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## William Robertson Coe Library: Reflections on the Past

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Reflections on the Past





# Introduction and Library Beginnings



University of Wyoming Libraries celebrated an important milestone in 2007—William Robertson Coe Library’s 50th anniversary. This publication commemorates Coe Library’s golden anniversary and includes information about the 1957 Coe Library, the library’s benefactor William Robertson Coe, the philosophy behind the new library, the national and local events during 1957, and current and future directions for the University of Wyoming Libraries.

The University of Wyoming’s libraries formed in 1887 with a donation of three hundred books from

Charles E. Clay of Rock Creek. The first location of University Libraries was in Old Main, the only building on the UW campus when the university first opened for enrollment.<sup>1</sup> The library endured years of overcrowding in the Old Main building, until UW President Aven Nelson made a \$200,000 legislative appropriation request for a new library building. Completed in 1923, the Aven Nelson building housed the library as well as the College of Law and several humanities departments. The library remained in the Aven Nelson building until 1957 when the William Robertson Coe Library opened.<sup>2</sup>



**Opposite page:** UW Librarian Grace Raymond Hebard in the first location of University Libraries in Old Main. (Photo, AHC Collection)

**Top:** Artist’s sketch of William Robertson Coe Library. (1957 Wyo Annual)

**Front Cover:** William Robertson Coe Library, Circa 1958. (Photo, AHC Collection)

## Endnotes

- 1 *The Library Associate* 4:1 (Spring 1991): 2.
- 2 *The Library Associate* 1:1 (Spring 1988): 1.



With only one four-year educational institution in the state, Wyoming should have the best library facilities it is possible to provide

G. D. Humphrey  
UW President, 1945–1964

# The Need for a New Library: *Design and Construction in 1957*

Due to the Cold War's resulting push for American academic excellence, the University of Wyoming decided a new library was an important and urgent goal. UW President G.D. Humphrey said, "With only one four-year educational institution in the state, Wyoming should have the best library facilities it is possible to provide. Someone has very fittingly said, that 'the true university of these days is a collection of books.' Certainly the library should be the center of learning on any campus, and adequate space should be provided for making the most use of that center of learning."<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Richard L. Hillier of UW's English department was the appointed library committee chairman. The committee worked on the new library plans for two years. Dr. Ralph Ellsworth, Director of the State University of Iowa Libraries visited Laramie as a planning consultant for the new library.<sup>2</sup> The UW trustees approved the plan to build a new library in 1950. However, the 1951 Wyoming legislature rejected the \$2,267,425.99 requested by UW for capital projects—which included a \$1,400,000 budget line for the new library building. Wyoming Governor Frank Barrett recommended \$201,435 in total for university building purposes and zero funds for a new library building that year.

**Opposite Page:** William Robertson Coe Library Blue Prints  
(Photo, AHC Collection)

In spite of the funding roadblocks, the library plans came to fruition. William Robertson Coe, a British financier who lived both in Oyster Bay, New York and Cody, Wyoming, bequeathed the university \$1.2 million for the new library and School of American Studies department which was to reside in the library building. Milward Simpson, University of Wyoming Board of Trustees President

and friend of Coe, was instrumental in securing Coe's donation for the new library building.<sup>3</sup> The library gift discussions materialized due to Simpson's and Coe's observation that the University of Wyoming did not have an adequate library to house Coe's extensive western book collection.

The Wyoming legislature eventually authorized a matching gift in the form of a bond for \$750,000 to assist with building costs. Oil royalties funded this bond.<sup>4</sup> In all, Coe's gifts and bequests to the University of Wyoming were the largest that the university had ever been given at that time—and totaled approximately four million dollars between 1951–1961.<sup>5</sup>

May, 1956 ushered in the ground-breaking of the

new William Robertson Coe Library building. The building was typical of the modular architectural style which was very popular during the 1950s. Coe Library Director Orwin Rush promoted the idea of a new modular building, rather than an expansion of the Aven Nelson building.<sup>6</sup> The architects awarded the contract were Eliot Hitchcock and Clinton



Construction of William Robertson Coe Library (Photo courtesy of Charles Baumann)



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Hitchcock who partnered with architectural firm Porter and Porter. In addition to the library, Hitchcock and Hitchcock designed many other UW campus and Laramie buildings such as the Cooper Mansion, home to the UW American Studies program since 1988. Eliot and Clinton's father, architect Wilbur Hitchcock, had designed the first library building on campus (currently the Aven Nelson building).<sup>7</sup> The project contractors were Spiegelberg Lumber and Building Company of Laramie, Wyoming.

The modular design was functional and intended to ease future additions to the library. The design of Coe Library was inspired by the library buildings at the State University of Iowa and Washington State College. The floor-plans for Coe Library followed the trend to increase student seating capacities, provide space to encourage browsing in open reading rooms and to provide space for individual study booths. Minimal floor to floor heights were created to provide easier access to the upper floors and to reduce building costs. The library building design included seating for 900 students and room for 500,000 books.

A small home economics cottage, which was situated on the corner of Iverson and 13th Street, was razed and replaced with the modern, 260,000 volume library.<sup>8</sup> Before the home economics building, chicken coops were located on the property.<sup>9</sup> After two years of construction, Coe Library opened to the students, and faculty and staff members of the University of Wyoming shortly before the fall 1958 semester began.<sup>10</sup>

**Below Left:** Aven Nelson Building. (Photo, AHC Collection)

**Below Right:** UW Librarian Grace Raymond Hebard in the first library located in Old Main. (Photo, AHC Collection)





The bold use of color, overseen by art faculty member Ilya Bolotowsky,<sup>11</sup> generated many favorable comments at the time. There were two art exhibit rooms off the lobby with storefront display windows facing the front terrace. A browsing room held a collection of appealing books. There were two seminar rooms, two typing rooms, a classroom, and study rooms that accommodated thirty faculty members and four phonograph listening rooms. Two rooms housed microfilm and microprint readers. The southeast corner of the building contained offices and classrooms for the American Studies wing (now occupied by the UW History Department).

During the first year of operation, as many as 530 library patrons used the new building at a single time, three times the capacity of the old building. Circulation of library materials increased by 20 percent in the new building.<sup>12</sup>

The official dedication of Coe Library was held October 9, 1958. Dedication activities included the University of Wyoming band playing the Wyoming State Song, an invocation by the Reverend J. P. McConnell (Laramie Union Presbyterian Church pastor) and remarks by the following individuals: Wyoming Governor Milward Simpson, Trustee President Cliff Hansen, Coe Foundation representative Arad Riggs, university faculty and Library Building Planning Chairman Richard Hillier, Library Director Jim Ranz, and American Studies Acting Director Robert Walker. At the conclusion of the dedication, the University of Wyoming band played the UW alma mater.<sup>13</sup>

**Above Left:** Illustration of Old Main (AHC Collection)

**Above Right:** 1958 interior photo of Coe Library (Photo, AHC Collection)



At the dedication, UW Trustee Cliff Hanson described the driving force behind Coe's generous donation to the university. Hanson cited Coe's conviction for a climate of freedom and that the world was anxiously watching America's military activities.<sup>14</sup> Hanson echoed Coe's sentiments that in order for humanity to rise to its greatest heights, the spirit must be inspired as it only can under free enterprise. According to Hanson, the library and the American Studies program were funded by Coe so that "young people could gain a greater knowledge, become better citizens and have a zeal for American life which helps lead Americans down a path of peace."<sup>15</sup> He urged students to lead their lives as loyal, responsible citizens of our republic and accept Coe's forthright belief in the need for a positive and affirmative answer to Communism and Socialism. Hanson concluded with, "No building on campus can play a more decisive role in our future than this one. Mr. Coe's faith in tomorrow is fully warranted as we anticipate the emergence of the good seeds he has sown today."<sup>16</sup>

**Bottom:** Coe Library's reading room, circa 1958.  
(Photo, AHC Collection)

**Center Page:** Dedication ceremony of William Robertson Coe Library in October 1958. (Photo courtesy of Charles Baumann)

**Opposite Page Top Right:** William Robertson Coe Library after completion, circa 1958. (Photo, AHC Collection)





## QUICK FACTS: Coe Library

- Groundbreaking for Coe Library took place in 1956.
- Coe Library's corner stone reflects a completion date of 1957, but the building officially opened to the public shortly before the fall 1958 semester began.
- During the first year of operation, as many as 530 library patrons used the new building at a single time, three times the capacity of the old building.

### Endnotes

- 1 *To Help Round Out Your State University's Building Program: A Modern Library for a Modern Campus* pamphlet, 1950, p. 15.
- 2 *Library Annual Report* (1955–1957): 7.
- 3 Dr. Pete Simpson, personal interview by Jennifer Mayer, July 11, 2007.
- 4 *Branding Iron*, October 10, 1958, p. 1.
- 5 Wilson O. Clough, *A History of the University of Wyoming 1887-1964* (Laramie, Wyoming: University of Wyoming, 1965): 283.
- 6 Charles Baumann, e-mail message to Jennifer Mayer, August 8, 2006.
- 7 Emmett D. Chisum, "The Development of the University of Wyoming Libraries and Special Collections," *Annals of Wyoming* 54 (1982): 26–35.
- 8 Emmett D. Chisum, *Memories of the University of Wyoming Centennial 1886–1986* (Laramie, WY: University of Wyoming, 1987): 80.
- 9 *The Library Associate* 13:2 (Fall 2000): 4.
- 10 *Branding Iron*, October 3, 1958, p. 7.
- 11 *The Library Associate* 4:1 (Spring 1991): 3.
- 12 Charles Baumann, "Wyoming Goes Modular," *Library Journal* 84 (1959): 3719.
- 13 *William Robertson Coe Library and School of American Studies Building Dedication Exercises*, October 9, 1958.
- 14 Dedication 2.
- 15 Dedication 2.
- 16 Dedication 2.





# William Robertson Coe: *The Benefactor*

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William Robertson Coe, also known as W. R. or Will, was born in 1869 in Worcestershire, England. Coe arrived in the United States with his family at the age of fourteen and soon after started work as an office boy for the Philadelphia marine insurance firm of Johnson & Higgins. By the age of 24, Coe moved to the firm's New York office as an adjustments manager where he determined loss settlements. He made his fortune with Johnson & Higgins and served as the president of the board from 1916–1943.<sup>1</sup> Coe managed the account of the shipping company White Star Lines and arranged for his firm to underwrite the *Titanic* which sank on April 15, 1912. Coe and his family made several subsequent transatlantic trips on the *Titanic*'s identical sister ship the *Olympic*.<sup>2</sup>

In 1910, Coe purchased Buffalo Bill Cody's Irma Lake Lodge ranch outside of Cody, Wyoming.<sup>3</sup> He visited the lodge frequently over the years and it was where he first met and developed a long-lasting friendship with Milward Simpson. Coe first met Milward when he hired Milward for legal representation for his son Henry (a.k.a Hank).

When Milward was first summoned to Coe's lodge, he arrived at the lodge in a noisy Model A automobile. At the time, Coe was bird hunting with his guests and the noise from the Model A scared off the birds. Coe chastised Milward and told him that he was no kind of gentleman. Milward's rebuttal to Coe was that since he needed a lawyer for his son, he was no kind of father. After the initial rocky exchange, the two men developed a long-lasting, close friendship and mutual respect for one another.<sup>4</sup>

Coe's son, Henry, later married Margaret "Peg" Shaw and they went on to have three children:



Portrait of William Robertson Coe  
(Image from *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*. Vol. G, 1918–1946.)

Hank Coe, Bob Coe and Anne Hayes—all whom still reside in the Cody area.

On July 23, 1954, Yale Librarian James Babb gave a presentation to the University of Wyoming Library Associates about how Coe started building his personal library of Western Americana.<sup>5</sup> Coe's interest in Western history and literature developed as the result of his acquisition of the Wyoming lodge. Coe's collection grew to over 10,000 printed items and included materials such as the Lewis and Clark

hand-drawn maps, the manuscripts of many Western explorers as well as California gold rush diaries.<sup>6</sup>

In 1948, Coe donated his entire Western history collection to Yale University, due to its scholarly reputation and specialization in Western materials. To this day, the Coe collection is housed in Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.<sup>7</sup> Henry R. Wagner, another collector who donated materials to Yale, called Coe's donation the finest collection of western materials available.<sup>8</sup> The *Yale Bulletin* noted that "behind this collection lay Coe's profound belief in the American pioneer virtues. As one who had grown up abroad, Coe cherished the American way and was concerned that Americans be aware of their own tradition and meaning."<sup>9</sup>

An avid outdoors man, Coe enjoyed horseback riding, hunting and fly fishing. In addition to his Wyoming sheep and cattle ranch, he maintained a summer home in Yemassee, South Carolina and an estate, called Planting Fields, in Oyster Bay, New York.<sup>10</sup> Coe spent his time at Planting Fields actively developing and improving the collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, and hibiscus. He had a particular interest in new plant varieties and innovative growing techniques. Coe donated Planting Fields to the state of New York in 1949 and today it remains a premier public arboretum.<sup>11</sup> The estate retains its original 409 acres as well as its historic buildings and landscape. Planting Fields is one of the few remaining Gold Coast estates on Long Island's North Shore. In addition to his interest in botany, Coe maintained a racing stable for many years and was one of the founders of New York's Piping Rock Racing Association.<sup>12</sup>

During his lifetime, Coe was married three times. His first marriage to Janice Hutchinson Falligant from 1893 to 1898 came to an early end as the result of Janice's death from "brain fever." Coe's second



Painting of William Robertson Coe on top of Carter Mountain, Cody, Wyoming. Artist unknown. (Collection, University of Wyoming History Department)

marriage to Mai Huttleston Rogers, the Standard Oil heiress and co-owner of Planting Fields, lasted from 1900 until Mai's death in 1924. Coe and Mai's marriage resulted in four children, William Rogers Coe, Robert Douglas Coe, Henry "Hank" Huttleston Rogers Coe and Natalie Mai Coe.<sup>13</sup> Coe's third and final marriage to Caroline Graham Slaughter lasted from 1926 until his death in 1955.

Coe received honorary degrees from the University of Wyoming in 1948 and from Yale in 1949.<sup>14</sup> In an interview in September, 2006, Mrs. Peg Coe (Coe's daughter-in-law) noted that former University of Wyoming President Humphrey was a great friend of Coe's and that long-time friend Milward Simpson was the chair of the UW Board of Trustees when Coe received his honorary degree from

UW. "Coe was very pleased to receive the honorary degree bestowed upon him by the university and he truly loved Wyoming", said Mrs. Coe.<sup>15</sup>

Sadly, on March 15, 1955, William R. Coe passed away in his recently acquired Palm Beach, Florida home as the result of an asthma attack. Today, Coe's legacy still lives on through his lifetime ventures. Thanks to Coe's dedication and commitment to American virtues, Coe bequeathed the University of Wyoming \$1.2 million to build a new facility to house the university's library and School of American Studies.

Today, although the School of American Studies no longer resides within the building, the William Robertson Coe Library is still thriving and undergoing a third expansion and renovation project. The new building is scheduled for completion in 2009 and is expected to be a premiere hub on campus for UW students and faculty members to come together to learn, and reach new heights.

#### Endnotes

- 1 *National Cyclopaedia* 358.
- 2 <http://plantingfields.org/ourstory/Coe/Coe1.cfm>. (2007).
- 3 <http://plantingfields.org/ourstory/Coe/Coe1.cfm>. (2007).
- 4 Dr. Pete Simpson, personal interview by Jennifer Mayer, July 11, 2007.
- 5 *William Robertson Coe and His Library of Western Americana* (Laramie, Wyoming: University of Wyoming Library Associates, 1954) 7.
- 6 *William Robertson Coe and His Library*, 9.
- 7 For more information on the collections, see *The William Robertson Coe Collection of Western Americana* by Edward Eberstadt (New Haven: Yale Press, 1948) and *A Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Collection of Western Americana Founded by William Robertson Coe*, Yale University Library by Mary Withington (New Haven: Yale Press, 1952).
- 8 Donald C. Dickinson, *Dictionary of American Book Collectors* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1986): 72.
- 9 Liza Nicholas, "Wyoming as Americana: Celebrations, a Museum, and Yale," *American Quarterly* 54 (2002): 450.
- 10 *Cyclopaedia* 358.
- 11 [www.plantingfields.org](http://www.plantingfields.org). (2007).
- 12 <http://plantingfields.org/ourstory/Coe/Coe1.cfm>. (2007).
- 13 *Cyclopaedia* 358.
- 14 Obituary of William Robertson Coe, *New York Times*.
- 15 Mrs. Peg Coe, personal interview by Jennifer Mayer, August 29, 2006.





# Politics of the Time:

## *United States Historical Context for 1957 and the Start-Up Philosophy Behind William Robertson Coe Library*

The funding for the University of Wyoming's Coe Library was largely the result of the events of the late 1940s and 1950s. William R. Coe's political views were the driving force behind his generous donation to build Coe Library and fund not only the creation of the University of Wyoming's American studies program, but forty other American studies programs across the country.

The Cold War, a long period of conflict and competition between the United States and the Soviet Union, started in the late forties and endured until the eighties. As the American government increased efforts to censor academic library materials, the University of Wyoming became embroiled in a textbook controversy, described by William Hewitt in his article, "The University of Wyoming Textbook Investigation Controversy, 1947–1948 and Its Aftermath." In 1947, UW Board Treasurer Dr. P. M. Cunningham moved that UW President George Humphrey appoint a committee to read and examine social sciences textbooks in use at the University of Wyoming to determine if such books were subversive or un-American. The motion to conduct a textbook review carried unanimously and without

discussion by the UW Board of Trustees. As a result, Milward Simpson, president of the Board of Trustees, urged President Humphrey to hold a textbook investigation, and Humphrey agreed.

During the UW book controversy, Humphrey developed his relationship with Coe, a vocal anti-Communist. Humphrey cultivated Coe's confidence, and the two men stayed in touch for years.<sup>1</sup> The men shared reading material, and at one point Coe sent Humphrey a pamphlet titled "How Red is the Little Red Schoolhouse?"

The Cold War prompted a wave of other investigations across the United States during the late forties and fifties, which resulted in minor hysteria. The University of Wyoming's Presidential Report of 1953–54 included a strong re-assertion of the basic right to a "free exchange of ideas in a university" and a "climate of free ideas."<sup>2</sup> These ideals were soon strengthened by attendees at the 72nd annual American Library Association (ALA) conference, which in June 1953 reaffirmed its "policy of freedom." ALA's policy included the right to read and study in the face of excited efforts to remove "controversial" books from libraries.<sup>3</sup>

Ultimately, University of Wyoming faculty members and the national press



**Above:** Former Wyoming Governor Milward L. Simpson addresses a crowd at the dedication ceremony of William Robertson Coe Library and School of American Studies. (Photo, 1958 Wyoming Annual)



thwarted the textbook audit attempts and academic freedom prevailed. The committee of fifteen faculty members selected by UW President Humphrey reported to the board that “liberal education emphasizes how to think, not what to think and the fight against

totalitarianism can only be held in an atmosphere of academic freedom.”<sup>4</sup>

The Cold War gathered additional speed with the Sputnik satellite launch on October 4, 1957, which had a significant impact on libraries, schools, and universities. Sputnik caused a great

deal of American anxiety. The Soviets were the first in space and as a result, Americans believed that the Soviets had both a superior educational system and superior scientific knowledge. Efforts to upgrade the United States educational system, with a focus on the hard and applied sciences, quickly followed. The result of the competition with the U.S.S.R. was an educational boom in the United States; there was unprecedented national attention given to learning at all levels—from kindergarten to postdoctoral. State and federal funding flooded the schools and universities, and in turn, libraries and media center budgets and staffing expanded to meet the needs and expectations of increasing numbers of students and teachers. There was a science-related information explosion that required scores of additional librarians to assist the new researchers who were using the quickly multiplying libraries.<sup>5</sup>

Both Soviet and American libraries played a role in promoting national foreign policies during the Cold War. The Soviet journal for public librarians, *Bibliotekar*, influenced its readers against the perceived capitalist agenda.<sup>6</sup> *Bibliotekar* aggressively refuted the United States’ right to international leadership and asserted that America supported and promoted an extremely racist ideology. At this time, U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy branded racial integration activities as Communist-inspired.<sup>7</sup> Meanwhile, overseas libraries controlled by the United States Department of State

Libraries were required to support American foreign policy. At this time, the United States Congress completely stopped the flow of materials from Soviet countries into the United States via the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Libraries and educational institutions were not granted exemption from the strict screening of Soviet literature—research and otherwise—until 1962.<sup>8</sup>

During the Cold War, the U.S. government was concerned that Soviet ideologies were seeping into the reading materials of students from elementary age through the university level. Intimidation of American librarians was high, and three school librarians would not allow their faces to be photographed for a 1955 Edward R. Murrow television program on banned books.<sup>9</sup>

University Libraries continues to work hard to make information available to the public and provide an environment for “the free exchange of ideas in a university” and support a “climate of free ideas.”

#### Endnotes

- 1 William Hewitt, “The University of Wyoming Textbook Controversy, 1947 to 1948, and Its Aftermath,” *Annals of Wyoming* 56.1 (1984): 28.
- 2 Clough 283.
- 3 Clough 284.
- 4 Chisum, *Memories* 70.
- 5 John Lubans, Jr., *Library Literacy*, RQ 25 (1985): 47.
- 6 Hermina Anghelescu, *Books, Libraries, Reading, and Publishing in the Cold War* (Washington, D.C.: Center for the Book, 2001) 193.
- 7 Anghelescu 198.
- 8 Anghelescu 198.
- 9 Anghelescu 198.





# The First Coe Library Expansion: *The Stack Tower in 1977*

14 Time passed, and twenty years after the original construction, William Robertson Coe Library underwent its first expansion in 1977. The construction bids opened February 24, 1977, for the five-story, five million dollar addition. The legislature approved \$5,170,000 in February 1976 for the addition to provide the library with an additional 60,195 feet with seating for 800 and about 250,000 books. The addition included air conditioning, a P.A. system, an elevator, telephones on every floor connected to the central information desk, and wiring for future audiovisual needs. The Planning Committee members for the new stack tower were: Jack Jackson (Chairman), University of Support Services director; Bob Arnold, Physical Plant director; Morris Jones, Campus Planning department head; Gene Gressley, university archivist; Robert Patterson, University Libraries director; Carol White, librarian; and Oliver Peters, faculty representative.<sup>1</sup> Fred Kellogg was the project's architect.<sup>2</sup>

The new wing was completed late fall 1978. The move into the wing was executed by library and physical plant staff members in December and January. In total, 400,000 volumes and an additional 1.3 million government documents were shifted. In all, 3,435 library staff hours were used and 1,514 physical plant hours were needed.<sup>3</sup> When the stack tower was completed, the connecting doors between the History department and Coe Library were sealed.<sup>4</sup> To this day, the History department houses a bust and a painting of the libraries' building founder, William Robertson Coe.



**Above:** The stack tower, visible in this photo of William Robertson Coe Library, was completed in 1978. (UW Photo)

The dedication of Coe Library's New East Wing was celebrated on April 20, 1979. Nearly 500 guests explored the new addition which now housed the library books, the general reference department, government documents reference, and microform collections. The American Heritage Center, housed on an upper floor of the Coe stack tower at this time, opened its rooms for a rare public showing for this event.<sup>5</sup> The American Heritage Center later relocated to the new Centennial Complex.

It would be another thirty years before a third expansion to the William Robertson Coe Library building would commence in the fall of 2007.

## Endnotes

- 1 *Libraries Annual Report* (1976-77): 72.
- 2 *Libraries Annual Report* (1976-77): 72.
- 3 *Libraries Annual Report* (1978-79): 15.
- 4 Mr. Paul Cors, personal interview by Jennifer Mayer, January 22, 2007.
- 5 *Newsletter* 4:1 (1979): 4.

# University of Wyoming Libraries: *About the Branch Libraries*

In addition to the main library, University Libraries include the Brinkerhoff Earth Resources Information Center, the Learning Resources Center, the Library Annex (formerly the Science Library), the National Park Research Center, the Herbarium, and the Hebard Collection.

## Brinkerhoff Earth Resources Information Center

The original university library collections in geology were first included in the University of Wyoming Library within the Hall of Languages in Old Main and later relocated to the Aven Nelson Building in 1923. At the same time, the Department of Geology, located in the Hall of Science, had its own departmental library, which consisted of the private collections of S. H. Knight, Wyoming Geological Survey contributions, and items bought by the Geology Department. When the Hall of Science expanded in the fifties to become the S. H. Knight Geology Building, the department successfully lobbied that the department should have a branch library for geology in the building. The geology materials in Aven Nelson were merged with the departmental collections to become the Geology Library in 1956.

Overcrowding and technological changes in the delivery of information necessitated a renovation of the library in the nineties. Construction of the Earth Sciences Building, dedicated in 1998, freed up space in the Knight Geology Building for an expansion of the Geology Library from 4,150 square feet to 8,040 square feet. The library was closed for construction from July 1998 to July 1999. It reopened as the Brinkerhoff Earth Resources Information Center in August 1999, in honor of Zachery Brinkerhoff, Jr. and his son Thomas Brinkerhoff, who were major donors to the reconstruction.



Brinkerhoff Earth Resources Information Center.  
(Photo, David Kruger)



UW Lab school students working on a project in the Learning Resources Center.  
(UW Photo)

The Brinkerhoff library is both beautiful and functional—there is an open feel upstairs and cozy study spaces downstairs. A reading area for new books and periodicals near the entrance is popular with faculty members and students. A large-format copier enables the staff members to make copies of maps for patrons.

The library's collections are housed on electronically controlled compact shelving and include materials for geology and physical geography, some mining and petroleum engineering, and U.S. Geological Survey publications. The Barlow and Haun Map Room contains topographic maps at a variety of scales for the U.S. and many other maps of the U.S. and the world, with an emphasis on Wyoming. Jim Barlow and John Haun were the first geology doctoral recipients in the Geology Department and contributors to the map room renovation. The collection currently contains over 238,000 maps. There are also more than 100,000 infrared and black and white aerial photographs of Wyoming in the collection.

Today there is a full-time librarian who serves as the head of the library, a full-time staff member who manages circulation, a part-time staff member (maps and circulation) and five part-time students working in the Brinkerhoff Earth Resources Information Center.

## Learning Resources Center

The Learning Resources Center (LRC), known in past years as the library for the University Prep School, is located on the second level of the College of Education building. The LRC provides library services to the University Lab School and is open to the public.

The University Lab School, formerly known as the Prep School, was established in 1887 as a result



of a Wyoming state legislative mandate. The school was to serve in the preparation of students for their university careers. At the time, the school had no internal library and students utilized the main campus library for their research. In 1953 the University Lab School established its own internal library and Anita Walters served as the first librarian.

For a number of years, the library was an independent library serving the University Lab School's students and faculty members. The school and its library were considered a department within the College of Education, but that changed in 1986 with new accreditation requirements for the College of Education. As a result, the school's library was reorganized and placed under the administration of University Libraries in cooperation with the College of Education. Given a new name, the Learning Resources Center, the library became formally recognized as the location for children's and young adult's literature for university students. The Learning Resources Center continues to reside in the College of Education building and is staffed by one full-time librarian, one full-time staff member, and UW student employees.

## The Library Annex

The Library Annex, originally known as the Science and Technology Library, opened in 1970 as part of the George Duke Humphrey Science Complex. Located in the basement between the Biological Sciences and Physical Sciences building, the library forms an underground bridge between the two buildings, giving patrons relief from the harsh Wyoming weather, as well as full circulation services.

During the 1970s the Science and Technology Library's collection grew rapidly in response to the university's expansion of programs in the sciences. By 1979 the library housed more than 160,000 volumes, 60,000 volumes more than its' designed capacity.

In 1981 the Science and Technology Library underwent expansion to incorporate the growing



University of Wyoming National Park Service Research Center Library. (UW Photo)



Compact shelving increased the Library Annex's shelving by 59 percent. (Photo, Lori Terrill)

science collection. But by the late nineties, over 20 percent of the library's collection was being stored in William Robertson Coe Library, which also faced overcrowding and limited space for materials. The decision was made in 2005 to reorganize and refit the Science and Technology Library with compact shelving and rearrange materials to make it easier for students to conduct their research.

In May 2006, the Science and Technology Library formerly closed its doors for renovation. With 59 percent more shelving space and over fifty student study spaces, the new facility, renamed the Library Annex, reopened to the campus in August 2007. The Library Annex houses all bound periodicals in the University Libraries' collection. Current periodicals, the science reference collection, theses, microfilm, and the majority of the former library personnel were permanently relocated to Coe Library. The Library Annex's compact shelving significantly increased volume capacity and provided future growth for University Libraries' collections.

## University of Wyoming National Park Service Research Center Library

The University of Wyoming National Park Service Research Center Library is located in Grand Teton National Park. The library is a cooperative effort between University Libraries and the National Park Services Research Center to foster research in National Parks in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

The center operates a field research station at the AMK Ranch within Grand Teton National Park. The primary function of the research station is to promote excellence in research by providing housing, laboratory space, transportation, equipment and financial support to enable researchers in the biological, physical and social sciences to access the diverse environments of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, Bridger-Teton and Targhee National

Forests and the Gros Ventre and Teton Wilderness areas.

The research library at the center provides ready access to a small collection of research material as well as broader resources of University Libraries. This service is a vital part of the support provided to researchers at the station. A library collection existed on the premises as early as 1948. In the eighties the center partnered with University Libraries to provide regular acquisitions and maintenance for the collection and to integrate its holdings into the larger library catalog. Today, the library contains about 1,500 volumes as well as journals, maps, and microfiche.

## Rocky Mountain Herbarium Collection

University Libraries maintains a collection within the Rocky Mountain Herbarium facility to support the work of researchers and others working in plant taxonomy. The collection was established in the 1980s when the two organizations partnered to organize an official collection of systematics literature for North America along with major floristics and systematics treatments for the world.

The Rocky Mountain Herbarium was established by Aven Nelson in 1893. The herbarium ranks seventeenth in the nation with over 719,000 plant specimens and is the largest facility of its kind between St. Louis, Missouri and Berkeley, California. The collection is the largest of Rocky Mountain plants and fungi in existence. The connection of plant and library collections is a logical one since it is critical for plant taxonomists to have published literature on-hand as they classify plants.

## Grace Raymond Hebard Collection

The Grace Raymond Hebard Collection, holding more than 45,000 cataloged titles, is the most comprehensive library of Wyoming print materials in Wyoming. George Miles, Curator of the Western



Rocky Mountain Herbarium Collection resides within the Rocky Mountain Herbarium facility. (Photo, Mike Obenchain)



Grace Raymond Hebard, founder of the Grace Raymond Hebard Collection. (UW Photo)

Americana Collection at the Beinecke Library, Yale University, considers the Hebard Collection “a major research collection of national importance that provides essential service for scholars working in the history and culture of Wyoming and the Mountain Plains West.”

Subjects of note in the collection include: agriculture, dude ranching, exploration narrative, Grand Teton National Park, Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Johnson County War, Native American resources, Oregon–Mormon–Bozeman Trails, railroads, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, water resources, and Yellowstone National Park. The collection also serves as the library of record for University of Wyoming publications.

The Grace Raymond Hebard Collection of Wyoming history and culture has its origin with the materials collected by its namesake, Dr. Grace Raymond Hebard. As one of the early faculty members at the University of Wyoming, and well-known western historian, Dr. Hebard took a keen interest in the history of Wyoming. An avid collector, she gathered all she could find written about the state. UW Librarian Reba Davis (1919–1929) designated a room in the then new University Library Building, now the Aven Nelson Building, in 1924 as the Hebard Room.

Dr. Hebard passed away October 11, 1936, and in her estate plans she directed that all her historical material—books, maps, photographs, and files—be given to the university. The published materials were added to those already housed in the Hebard Room, while the manuscript materials became the basis for the university archives at the American Heritage Center.

Today the Hebard Collection is housed in the American Heritage Center in the Owen Wister Western Writers Reading Room. The collection will be relocated to William Robertson Coe Library upon the completion of the new addition and renovation of Coe Library in September 2009.



# Library Statistics: Yesterday and Fifty Years Later

## Technical Services 1957:

Volumes added: 9,341  
Withdrew: 471  
Theses added: 124  
New periodical titles: 63  
Serials titles cataloged: 1,407  
Book titles ordered: 2,700  
Gifts acquired: 2,248  
Hebard Collection additions: 9,381  
Brinkerhoff Earth Resources  
Information Center Library: 274

## Technical Services 2007:

Books purchased: 17,792  
Gift books: 1,358  
New databases: 90  
Unique e-journals: 3,363 (2006)  
Cataloging Statistics:

- Coe Library added 18,345, withdrew 2,010
- Library Annex (Science Library) added 4,659, withdrew 270
- Brinkerhoff Earth Resources Information Center added 504, withdrew 346
- Learning Resource Center added 1,411, withdrew 214
- Hebard Collection added 818, withdrew 12
- Herbarium Collection added 53, withdrew 0
- Jackson Research Center Library added 79, withdrew 9

## Reserves Circulation 2007:

Electronic reserves: 41,230  
Print reserves: 5,856 (2006)  
Total: 57,086



## Interlibrary loan 1957:

Items borrowed from other libraries: 321  
Items loaned to other libraries: 501

## Interlibrary loan 2007:

Items borrowed from other libraries: 18,239  
Items loaned to other libraries: 22,391

## Circulation 1957:

Main Stacks: 34,186  
Periodicals: 2,873  
Government documents circulated: 1,321

## Circulation 2007:

William Robertson Coe Library: 88,821  
Library Annex (Science Library): 7,461  
Brinkerhoff Earth Resources Information Center: 4,883  
Learning Resource Center: 18,443  
Audio Visual: 8,696  
Hebard Collection: 639

## Government Documents 2007:

Depository documents added: 5,917  
Depository documents withdrawn: 7,687

## Reference 2007:

Reference Transactions: 22,928  
Bibliographic Instruction  
Sessions: 273  
Participants in Bibliographic  
Instruction Sessions: 4,820

# Outstanding Library Faculty and Staff Members

## Directors and Deans

| Year         | Dean or Director                                  |
|--------------|---|
| 2002–present | Maggie Farrell (Dean)                             |
| 2001–2002    | Richard Machalek, Sociology<br>(Interim Director) |
| 1983–2001    | Keith Cottam (Director)                           |
| 1981–1983    | Walter E. Eggers, English<br>(Acting Director)    |
| 1975–1981    | Robert H. Patterson<br>(Director)                 |
| 1974–1975    | Ruth E. Ahl<br>(Acting Director)                  |
| 1974         | Jim Ranz (Acting Director)                        |
| 1969–1974    | James H. Richards, Jr.<br>(Director)              |
| 1967–1969    | Jim Ranz (Acting Director)                        |
| 1962–1967    | Ray Frantz (Director)                             |
| 1961–1962    | Charles Baumann<br>(Acting Director)              |
| 1955–1961    | Jim Ranz (Director)                               |
| 1949–1955    | N. Orwin Rush (Director)                          |
| 1929–1949    | Mary E. Marks<br>(Head Librarian)                 |
| 1919–1929    | Reba Davis  |
| 1894–1919    | Grace Raymond Hebard                              |
| 1889–1894    | Justis F. Soule                                   |
| 1887–1889    | Aven Nelson                                       |

## Recognition Awards

### University Libraries Outstanding Service Award

The Outstanding Service Award bestows special recognition upon a member of University Libraries' staff who has demonstrated exceptional service and dedication. Individuals employed by University Libraries is eligible for this award.

#### Awardees:

2008: Amye Trefethen  
2007: Diane Trotter  
2006: Lois Berry  
2005: Shannon Person  
2004: Matthew Sprinkle and Lyle Wiley  
2003: Alice Musser  
2002: David Kruger  
2001: Stephanie Wiegand  
2000: Janet Woods  
1999: Laurie Mendick  
1998: Roxanne Glassburn  
1997: Mary Ann Harlow  
1996: Lawrence Jansen  
1995: Dee Salo  
1994: Sandra Barstow  
1993: Crystal Bennett  
1992: Not awarded  
1991: Not awarded  
1990: Ellen Whitman  
1989: Julie Davis  
1988: Janet Carton  
1987: Elisabeth Latham  
1986: Carol White  
1985: Linda Dunlap

### The Agnes Milstead Distinguished Librarianship

The Agnes Distinguished Milstead Librarianship honors individuals who have made a significant contribution to University Libraries in one or more of the following areas: scholarship of librarianship; implementation of an innovative process, procedure or program; teaching distinction; securing special funding, collections or other major improvements; and continued service in support of University Libraries' mission.

#### Awardees:

2008: Not awarded  
2007: Bob Staley  
2006: Not awarded  
2005: Sally Scott  
2004: Not awarded  
2003: Martha Hanscom  
2002: Diana Shelton  
2001: Keith Cottam  
2000: William Stewart  
1999: Sandra Barstow  
1998: Carol White  
1997: William Van Arsdale  
1996: Not awarded  
1995: Emmett Chisum and Paul Cors  
1994: Not awarded  
1993: Karen Lange



# BREAKING NEWS

Fall 1957–58 Headlines from the Laramie Daily Boomerang and the Branding Iron

## Biographer Studies Bill Nye Data

—Laramie Daily Boomerang, 10/1/57

## Student Union Addition Work to Begin First of '58

—Branding Iron, 11/8/57

## Louis Armstrong Jazz Concert Expected to Fill House Tonight

—Laramie Daily Boomerang, 10/9/57

## Committee Discusses UW Traffic Problems

—Branding Iron, 11/8/57

## Eisenhower Refuses to Withdraw Troops from Little Rock

—Laramie Daily Boomerang,  
10/2/57

## Laramie Peak Forest Fire Blazing Out of Control

—Laramie Daily Boomerang,  
10/9/58

## Laramie and UW Police Control Traffic at 13th St. Crossing

—Laramie Daily Boomerang, 10/10/57

## University of Wyoming's Beany Rule Much Easier on Freshman Students

—Branding Iron, 10/3/58

## Group Formed To Back Joe Hickey

—Laramie Daily Boomerang, 10/9/58

## Men Over 18 Must Sign Up for the Draft

—Branding Iron, 10/10/58

## Game and Fish Commissioner A.F.C. Greene says Resources May Be Sacrificed by Poor Water Use

—Laramie Daily Boomerang, 10/1/57

## Senator Joseph O'Mahoney Urges Support of Flaming Gorge Project

—Laramie Daily Boomerang, 10/1/57

**Court Case, Social  
Probation Result of  
Weekend Escapade  
to Ft. Collins**

-10/25/57

**UW Enrollment Reaches 3,387**

-Laramie Daily Boomerang, 10/2/57

**Arts & Sciences Enrollment  
Jump the Largest**

-Branding Iron, 11/1/57

**Food Prices from  
Ludwig Sooper Market  
1015 S. 2nd**

Bacon Ends 1 lb. box

Sweet Apple Cider:  
78 cents jug

Grapefruits and oranges 5 lb. bag:  
39 cents

Apple Butter:  
29 cents

-Laramie Daily Boomerang,  
10/11/57

**Five Hundred Stricken  
as Flu Invades Laramie**

-Laramie Daily Boomerang,  
10/2/57

**Occupancy date set for UW Coe Library**

-Branding Iron, 9/27/57

**Laramie Daily Boomerang  
Television Log: 10/26/57**

- 5 Channels KTVR Denver
- KOATV Denver (NBC)
- KFBCTV Cheyenne (All Networks)
- KLZTV Denver (CBS)
- KBTB Denver (ABC)

**More Than 5,000 in Wyoming Hit by Flu**

-Laramie Daily Boomerang, 10/15/57

**Many Laramie Residents See Fireball**

-Laramie Daily Boomerang, 10/11/57  
In reference to Giacobini's Comet.

**Governor Milward  
Simpson to Speak at  
Cornerstone Ceremonies**

-Branding Iron, 9/27/57

**Women Student  
Leaders to Meet on  
Campus**

-Laramie Daily Boomerang, 10/2/57

**Approximately 100 Attend  
Phi Delta House Dedication  
Saturday Afternoon**

-Branding Iron, 10/25/57

**Spring Branding Iron  
Receives High Rating**

-Branding Iron, 11/1/57

**Coeds Guilty of  
Old Pinning Law**

-Branding Iron, 11/8/57



# 1957 Important National & International Events: *From American Decades*

## The U.S.S.R. Launches Sputnik

The first artificial earth satellite, Sputnik, was launched into space, opening the possibility of atomic attack on the continental United States by Soviet missiles. The launch of Sputnik raises concern about the quality of American education.

## U.S. Government Pursues Reaching The Moon

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles admitted that the Soviets have outdistanced the United States in certain aspects of missile development; the New York Herald Tribune reported that the U.S. Government asked U.S. companies for plans for rockets capable of reaching the moon.

## Book Release: *Dr. Zhivago*

Boris Pasternak's novel *Dr. Zhivago* was published.

## Red Monday

The Supreme Court held that prosecution of persons under *The Smith Act* for advocating violent overthrow of the government must be based on more than accusations. The Court overturned the conviction of a union official for contempt of congress after the official refused to answer questions about acquaintance's association with the Communist party.

## Soviet Foreign Minister Named

Andrei Gromyko was named Soviet foreign minister.

## Soviet First Secretary Takes Action

Soviet first secretary Khrushchev removed several members of the Central Committee after they unsuccessfully tried to remove him from power.

## Soviet Party And State Leadership Consolidates

Nikita Khrushchev became premier of the Soviet Union, consolidating Soviet party and state leadership.

## Soviet Union And East Germany Form Partnership

The Soviet Union and East Germany linked their two countries' heavy industries with an economic agreement.

## The Atlas Passes Government Testing

An American intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the Atlas, passed government testing processes two months after the Soviet Union used a similar rocket to launch the first artificial satellite, the Sputnik I.

## New York Times Lists Richest American

New York Times magazine listed oilman H. L. Hunt of Dallas as the richest American, with an estimated fortune of \$400–700 million.

## Statistics: Education Of Americans

American workers averaged 11.8 years of schooling with 9% of the population completing college.

## Little Rock, Arkansas

President Eisenhower ordered U.S. Army paratroopers to prevent interference with racial integration at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

## Blue Jeans Newest Fad

Blue jeans surged in popularity as a symbol of teen revolt in the wake of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*.

## Popular Songs

- Pat Boone's *Don't Forbid Me* and *April Love*;
- Elvis Presley's *Too Much*, *All Shook Up*, *Let Me Be Your Teddy Bear* and *Jailhouse Rock*;
- Debbie Reynolds' *Tammy*;
- Johnny Mathis' *Chances Are*



### **Muscial Premiere:** *West Side Story*

*West Side Story* premiered at the Winter Garden Theater with music by Leonard Bernstein.

### **Book Release:** *The Cat in the Hat*

*The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss became wildly popular with children learning to read and sold over eight million copies over the next twenty years.

### **Motown Corporation Founded**

Berry Gorday, Jr. founded Motown Corporation.

### **Film premier:** *Bridge on the River Kwai*

David Lean's film *Bridge on the River Kwai*, with William Holden, Alec Guinness, Jack Hawkins and Sessue Hayakawa, premiered.

### **The Frisbee and Hula-Hoop Introduced**

Whamo manufacturing introduced the Frisbee and the Hula-Hoop.

### **Network Debut:** *American Bandstand*

*American Bandstand* hosted by Philadelphia DJ Dick Clark debuted on the ABC network.

### **Statistics:** Immigration into the United States

January 2, 1957 Immigration and Naturalization Service announced that 350,000 immigrants entered the country in 1956.

### **Statistics:** U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. Census Bureau announced that the U.S. with its three million square miles of land, had an average of 57 persons per square mile.

### **Medical Breakthrough**

Synthetic penicillin was developed.

### **Separation Of Church And State**

Colorado's Attorney General advised that distribution of Gideon bibles in public schools was a violation of state laws.

### **First Amendment Reviewed By The Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court ruled that obscene material was not protected by the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and the press.

### **Civil Rights Act of 1957**

Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1957, which provided penalties for the violation of voting rights and created the Civil Rights Commission.

### **Fingerprinting of Foreigners**

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Attorney General Herbert Brownell announced that fingerprinting would no longer be required of foreigners entering the U.S. for a year or less.

### **Free-Trade**

The U.S. State Department supported a free-trade zone and European common market.

### **Invention:** Doppler Navigation

Doppler navigation, a device for accurately determining aircraft position and airspeed made civil aviation safer.

### **Invention:** Spin Clothes Dryer

Hoover developed a spin clothes dryer applicable for home use.

### **Sports:** The Kentucky Derby Winner

Iron Leige won the Kentucky Derby when Willie Shoemaker, riding Gallant Man, misjudged the finish line.

### **Sports:** Althea Gibson wins the

### **Wimbledon**

Althea Gibson became the first black American to win a Wimbledon tennis Championship. Gibson also won the U.S. National in September.

**This Page:** UW students enjoy refreshments at the Wyoming Union. (Photo, 1957 Wyoming Annual)

**Opposite Page:** UW student ROTC members practice on campus. (Photo, 1957 Wyoming Annual)





# University Libraries: *First 120 years* 1887–1970s

24



(Photo, AHC Collection)

**1894**

Grace Raymond Hebard became the University of Wyoming librarian.

**1887**

Dr. Aven Nelson was appointed the first University of Wyoming librarian. Old Main was the location of the library.



(Photo, AHC Collection)

**1923**

A new library opened in what is now the Aven Nelson building, along side the College of Law, and the History, English, Latin and Greek departments.

**1958**

Dedication ceremonies for the new Coe Library Building.



(Photo courtesy of Charles Baumann)

**1956**

Construction started on the new William Robertson Coe Library.

**1955**

William Robertson Coe passed away. He bequeathed \$1.2 million to the University of Wyoming to help build a new facility for University Libraries and the American studies program.



(Photo, AHC Collection)

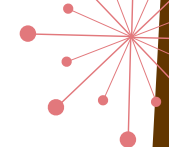
**1968**

Health Science Information Network (HSIN) began as a document delivery service to health science professionals in Wyoming.

**1975**

The 3M Electronic Security System was installed near the library doors and it cut the losses of library material down to 1.3%. (University Libraries' newsletter 1:1 p. 4 1976–77)

1887 1894 1955 1975



# 1970s–1980s

**1978**

University Libraries began integrating their catalog with an online library catalog, known as OCLC. Joining 1,500 other libraries on the OCLC system, University Libraries created electronic catalog records of their entire collection. The process took fifteen years. (Larry p.2)



(UW Photo)

**1978**

The reference department expanded librarian services to include class-oriented tours and bibliographic instruction, which began with the College of Education and expanded to other disciplines (University Libraries' newsletter 3:1–2 p. 6 1978-1979)

**1978**

University Libraries installed two computers and a printer, connecting the library to the OCLC union catalog (a shared network of cataloging systems) with more than 4 million records. (University Libraries' newsletter 3:1–2, p.1 1978–1979)

**1979**

The Science Library suffered a space crunch. Built in the seventies, it was meant to hold 100,000 volumes and by the late seventies held 160,000 volumes. A remodeling project to expand the Science Library was slated for the mid 1980s. (University Libraries' newsletter 4:1, p.1 1979)



(UW Photo)



(UW Photo)

**1977**

The College of Human Medicine funded a library position in the Science Library to handle Health Science Information Network requests. (University Libraries' newsletter 4:3, p.6 1980)

**1977**

New microform equipment was purchased. (University Libraries' newsletter 2:1 p. 7 1977)

**1980**

Computerized book check-out was now an option and circulation staff could automatically manage fines and send overdue notices. The computerized system, known as CLASSIC, was used statewide in Wyoming. (Newsletter 4:3 p. 2 1980)

**1981**

The card catalog changed drastically with the implementation of AACR2 (a cataloging code adopted by the entire English speaking world). (University Libraries' newsletter 4:2 p. 1 1979–1980)

1977

1978

1980

1981



# 1980s–1990s

26



(Photo by Nancy J. Sindelar)

**1984**

Former President Gerald Ford visits University Libraries during his visit to Wyoming. Ford gave a lecture at UW in April. Coe Library hosted an exhibit on the former president and his Wyoming connections including Wyomingites in the Ford administration and Ford's visit to Yellowstone National Park.

**1988**

Librarian of Congress James Billington visited University Libraries in October.

**1989**

UW joins 33 academic, public and school libraries which compose the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries. (*The Library Associate* 2:1, p.5 Summer 1989)

**1989**

The print card catalog was removed in order to make way for the online catalog.

**1989**

CARL was selected as the new online catalog and integrated, automated system for University Libraries (Larry Jansen). Students could now use their student ID to check out books.



(UW Photo)



(UW Photo)

**1990**

University Libraries celebrated the acquisition of their one millionth volume (*The Library Associate* 2:1, p.1 Summer 1989).

**1991**

University Studies 1000 courses started, which all university freshmen were required to take. There was a library assignment component to the class: find a book, an article and a journal call number as well as take a self-guided tour audio tape tour through the library. (*The Library Associate* 5:1, p.1 Fall 1992)

1984

1988

1989

1991



(UW Photo)

## 1994

Coe Library celebrates a new area dedicated to periodicals.

## 1996

Coe Library hosted the Ariel training conference. Ariel was a way of transmitting documents from one library to another for interlibrary loan purposes. (*The Library Associate* 9:2, p. 5 Fall 1996)



(UW Photo)



(UW Photo)

## 1991

UW Outreach Librarian and library service to Outreach students was actively integrated in University Libraries overall services.

## 1993

University Libraries combined reference services with government documents services resulting in a single reference service point.

## 1995

University Libraries started using the information superhighway also known as the Internet and Gophers. The libraries developed a new home page and librarians used the web in instruction sessions. Government documents now appeared on the Internet (*The Library Associate* 8:1, p.1 Spring 1995). The Libraries provided electronic resources through Gopher (an Internet menu system) (*The Library Associate* 8:1, p.2 Spring 1995).

## 1995

Six video viewing terminals were added to library services.



(UW Photo, 1999 Library Council Members)

## 1997

A new electronic classroom on the main floor of Coe Library opened with 14 computers. Librarians use the classroom to teach students and faculty members how to use the various library databases and resources.

## 1997

The University Libraries Advisory Council was established. The council was intended to create a "broad, active and strong council to address the difficult and vital issues of resources, technology, and open and effective communication between the Libraries and the University community" (*The Library Associate* 12:1 Spring 1999 p.1). Jim Forrester from Philosophy served as the first Library Council Chairman. The council had 13 voting members.



# 1990s–2002



(UW Photo)

## 1997

Seventy-six new computers were added to Coe Library's main floor in early 1997. The computers sat on new pod desks.

## 1997

Librarians offered Netscape searching and online catalog workshops for library patrons.

## 1997

University Libraries added more databases, and placed computers near the reference desk. Infotrac, UW Catalog Plus, SilverPlatter and Firstsearch were all new databases offered.

Additional research tools were the Netscape browser and CD-ROM stations (*The Library Associate* 10:1, p.1–2 Spring 1997).

## 1998

Desk top video conference testing became available. Sheridan College, University of Colorado, and Nebraska Medical Association participated in the testing and findings were presented at the Off-campus library service conference. (*The Library Associate* 12:1, p.2 Spring 1999)



(UW Photo)

## 2002

The University of Wyoming Capital Facilities Plan 2002–2007 included plans for a new Information, Library, and Learning Center as an addition to the current Coe Library.

## 2000

University Libraries first offered wireless access in the building (*The Library Associate* 13:2, p.8 Fall 2000).



## 2000

The new Voyager integrated library system was introduced and included the new catalog called Ferret, a departure from CARL.

## 2002

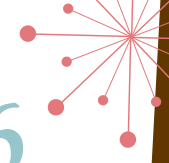
University Libraries joins the Wyoming State Library to assist with database purchases for the Wyoming Libraries' Database (WYLD) project.

WYLD serves all of the public and academic libraries of the state: all 23 county libraries, 43 branch libraries, four school districts, seven community colleges, a number of special libraries, and the State Library; more than 90 libraries.

1997

2000

2002



# 2003–2006

## 2004

The University Libraries' electronic classroom was renovated as the result of a federal grant. The remodel included twice as many new computers with flat screens and a new instructor station (*The Library Associate* 15:1, p.4 Fall 2004).



(UW Photo)

## 2004

University Libraries administers a web-based market survey aimed at patrons. LibQual+ is a joint effort between the Association of Research Libraries and Texas A&M University to provide a marketing tool that measures affect of service, information control, and library as a place (*Check it Out* newsletter, Winter 2004).



(UW Photo)

## 2005

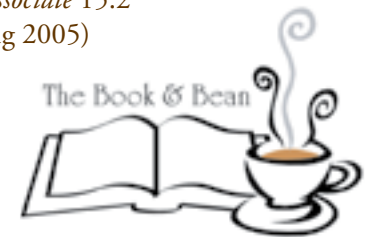
The Librarian of Congress Dr. James Billington made a return visit to Coe library and gave a public talk about the future of libraries in a digital age.

## 2005

University Libraries and the American Heritage Center merge their online catalogs. Catalog holdings of both units are now accessible in one catalog. (*The Library Associate* 15:2 p. 8 Spring 2005)



(UW Photo)



(UW Photo)

## 2003

University Libraries start the tradition of purchasing student art work from the annual juried student art show at the UW Art Museum. Purchased artwork is displayed throughout the library.



(UW Photo)

## 2004

The University Libraries Development Board was established. The board is an advisory board for community relations and fund raising.

## 2005

*The Book and Bean* coffee shop opens on the main floor of Coe Library. The library's long-standing policy of no food or drinks in the library was reversed to allow for patrons to enjoy food and beverages in permitted areas.

2003

2004

2005



# 2007

## 2007

On October 5th, the Ground Breaking Ceremony commenced for the new addition to and renovation of Coe Library. Guest speakers included University Libraries Development Board Chairman Darryl Bindschadler, UW President Tom Buchanan, UW Head Football coach Joe Glenn, University Libraries Dean Maggie Farrell, and 2007–08 ASUW President David Kiren. (*The Library Associate* 18:1 p. 4 Winter 2007)



(UW Photo)

## 2007

*Find It Fast*, a powerful search engine that can search the libraries' online catalog and research databases simultaneously, became a permanent fixture on the libraries main web page. Through *Find It Fast*, patrons can locate articles, books, maps, government documents, DVDs, and much more using one search engine. (*Check it Out* newsletter, Winter 2007)



(UW Photo)

## 2007

University Libraries partnered with the Graduate School to adopt a Web-based (electronic) submission for all UW master's theses and doctoral dissertations. Theses and dissertations published from 1887 through 2006 underwent review, scanning, and digitization. Over 9,000 bound dissertations and theses become accessible online to university affiliates. (*The Library Associate* 17:2 p. 11 Summer 2007)



(UW Photo)

## 2006

University Libraries joined *Prospector*, a unified catalog of 23 academic, public and special libraries in Colorado and Wyoming. With a single search, UW patrons can identify and borrow materials from other libraries and have them delivered to Coe Library within three to four days. (*Check it Out* newsletter, Fall 2006)



## 2007

The Library Annex opens in September with 59 percent more shelving space and over 50 student study spaces. Once known as the Science Library, The Library Annex underwent asbestos abatement and had compact shelving installed. (*Check it Out* newsletter, Fall 2007)

2006

2007



# University Libraries: *The Next Chapter*

The 50th anniversary of William Robertson Coe Library comes at an exciting period for University Libraries. Current developments include a new wing to Coe Library, increased funding for collections provided by the Wyoming Legislature, new services that provide access to and delivery of journals and books, dedicated staff members and experienced faculty librarians, and strong support from the university community for information resources.

The new addition to and renovation of Coe Library will provide a variety of enhanced learning environments to the libraries including technology integrated group study facilities for both small and large groups of students. The integration of technology in Coe Library will allow students ubiquitous access to networks and electronic information. Students will not be limited to specific areas of the library to perform certain tasks. In addition, Coe Library will become a multi-purpose facility that houses traditional collections such as books, journals, and microformats.

As the intellectual center of the university, Coe Library will serve as host to a variety of events on campus while meeting the multi-learning and teaching needs of students and faculty members. The libraries support public book readings, open discussions, classes, and special events. Coe Library will feature comfortable furniture, UW student art, policies that provide services and spaces to accommodate current and future student needs. Students and faculty members will find that Coe Library is a center where ideas are exchanged and discussions are made that enrich both formal and informal instruction.

Reflecting back on the last fifty years causes one to pause and ponder the next fifty years of Coe Library and imagine how information will be incorporated into higher education at the University of Wyoming.

Perhaps in a hundred years, a majority of information will be delivered electronically. But for the foreseeable future, it is safe to assume that library collections will remain available in a variety of formats.

In the future, the information environment will be radically transformed by technology. But society will likely continue to embrace different types of information that might be considered “informal” or “gray” by today’s definitions. This will include online videos, podcasts, music, electronic scholarly articles that are available outside a formal journal publication, data, and individual documents and books. Society, while knowledgeable about reliable sources will become more accepting of less formal published materials and students will integrate a variety of information formats into their scholarly pursuits. The challenge for librarians will be to provide access to these materials while teaching students information literacy skills that enable self-sufficiency and development of evaluation skills that recognize valid, scholarly information.

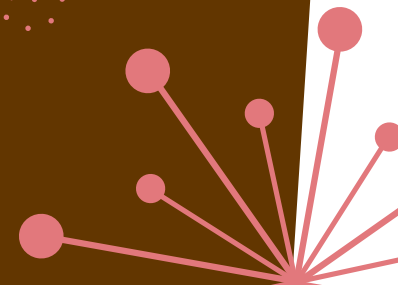
Library services will continue to be vital to the university community including assistance in locating specific information, integration of media into student reports, delivery of media to the classroom and to the desktop, and assistance with downloading information to hand-held devices. While we often consider materials located at campus libraries as primary resources that belong to the university, in the future we will consider the world of information as local and services will be developed so location of information is not as pertinent as access to global information. With the evolving direction of information resources, smart online tools will be critical in connecting UW students and faculty members to the world’s wealth of information at their fingertips.

With so much information delivered to the individual and tailored to their information needs, Coe Library will focus more on the individual and a variety of scholarly activities. It may take another 50 years before all of the books within Coe Library are converted to digital formats. During that period, the building will evolve and change with the times just as it has done for the past fifty years. And so too will the individuals who work inside Coe Library, their skills will change but their dedication to contributing to the scholarly goals of the University of Wyoming will remain constant.

As University Libraries move forward to embrace the future, looking back on our history confirms that our progress would not be possible without the committed leadership of the directors, librarians, staff members, and the many student employees who have worked at the libraries. It is their commitment to working with students and faculty that have kept Coe Library vital and essential to academic pursuits of the University of Wyoming.

The story of Coe Library is more than the items contained inside, it is a story of people connecting with others in the pursuit of knowledge. It is a place where individuals come to learn and to create knowledge.

Fifty years ago, Coe Library was a premiere facility where students and faculty members gathered to learn. And fifty years from now Coe Library will continue to be a gathering place for people who want to learn and expand their knowledge.





# University Libraries: *Leaving a Legacy*

Over the years, friends of the libraries have donated their time and resources to ensure UW students and faculty members have access to quality and current library resources. The establishment of an endowment provides financial support to the libraries throughout a donor's lifetime and beyond. Listed here are some of those endowments which have left a legacy at the libraries.

## **Everett H. and Ruth E. Anderson Periodicals Excellence Fund:**

Established by Ruth E. Anderson (Mrs. Everett H. Anderson) to support the University Libraries, especially periodicals acquisitions.

## **Orville Andrew Beath Memorial Library Endowment Fund on Selenium Research:**

Established by Mary E. Beath in memory of her father, Orville Andrew Beath, to support a bibliographic database on selenium studies.

## **Bindschadler Family Library Endowment:**

Created by Darryl and Helga Bindschadler to establish the Bindschadler Group Study Room in the William Robertson Coe Library.

## **Emmett Chisum Library Fund:**

Established by Emmett D. Chisum to support acquisition of books and materials about Wyoming or by Wyoming authors.

## **John C. and Esther L. Clay University Libraries Next Century Endowment:**

Established by John C. and Esther L. Clay to support development of the ILLC Coe Library campaign and collections.

## **Dickman Library Endowment Fund:**

Established by Francois and Margaret Dickman to support purchase of books and periodicals, especially those focusing on international economic affairs.

## **Fifty-Year Class Reunion Endowment:**

Established to support the purchase of books and other materials for use by UW students. Every year, alumni celebrating their 50th class reunion contribute funds to the endowment.



William Robertson Coe Library at night, circa 1957.  
(Photo, AHC Collection)



### **Gruden Family Foundation Fund for the Library:**

Established by Frank R. Gruden and Dorothy M. Gruden to support the purchase of books and periodicals.

### **Gwinn–Cole Library Excellence Endowment:**

Established by Dr. Nancy E. Gwinn and Dr. John Y. Cole to support technical services and library systems at the University of Wyoming.

### **Kim and Laural Krueger Library Endowment for Animal Sciences:**

Established by Mr. Kim J. Krueger and Mrs. Laural S. Krueger to support collection development benefiting the Animal Science Department within the College of Agriculture.

### **Kim and Laural Krueger Library Endowment for Music:**

Established by Mr. Kim J. Krueger and Mrs. Laural S. Krueger to support collection development benefiting the Department of Music within the College of Arts and Sciences.

### **Emil Massa Historic Map Endowment:**

Established by Emil J. Massa to enhance the historic map collections.

### **McMurry–Spieles Endowment for Library Excellence:**

Established by Carol J. McMurry and Patrick R. Spieles to support scholarship and professional development of librarians and library staff, the McMurry–Spieles Outstanding Staff Award, the McMurry–Spieles Author Series, the McMurry–Spieles Research Collection, and the Alma Doke McMurry Reading Room and Popular Reading Collection.

### **Ralph E. McWhinnie Student Assistantship Endowment:**

Established by E.J. “Woody” Haines (lawyer and trustee of the Ralph E. McWhinnie Trust) to support at least one undergraduate student assistantship in the University Libraries.

### **Agnes Milstead Endowment:**

Established by Mrs. Agnes M. Milstead to fund the Agnes Milstead Award for Distinguished Librarianship, to purchase books and materials to enrich the University’s academic programs, and to provide support for the Agnes Milstead Visiting Librarian Program.

### **Rezabek Young Readers Endowment:**

Established by Mrs. Frankie B. Rezabek to support acquisition of children and young adult literature.

### **Peter E. Skinner Endowment:**

Created by Nicholas A. Skinner to honor his brother, Peter. Funds support math collections and establish the Peter E. Skinner Group Study Room in the W.R. Coe Library.

### **Justus F. Soule Memorial Fund:**

Established by the University of Wyoming Class of 1920 in honor of Justus F. Soule to support acquisition of books.



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**Above:** This photo compilation illustrates the mid-century architectural style of William Robertson Coe library as seen in 2007 (left) and in 1958 (right). (UW Photos)

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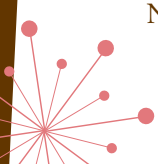
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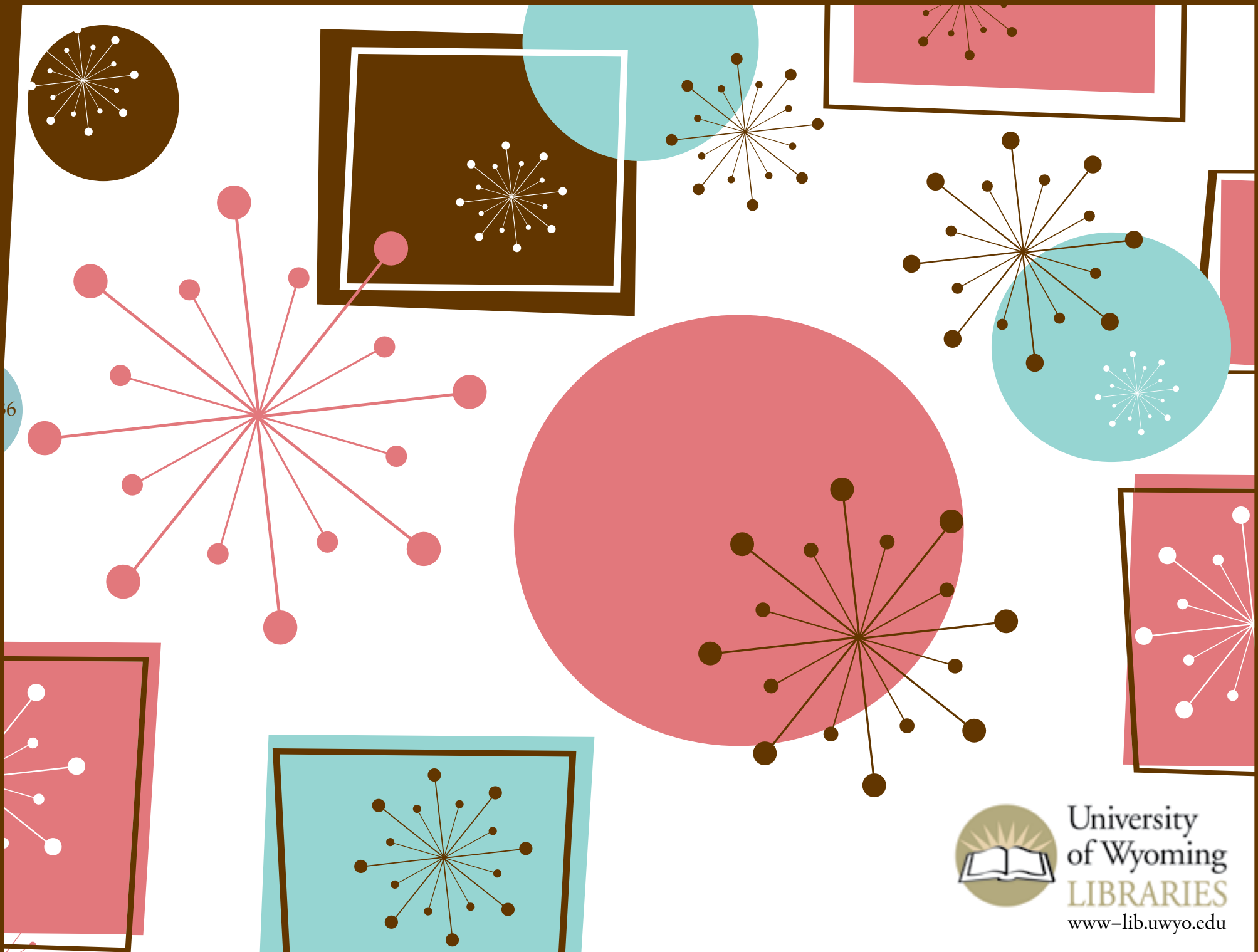
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