of the division will house the alcove collection of open shelf materials, and facilities for their use.

The basement of the General Library includes about 11,000 sq. ft. of stack space, the receiving room, a bindery preparation and book repair room, the photographic laboratory, the vault, storage space and mechanical equipment.

In the Kresge building, which will house the Science Division (the Kresge-Hooker Scientific Library), the first floor includes the core facilities, the under-graduate open shelf collection with reading room space for its use, a small auditorium (134 seats) and the "off-campus service"¹ offices. The

¹Our "off-campus services" are offered to industry and to the world of scientific scholarship on a self-supporting basis under the sponsorship of the Friends of the Kresge Hooker Scientific Library. Translations are the major service, but photographic duplication, off-campus lending, and bibliographic services are also offered.

second and third floors will be occupied by stacks, carrels, seminar rooms, lockers, lounge chairs, and side chairs at tables.

Much of the furniture has been specially designed and manufactured. Nearly all chairs are colorfully upholstered in plastic impregnated fabrics—a decision which we may regret twenty years hence (or less). The stack installation is by Globe-Wernicke. Remington Rand has the contract for catalog cases, loan desks, etc.

The two buildings combined have 202,384 square feet of floor space (2,673,000 cubic feet). The contract cost of the General Library, exclusive of equipment, was \$1.30 per cubic foot—\$16.60 per square foot. The corresponding costs for the Kresge building were \$1.37 and \$20.26. Initial capacity of the two buildings combined is approximately 800,000 books and 2200 readers.