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Special Collections and the Future of the Academic Library

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The Medieval College: Library as Repository

University of Leyden Library, 1610
The Research University: Library as Laboratory

University of Gottingen Library, 1740
“The library is, of course, the central laboratory of the institution. It is more important than any other part of the equipment. It is the heart of the institution, sending its life-blood into all different departments.”

—Stephen B. L. Penrose, Whitman College President, 1923
The Research University: The Reality

The Research University: Heart of the Institution

Penrose Memorial Library, Whitman College, 1956
The Collections Grid, Dempsey and Childress
A Golden Age for Special Collections

Cover of Library Journal, November 1, 2005
A New Center and Heart

The SPU Library Rare Book Room, Archives, and Work and Faith Collection
New Scriptoria

Manuscript Book Mural, Library of Congress

The SPU Library Tech Desk Area