

**No Rubbish:
A 125th Anniversary History of Stetson University's Libraries**



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Preface

As Stetson celebrates its 125th year history in 2008-2009, it seemed an appropriate time to finish a Stetson library history that I started more than 10 years ago. The early years are better documented in available sources than some of the mid-history years, but every attempt was made to verify facts throughout the manuscript. As I have worked at the library for the past 20 years, those years are necessarily tainted by (and perhaps enhanced by, in some cases) observations made through the eyes of an employee and not that of an unbiased observer. It will be up to someone in the future to follow behind and “judge the judgments” that were made.

I had significant help in putting this history together. Gail Grieb, with her amazing knowledge of what is in the University Archives, supplied me with stacks of information to digest and she helped me pinpoint and verify many facts. Betty Johnson, with more than 45 years of institutional memory to go on, read an early draft and not only corrected some errors, but also suggested numerous additions to the manuscript. She opened a number of the Director's files to me which especially helped with library finances and gifts to the library. Jane Bradford waded through the manuscript as well. Gail, Betty, and Jane all graduated from Stetson and thus had insights as students as well as librarians and staff members.

Inevitably, mistakes are made when recounting historical events and conclusions are drawn that are subjective. While I had wonderful help, all mistakes or assumptions are mine alone. It is my hope that for Stetson's 150th year anniversary, someone will dig this history out of some dusty file and bring it up to date.

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Stetson University was founded in 1883 and became a college in 1885. Known first as DeLand Academy, after the principal founder of the town, Henry A. DeLand, its name was changed to John B. Stetson University in 1889 in honor of the well-known hat manufacturer who gave generously of his time and means. Dr. John H. Griffith, a minister, first directed the Academy, but with the founding of the college, Dr. John Franklin Forbes took over as Stetson's first true President. From the beginning, Stetson had an affiliation with the Florida Baptist Convention and was considered a "Baptist school" until 1995. The College of Law was organized in 1900 as the first law school in Florida. During the first decade of the twentieth century Stetson was the only college or university of fifty or more students in the Southeast that required Carnegie units for admission and four years' work for the A.B. degree; in the early years it was also one of the few co-ed colleges in the south. Graduate classes leading to first the Master of Arts, then other Master's degrees, have been offered since early in the twentieth century. The School of Music, long a department of the College of Liberal Arts (now the College of Arts and Sciences), became a coordinate college of the University in 1936. The School of Business was organized in 1940.

A small library collection formed in 1887, several years after the founding of the DeLand Academy and at the same time of the University's incorporation. C.T. Sampson, a shoe manufacturer listed in various publications as hailing from North Adams, Massachusetts and Washington, DC, and from the first a generous supporter of the institution, gave \$1,000 in the summer of 1887 which "was so judiciously expended as to secure [a library of] about 1,000 volumes [of] a character to be immediately and practically available for the use of the students."¹ Located on the second floor in the east wing of DeLand Hall, the original collection shared a room with the science laboratory and was described by an early professor as some bookshelves containing between 1,200 and 1,300 volumes.² At about the same time as the formation of the library, Senator Call of Florida nominated John B. Stetson University to become a repository for federal government documents. On November 16, 1887, Stetson became the first federal depository library in the state of Florida and within two years, about 600 volumes had been received from the U.S. Government.³



Stetson's First Library Collection was Housed in DeLand Hall

While no mention of the library is made in the first university catalog, the 1888-1889 catalog states that the library had grown to 3,000 volumes and the federal depository collection is touted as having "very valuable scientific and historical records."⁴ The following year, the catalog claimed the following virtues for the collection: "By purchasing only books of direct value to the students in their work, a library has been secured as valuable as many collections of ten times the number of volumes. It contains no rubbish."⁵

The first Stetson University librarian, Warren Stone Gordis, A.M., can claim substantial credit for the lack of rubbish. Gordis came to Stetson in the fall of 1888 as a professor of Latin and Greek and became custodian of Stetson's infant library (although the Librarian position was not listed in the University catalog until 1890). Gordis discovered that the books in the library were not classified, but had been entered into a register in the order in which they had been received and then shelved by general subjects. Although none of the early librarians were professionally trained, Professor Gordis recognized the need for using established library methods. At that time, the rival Cutter and Dewey classification systems were both in vogue. Likewise, two catalog systems competed: the alphabetical-classed and the dictionary style. Gordis managed the library, selected the collection, and eventually chose the Dewey Decimal Classification System and the dictionary cataloging method for Stetson.⁶ In addition, he taught four classes each day. He also recognized that leading periodicals were needed as source material. Therefore, a considerable portion of available funds was used for securing bound periodicals and complete, or nearly complete, runs of then-standard titles such as the *North American Review*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *The Nation*, *Scientific American*, *London Quarterly Review*, and the *Edinburgh Review*.



Warren Stone Gordis, First Stetson Librarian, 1888

Gordis recalled his efforts to maintain the library in a transcript of a conversation with Stetson President Lincoln Hulley dated October 8, 1929. The letter is informative on the state of the collection in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries:

Many years ago the Sampson Library of John B. Stetson University, then a small, unclassified but rapidly growing collection, was entrusted to my care, and so remained for a period of ten years. I procured all the available technical library material issued by the American Library Association, including classification tables, rules for cataloging, model cards, and Cutter Tables. I also procured the *Library Journal* and the printed catalogs of libraries cataloged by the Association experts. On the basis of a thorough study of this material I classified our little collection and constructed a dictionary card catalog. As I spent my summers in Western New York, I could refer uncertain points to the catalog of Columbia University or the Albany State Library, and could confer with members of the staff of the Albany Library School, of which Mr. Dewey was the head.

By these means I obtained results that I believe to be in every way standard, and acquired a knowledge of library technique which enabled me to meet professional librarians on their own ground. Thousands of cards are in our catalog to-day, printed by myself or assistants whom I have trained, that will challenge comparison with hand printed cards in any library. During an interval of absence from Stetson University, I classified according to the Dewey system and superintended the construction of a dictionary card catalog for the library of Ottawa University, Kansas. When teaching Freshman English I have given students systematic training in the use of the library.⁷

In 1889, the library became officially known as the Sampson Library due to C.T. Sampson's continuous contributions of about \$1,000 per year to purchase books. (When the first section of Chaudoin Hall was built, Sampson contributed to its cost as well.) President Forbes noted, however, that the library should be housed in a two-story separate building made to be as fire proof as possible.⁸ In 1892, the library collection, then numbering 4,000 volumes, moved to the first floor of the \$45,000 newly-constructed center section of Elizabeth Hall. The building was designed by Mr. Pearson, John B. Stetson's Philadelphia architect, and a \$5,000 donation from C.T. Sampson furnished the library. The 1891-1892 catalog describes the collection as containing:

...among its reference works, the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, *The American*, *Johnson's*, *Chambers' Encyclopaedias*, *The Century Dictionary*, *The Earth and Its Inhabitants*, and other standard dictionaries of Language, Literature, Religion, History, Biography, Art, and Music, etc. In the circulating department are the most valuable standard works on Religion, Science – including the International Scientific Series –, Art, Literature – including the masterpieces of Poetry, Fiction, etc., Travel, Biography and History.⁹



The Library Moved to Elizabeth Hall in 1892 Before Present-Day Wings Added

The same catalog stated that the library “has been carefully arranged according to the ‘Dewey’ or Decimal system of classification, which has been adopted in many prominent libraries in various parts of the country. A classified shelf-list has been completed and is accessible to the students.”¹⁰ The number of government documents had grown to 1,000. The next year’s catalog states that “There is also in process of construction a card catalogue which will make the contents of the library still more available to its users.”¹¹



The Library Interior in Elizabeth Hall

The 1893-1894 University catalog is dedicated in memory of Sampson who “was called to his reward” on September 28, 1893. Sampson left \$20,000 to the University, designated as an endowment for the purchase of library books.

Both the 1892-1893 and the 1893-1894 catalogs assert that “considerable additions will be made to the various departments [of the library collection] in the present year.”¹² Indeed, the collection increased substantially, from 4,000 to more than 5,000 volumes from 1893 to 1894. The Sampson bequest also took effect during the 1893-1894 school year, so presumably more money was available to purchase books and periodicals. The periodicals collection was first described in detail in the 1894-1895 catalog:

A prominent feature of the library is the collection of bound periodical literature, which includes virtually complete sets of the leading American and some English Magazines and Reviews. Among those that are complete or nearly so, may be mentioned the *Atlantic*, *North American*, *Nation*, *Littell's Living Age*, *Quarterly*, *Edinburgh*, *Fortnightly*, *Nineteenth Century*, *Forum*, *Contemporary*, *Arena*, *Harper's Scribner's Monthly*, *Scribner's Magazine*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Popular Science Monthly*, *Scientific American*, *Nature*, *Andover Review*, *Baptist Review*, and *Bibliotheca Sacra*. By means of “Poole's Index” these volumes become valuable to investigators of almost any subject. The University also subscribes for [sic] over seventy-five American and English periodicals, which are systematically arranged and accessible to students and visitors.¹³

By 1893 the card catalogue had been constructed with author, title, and subject access. The classified shelf list was also completed, taking the place of the classed catalogue. That year, the University proudly proclaimed that “It will thus be seen that the library has the most approved facilities for rendering its resources available to the user.”¹⁴

Julia Dickerson joined the University faculty in 1886 as a teacher of English, Rhetoric, and Grammar and served in that capacity until 1893. That year, she was named Assistant Librarian, under the nominal direction of librarian Gordis. Dickerson came from a distinguished family; her father was the editor of *The Standard* (later titled *The Baptist*), a weekly nationally-distributed publication. Gordis described Dickerson as “a rare personality [who] made a rich contribution to the life of the University.”¹⁵ Gordis, in the meantime, was granted a one year leave of absence on half salary to study and teach as a Fellow at the University of Chicago during the summer of 1894 and the 1894-1895 school year. He taught his favorite course, Cicero's Letters, while at the University of Chicago and then spent the summer of 1895 as a Traveling Fellow in Berlin and Rome.

Gordis returned to DeLand in 1895 to serve as Acting President of the University during the absence of President Forbes, who was traveling extensively in Europe and Palestine. During Gordis' tenure as Acting President, enrollment sharply declined because of the 1894-1895 freeze that paralyzed the state's citrus industry and caused many bankruptcies. Gordis named Dickerson Librarian during his short tenure as Acting President, but in the 1897-1898 catalog, Dickerson is again listed as Assistant Librarian and presumably Gordis resumed control of the library.

The collection had grown to include about 6,000 volumes by 1895. The following year the number had risen to about 6,500 volumes and “valuable accessions [had] been made in the departments of Sociology, Ethics, Classical Philology, History, English Literature, Chemistry, Pedagogy, etc.”¹⁶ The number increased to 7,000 in 1897, including the addition of the “great *Oxford Dictionary*.” That year, the biological sciences and English literature received the most important accessions.¹⁷ Once again, in a theme that was to repeat itself often over its 125 year history, the library had outgrown its current quarters. Books were piled on top of shelves and little room existed for “consulting.” The librarian had no office space and no storage for files.¹⁸

In 1897 and 1898, John B. Stetson added the north and south wings of Elizabeth Hall, again designed by Mr. Pearson. As with other campus buildings, the construction was overseen by an “elderly one-handed English contractor, Mr. J.T. Clake, who directed the construction of most of the ambitious buildings in DeLand for many years.”¹⁹ (Clake later became a University trustee.) Built with better bricks, the wings were superior in quality to the central building. Originally, the plan was to fuse the first and second stories of the north wing into a high library room with galleries for

supplemental stack space, but the final plan used the entire first floor of the new wing for a spacious library room with cataloging space in the adjacent portion of the central building.²⁰ A fire proof vault was added for University and library records of value.²¹ The library moved to the first floor of the north wing of Elizabeth Hall in the fall of 1897, where it would remain until 1909. The space it occupied was 50 x 75 feet, considered generous enough to house the collection. Procured through the American Library Association, library tables and lighting made the library "hardly surpassed by metropolitan libraries."²² President Forbes declared of the new space: "...one cannot enter without feeling the subtle and indefinable influence which breathes from the books, as though they were really alive, as though the very spirit of study and culture resided in them and made itself felt in the heart and mind of every one who enters here."²³



The Library Moves to the New North Wing of Elizabeth in 1897

After ten years as Librarian, Julia Dickerson left Stetson in 1897 to accept a position at a school in Cincinnati.²⁴ Due to serious financial shortfalls, she was not immediately replaced and Professor Gordis again took charge of the library until 1898 when he was granted a two-year leave of absence for graduate study at the University of Chicago. By that time, the collection numbered nearly 9,000 volumes; the following year it reached the 10,000 mark, having doubled in size in five years. Periodical subscriptions had increased to almost 100 titles and the journals were accessible through the *Cumulative Index*. Although he had not been resident in DeLand since 1898, Gordis continued to hold the title of Librarian until 1900, when he apparently made the decision not to return to Stetson. (Gordis completed his graduate work at the University of Chicago and served for seven years on the faculty of Ottawa University, the institution of Kansas Baptists.)²⁵

President Forbes asked Carolyn Palmer, A.M., of Lake Helen, to take over Gordis' work and she was given the title Assistant Librarian in 1898 after three weeks of training under Professor Gordis. According to one anonymously written library history, Miss Palmer was "quite perturbed" when she found out that Dr. Gordis was leaving and that she would have sole responsibility for the library.²⁶ She persevered, however, and served as Assistant Librarian until 1900 when she was named Librarian. In 1900, the first library assistants are listed in the catalog. Although clearly students, they were probably also paid employees. In most of the University catalogs from 1900 to 1930, they are listed as "Assistant in Library" under the heading "Administrative Officers." Rowena Compton, a

student from New Orleans, Indiana, pursuing elective courses in the Academy, and Carolyn Harriman, a student from Morelia, Mexico taking elective courses in the College, were the first two library assistants on record; they both lived in Chaudoin Hall. Early examples of “work-study” students, the two girls received credit toward their tuition for their library work.²⁷ Five other library assistants, all students, worked for Miss Palmer during her six years as Librarian.

During this time, the University signed an agreement with the University of Chicago to enter into an affiliation which gave Stetson’s curriculum the prestige of the more established school. (The affiliation was not unique – the University of Chicago entered into affiliations with a number of small schools around the country in an effort to assure high standards in university education.) Among other things, Stetson students who earned an “A” in all studies in their college courses earned both the Stetson degree and a corresponding University of Chicago degree. Also to Stetson’s benefit, the University of Chicago agreed to furnish books for the library at cost and to provide the library copies of all books and journals issued by the University of Chicago Press. Although the affiliation only lasted from 1898 to 1910, the library gained a good number of items through the arrangement.²⁸ Although the overall collection was considered quite impressive for the time, the fiction collection was weak despite high demand for readings in that area. Miss Palmer prepared subject-oriented reading lists of available books to make the collection more accessible and she reported that in 1900 about 50 to 100 people per day were using the library, including students, towns-people, and tourists.²⁹

When the University added a Law Department in 1900, the first in the state, a law library was also established. Although the collections appear to have been separate and housed in separate buildings, the law library did not have its own staff. In fact, the first law librarian would not be hired for thirty years. President Forbes asked an outsider, Cornell Law School Professor E. W. Huffcutt, to compile a list of essential titles for the law library; the early collection must have been well-chosen because it was cited as one of the reasons Albert J. Farrah agreed to come to Stetson as the first law professor. Florida lawyers proved eager to help the school, and donated a number of books for the library and Stetson was soon proclaiming itself to have the best law library in Florida “except that of the Supreme Court.” The collection included the *United States Report*, the *United States Statutes*, the *Florida Statutes*, and the reports of the Florida Supreme Court.³⁰



The Law Library in Flagler Science Hall

The library began to market its collection to others in 1902:

Desiring to extend the usefulness of the Library throughout the State, especially among public school teachers, the University offers to give information as to the amount of

material, upon any given subject, contained in the Library. This material may then be obtained by a personal visit or by correspondence with the Librarian.³¹

The year 1903 marked the end of the Forbes presidency. Forbes had been forced to resign due to persistent rumors, and finally litigation, concerning an indiscretion with one of the teachers. Though the majority of the Board of Trustees supported Forbes, the controversy was such that his resignation was inevitable. Forbes returned to Rochester, New York, where he eventually purchased a near-bankrupt business school and turned it into "one of the most prominent Business Schools in the United States."³² John B. Stetson, however, did not support Forbes and withdrew his crucial financial support from the University as a result of the scandal. The loss of Mr. Stetson's resources was felt throughout the campus, and a number of cut-backs were made. In order to save money on the payroll, the Board of Trustees voted in April 1904 to charge the Librarian's salary to the library fund – a fund meant to buy materials and cover other library expenses.³³

The first mention of faculty committees came in 1904: Vespers, Athletics, Curriculum, Correspondence, Catalogue, Registration and Credits, Affiliation, and Library. The first library committee included John F. Baerecke, Professor of Biology and Physiology; Edwin G. Baldwin, Professor of Latin; William Frost, Professor of English; J. Archy Smith, Dean of the University and Professor of Mathematics; Robert Macdougall, Director of the Business College; Carolyn Palmer, Librarian; Stella B. Vincent, Professor of the Normal and Practice School; Siegrid A. Lagergren, Instructor in German; E. Hortense Senegas, Instructor in French; and Nancy L. Hill, Director of the School of Art. Librarian Carolyn Palmer also served on the Correspondence and the Catalogue committees.³⁴ Palmer held the librarian position until 1906 when she resigned due to poor health; she died of tuberculosis the next year. The library was probably run by the student assistants for the remainder of the academic year.

Charles S. Farriss, Dean of the University, became Acting President during the 1903-1904 academic year. Reverend Lincoln Hulley, A.M., Ph.D., a former Bucknell University professor and an ordained minister, took over as President in the fall of 1904. An avid reader, Hulley's private library contained more than 3,000 volumes;³⁵ as President, he inherited a University library collection that numbered 13,000 volumes. Thanks to the Sampson endowment, the library compared very well, and even surpassed, other college and university libraries in the state.³⁶ The University of Florida's library collection at the time was called "practically worthless"³⁷ and many considered Stetson's library to be the finest in the state. Under Hulley, Stetson aspired to greatness and the library reaped the benefits of attention during the early years.

An entry in the 1905 University catalog lamented that "the Library has outgrown its temporary home"³⁸ and it had become apparent that a free-standing library was needed. The next year's catalog showed reason for optimism: "A suitable building is needed, and this need will soon be supplied by the erection of the new Carnegie Library Building now in process of construction."³⁹ Just as plans for the new library got underway, however, John B. Stetson suffered what was likely a stroke in his DeLand home and died on February 18, 1906 at age 76. Mr. Stetson had recently mended fences with the University and had once again become a major financial benefactor. In the year before his death, he gave the University \$16,600 in cash along with four new pianos.⁴⁰ (His funding also allowed the Board of Trustees to return to paying the Librarian's salary out of the salary budget line and not the library fund.) His death was unexpected; Mr. Stetson had attended the annual University trustees meeting and Presentation Day just the week before. The *New York Times* reported that the entire town of DeLand was in mourning.⁴¹

At Dr. Hulley's urging, the Andrew Carnegie Foundation provided the \$40,000 funding in 1908 for the building called the Carnegie Library Building -- now known as Sampson Hall -- with the provision that a matching amount be raised to endow the library's maintenance. Mrs. John B. Stetson, who had remarried and was known after the marriage to her second husband as Elizabeth, Countess of Santa Eulalia, established the needed \$40,000 trust with a Philadelphia bank. This trust would resurface almost 100 years later when in 2004 the University approached the Stetson family about converting the trust into an endowment for the present day library as a means of increasing

earnings and reducing management fees. Lewis Allen Stetson, great-grandson of John and Elizabeth Stetson, was instrumental in arranging the conversion in memory of Elizabeth Stetson. The bank responsible for the trust had not managed it well and the fund, which could have been worth as much as \$400,000 after 96 years, yielded only \$94,000 which was transferred to the University's S. Elizabeth Stetson Endowed Library Fund in 2005; the earnings have since been used to purchase books in subject areas of most interest to Mrs. Stetson, including French language and culture, American history and music.⁴²

The Carnegie gift did not come easily. Hulley first wrote to Carnegie in 1905 requesting an interview to discuss Stetson's need for a library building and received a reply indicating that Carnegie did not have time for such a meeting. Hulley pressed on, however, using his influential contacts, including T.C. Search (manager of the Stetson Hat Company) and Dean Albion Small of the University of Chicago. With the appropriate contacts made, Hulley wrote again to the Carnegie Foundation suggesting the amount of \$100,000. The foundation responded with a long form to fill out; Hulley emphasized on the application the fact that Stetson was the only university in Florida to employ a full-time librarian. When word filtered back that the foundation was considering less than the full \$100,000, Hulley let the foundation know that perhaps \$70,000 would cover the cost of a sufficient building and that Stetson could meet the matching fund requirement by using securities bearing four percent for its maintenance. This proposal did not sit well with the Carnegie staff as Mr. Carnegie expected the University to find new money to match any grant. Hulley lowered the needed amount to \$60,000 and pledged to raise matching funds within six months.⁴³

Apparently the Carnegie Foundation also showed some concern over Stetson's affiliation with the Baptists. Although Hulley touted the Baptist connection in some circles, he downplayed the relationship to the Carnegie staff and claimed that Stetson had as little sectarian spirit as did the University of Chicago and that the University imposed no religious restrictions on students or faculty. Once Mrs. Stetson pledged the match in the amount of \$40,000, the Carnegie Foundation made the grant in the same amount and Hulley set about to make due with far less than he had originally hoped.⁴⁴ In fact, convincing Andrew Carnegie to donate any money at all was quite a coup for Hulley, as Carnegie primarily funded public libraries and very few academic Carnegie libraries exist. Also out of the norm was the naming of the library; as C.T. Sampson had been so instrumental in funding the library from 1888 through the endowment left in his estate, the library remained the Sampson Library rather than the Carnegie Library. (Although the building itself was referred to as the Carnegie Library Building.)

Constrained by the amount of funding, Hulley chose to build the Sampson Library with "Lake Helen" bricks – made in the nearby town of Lake Helen, they contained quite a bit of sand and therefore absorbed quite a bit of moisture. In later years the structure would be found quite poorly suited for housing books. Even with the cheaper local materials, \$40,000 was not enough and Hulley used part of Mrs. Stetson's matching endowment and part of the Sampson endowment to cover building costs. In the end, the building cost in excess of \$45,000.⁴⁵

The following year, the 15,000 volume library collection was moved to the first floor of the new building which was designed to hold 40,000 volumes. The new structure was described in the 1908 catalog:

One of the most beautiful buildings on the campus is the Carnegie Library Building, the gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie. The plans for it were drawn by Mr. H. J. Klutho, the Jacksonville architect. The building is an imposing structure 150 feet long by 50 feet wide, not counting the portico in front, nor the stack rooms in the rear. It is two stories in height. It contains the C.T. Sampson Library, consisting of 15,000 volumes.⁴⁶

A certain reverence was accorded the building; one student described it as having a "dignified authority."⁴⁷ The entire first floor was one great room arranged with four groups of open stacks at the corner, with reference shelves and ample table space. A small addition in the rear provided office and cataloging space. The upper rooms of the building contained assembly rooms for the

Christian Associations of the University (the YMCA and the YWCA), the Eusophian Literary Society, the Stetson Literary Society, and the women's fraternity rooms.⁴⁸ The space previously occupied by the library in the north wing of Elizabeth was first turned into a large study room for the students and then, beginning in 1912, was used to house the Museum of Fine Arts for several decades.



The New Carnegie Library Building Circa 1908

The importance of the Carnegie Library should not be underestimated; it was surely one of the finest libraries in Florida at the time. Dr. Hulley highlighted the library's importance in an address on February 21, 1908 to dedicate the library:

This is a great day in the history of John B. Stetson University. It will long be memorable. We have here with us today Henry A. DeLand, founder of this city, and John B. Stetson, Jr., the son of the great philanthropist, whose money was poured into this work so freely. We are formally accepting today, a great Carnegie Library, and an endowment of the same by Mrs. Stetson. Do we realize what all this means? Mr. Carnegie has given us \$40,000, stipulating that all of it shall be used in the erection of a building. Mrs. Stetson has given us \$40,000, stipulating that it be used as an endowment for the maintenance of the library. Mr. W.T. Sampson gave us \$20,000 stipulating that the income should be used for the purpose of books only. From this fund, and from other sources we already have \$20,000 worth of books in the library. This makes a library costing in actual money paid in, \$120,000. It is a wonderful record. Think of what it means. Here in Florida, remote from the great financial centres and the large centres of population, we have a University started on a solid basis, and in it a library on such a magnificent scale.⁴⁹

President Hulley went on to deliver a lengthy talk on the virtues of the library in education:

We must remember that libraries are a new thing, as now projected into educational work. They once had very little place there. Years ago none of the universities employed a librarian; some professor had charge of it on Saturday, when it was open for the loan of books, but men came to see that the library ought to be open a little while every day. Then

it was opened all day and later for a while in the evening, and now, in most institutions, the library is looked upon as the brain centre of the institution.... Our new library has been planned with reference to its practical utility, in the furtherance of the aim of this university. It is designed to promote scholarship. It is to be used for study. The books will be on shelves accessible to the students. Everything about it shall be suggestive of learning. It shall be made beautiful without and within. Only a high class of books shall be admitted. It shall be in charge of an educated librarian. We shall expect to train in this library many of the future leaders of Florida.⁵⁰

Hulley's remarks, however, were tempered by his warnings about the misuse of the library, especially with respect to younger students:

A library is not always a blessing; it may interfere with other duties. In school it is a fair question which should come first, study as a discipline, or reading for the acquisition of information. Here in this institution I believe in discouraging the younger pupils from making much use of the library. They do not have time for it. If they do use it at all it should be for collateral reading, and not for research work. Most librarians, like most professors, tend to magnify their own department. This is but natural, and in a sense it is laudable, but each department has to be correlated with every other one. If the librarian be a strong personality of a quarrelsome type, he may dominate and cripple the work of the institution by emphasizing the library unduly, or a single teacher might do the same thing. Our younger students here at Stetson have lessons in latin, lessons in mathematics, and science in the laboratory, and their work is so heavy that they have no time for the library.⁵¹

But finally, Hulley issued a rousing closing:

This library given to us by Mr. Carnegie, endowed by Mrs. Stetson, and also by Mr. Sampson, is to bless the whole State. It leads in the march of education now, and it will for years to come. It will inspire hope in all who come here to dream dreams for the betterment of their fellow men. It will serve as a stimulus to other parts of the State, to other schools and to towns to found libraries of their own. The library is to be the workshop in which the students are to learn the mighty thoughts of the past. In it they are to commune with immortals. In it they are to drink at the fountain of wisdom. In it they are to learn that knowledge is power. In it they are to have opportunities unequalled not only in this State, but in all the South portion of the country, and when our work is done and we have given place to those who are to follow after us, the sons of men shall rise and call these blessed who laid the foundations of this library.⁵²

After the departure of Carolyn Palmer, a series of women held the Librarian position in the new Carnegie Library. Ida Grace Cramer, A.M., was Librarian from 1907-1908. Mary Mumper Shaver, A.B., a graduate of the Woman's College of Baltimore and a former student of the New York State Library School, served as librarian from 1908 to 1910. She was followed by Sara Webster Eno, A.B., a graduate of the University of Illinois who received her library training at the New York State Library School and held the Librarian position from 1910 to 1912.

The earliest correspondence on record from the federal government to Stetson University about its depository library is a letter dated July 20, 1910 from the Printing Investigation Commission. The letter indicated that the library had not responded to an inquiry the Commission had made in May of that year about the depository collection. Although no record exists of the nature of the inquiry, it was "asking certain information in regard to the distribution of Government publications to your library as a designated depository." The letter went on to say that "If no answer is received from you by August 20 the Commission will assume that you do not desire to have your library continued as a depository, and will recommend that it be stricken from the list of depository libraries." The letter was signed by Reed Smoot, Chairman, Printing Investigation Commission. Presumably the matter was settled satisfactorily, as the depository continued its status.⁵³

In the 1912-1913 catalog, the first editorial comment on the government documents collection was made:

In former times government documents were considered useless material, but now they are proving to be of great interest on account of the remarkable development of the scientific work of the government, many experts being employed for original research in the field of "applied science." As a result of this, many bulletins are issued yearly by the government under the following headings: -- Agriculture, Army and Navy, Chemistry, Engineering, Food, Diet, Forestry, Geography, Good Roads, History, Insects, Irrigation, Laws, Live Stock, Medicine, Minerals, Soils, Statistics, Water Supplies, Wild Animals and Miscellaneous.⁵⁴

About this time, the University of Chicago ended its affiliation with Stetson. The relationship had always been precarious as the Chicago faculty, especially early on, did not fully believe in the quality of Stetson's programs. When the Forbes scandal hit Stetson, the Chicago alliance almost ended at that point. The shaky relationship continued for some years until the Chicago Board of University Relations voted in 1906 to phase out the relationship with Stetson and three other small colleges and to cease all benefits effective October 1, 1910.⁵⁵ At that time, the library ceased receiving the publications that had come to them via the affiliation.

Despite the break with Chicago, the library forged ahead with an endowment totaling more than \$60,000 thanks to several large gifts; the library depended heavily on gifts in the early days. In 1912, for example, John B. Stetson, Jr. gave 375 volumes worth about \$400.⁵⁶ The 20,000 volume collection that was promoted as quite good by 1912:

The University is especially rich in its library facilities. Three large donations for this purpose have been received, and a collection of books thereby secured which is unrivaled in this section of the country.⁵⁷

Library hours were first recorded in the 1912-1913 Catalog: Monday-Friday: 8:00 am to 8:45 am; 9:00 am to noon; 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm; Saturdays: 8:30 am to noon.⁵⁸ In 1919, the library added evening hours: Monday through Thursday, 7:00 to 9:00 pm.⁵⁹ Afternoon hours were extended until 5:00 pm. in 1931.⁶⁰ The library's regulations were also outlined and, with minor changes, remained in place for many decades:

Books of the Reference Collection are not to be removed from the Library, but may be freely consulted at the tables. All bound magazines are classed as reference books. Books in current use in connection with courses of instruction will be temporarily placed on the shelves of the Reference Collection, and will then be subjected to the above rule. Works of special value or especially liable to injury on account of their rarity, illustrations, etc., are not to be removed from the Library, except by special permission.

The Librarian is required to make an entry of every book removed from the Library, at the time of its removal.

Students may borrow books upon the following terms: No student can have more than two volumes at the same time. Each book must be returned by the borrower within two weeks from the date of its withdrawal. The loan may be renewed for a similar period. Five cents a volume will be charged for each day that a volume remains unreturned after the two weeks for which it was withdrawn.

Members of the Faculty have at all times free use of the Library, and may borrow books under the following conditions: Each book borrowed is to be presented to the Librarian to be charged to the borrower. Each book borrowed is understood to be taken out for a definite period subject to the call of the Librarian, but this time may be extended upon application to the Librarian.

All books borrowed from the Library must be returned before the close of the Fall and Spring Terms.

The Librarian is charged with the general duty of maintaining order in the Library, preserving the room and its content from damage, and reporting to the Bursar any fines which may have to be enforced.⁶¹

Mrs. Phillip Loring Allen, A.B., L.S., came to Stetson to fill the position of Librarian in the fall of 1913 and served for two years. She was the first librarian to have a degree in Library Science. According to an anonymously-written library history, Dr. Hulley disapproved of her because she allowed the boys to talk to the girls in the library and, presumably because of this, no other professional librarians were hired during his tenure.⁶² Apart from allowing cross-gender conversation, Mrs. Allen had other odd practices. The Florida climate had an adverse effect on the conditions of the library's books and, over the years, various accommodations were made to try to preserve the books and protect them from humidity and insects. Mrs. Allen's solution was to scatter a "powder" over the books -- which one person at the time noted "detracts from the orderly appearance of the Library but is very effective in preserving the books."⁶³ One can only imagine what constituted the powder and the dust that it must have created. Her successor claimed that Mrs. Allen had instituted a spirit of discipline in the library and, in turn, the students seem to take new pride in the building.⁶⁴

Dr. Gordis returned to Stetson in 1913 and from 1929 to 1936 served on the faculty library committee. He remained an active member of the Stetson faculty until 1946, when he was given the title of Professor Emeritus of Greek. He passed away in 1956, having given 43 years of service to the University.



Warren Stone Gordis Circa 1945

Helen Fay Gates, A.B., trained at the New York State Library School, became Librarian in the fall of 1914 and remained until 1917. She worked on classification and re-classification to make the collection more accessible and was the first to move all the fiction into the literature classification by author. She also did a complete inventory of the collection during her tenure and discovered only 75 books missing.⁶⁵ Gates took pride in the excellent periodical and newspaper collections; not only did the library subscribe to eight Florida papers, but also to newspapers from Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, and Springfield. A common refrain of all librarians from this time was the lack of order of the government documents. Although the documents have made up roughly half the total library collection throughout most of the library's history, for much of that time they were

assigned low priority in classification and attention. A special collection created to support campus debates included traditional library works, as well as pamphlets and clippings the Librarian selected to aid debaters. Debates occupied a central role in college life at the time and an average of three per week was held throughout the academic year.⁶⁶ For the first time, sheet music was moved from the music department into the library so that it could be cataloged and kept in better condition.⁶⁷

In keeping with efforts to publicize the library beyond the campus, Gates set up a booth at the Volusia County Fair in 1915. Posters showed the function and scope of the library and photos of the exterior and interior of the building were mounted in Stetson green. Other Stetson departments also set up booths at the fair to promote the school.⁶⁸ Gates noted, however, that both alumni and the DeLand public were making use of the library's resources on a regular basis and that the staff's willingness to assist with reference work was the best means of advertisement.⁶⁹

As did most colleges and universities, Stetson suffered financially during the World War I years as enrollment dropped off, faculty left, and inflation caused prices to rise. Stetson's glory years slipped away and the effects were felt across campus, including the library. Although financial victories were won here and there throughout the years, Stetson never again had the abundant financial resources that it once enjoyed.⁷⁰ The War years were the beginning of what Stetson faculty today call "the budget crisis of the moment."

Gates left Stetson in 1918 to get married and Hulley transferred Stetson German instructor (1911-1917), Sarah Elizabeth Bangs, A.B., to the library for the remainder of the year;⁷¹ she served as Librarian in 1917-1918, then left to go into government service in Washington. A year later she asked for her position back and Hulley granted the request due to her help in the War effort; she served as Librarian again during 1919-1920. During the years 1918-1919 and 1920-1921, Grace Stanton Love, A.M. held the position. In June 1921, the Librarian position was vacant, although no record exists as to why or when Grace Love left Stetson.⁷² Bertha Hollingsworth Bowen arrived in October 1921 and served for about a year, followed in 1922 by Mary Olivia Walters, A.B., who left the following year for foreign mission work.⁷³ Love made about \$125 a month as librarian, while Bowen made only \$58 a month; the discrepancy may have been due to educational attainment as it is known that Love had an advanced degree and Bowen's credentials are unknown. Library assistants during these years made anywhere from \$25 to \$75 per year, but they very likely worked limited hours. During the 12 months between February 1921 and February 1922, the library spent \$311 on library assistant salaries; \$72 on salaries for janitors, housekeepers and carpenters; \$22 on supplies; \$192 on the light bill; \$590 on steam heat; \$12 on city water; and \$237 on painting the roof.⁷⁴

Stella M. Stevens, a sister-in-law of Mr. H.B. Stevens, a trustee, took over as Librarian in 1923 and remained until 1930. Although Mrs. Stevens probably did not hold a college degree, Dr. Gordis was pleased with her work:

Our present librarian, Mrs. Stevens, has been with us several years. She has with ability and diligence devoted herself to the problems of library organization and administration. At the outset she had experienced assistants, I was in almost daily conference with her, and she had much more abundant printed help than was available when I got my initial experience. She is now, I believe, a more competent librarian than the average girl fresh from a library school.⁷⁵

President Hulley, still harboring suspicions about the liberal attitudes of professional librarians, also lauded Stevens as "far more efficient than three former trained librarians were."⁷⁶

Teenagers and young adults at the time pushed at the boundaries of authority and had less respect for the sanctity of Sunday; they insisted that the library should be open in the evenings and on weekends. The library began opening in the evenings, but co-ed use caused a problem with "discipline."⁷⁷ Hulley specified, therefore, alternative nights for boys and girls to use the library; each gender got two nights a week from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm with the girls required to travel in

groups from Chaudoin Hall to Sampson. The library was open to all Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and from 8:30 am until noon on Saturday, but Hulley steadfastly refused to open on Sundays.⁷⁸

The Depression hit Stetson hard as it had other institutions around the country, and the finances of the University were on shaky ground in the 1920s. John B. Stetson, Jr. followed in his parents' footsteps as a generous donor to the University; the library received a number of valuable books from him over the years. The Depression hit him hard, too, however, and much of his fortune disappeared in the stock market and he could no longer be counted on for funding. Mrs. Stetson, long a major benefactor, died in 1929 without leaving a large sum to the school and another avenue of funds ended.

When Stetson applied for membership in the Southern Association of Colleges in 1930, the University was criticized for having too few faculty members with Ph.D. degrees and for not having a professionally trained librarian. Dr. Hulley, determined not to hire a professional librarian, hired Richard Elijah Clark as Librarian in 1930. Clark held an A.B. from Wake Forest, a B.D. from Crozer Theological Seminary, and an A.M. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. A trustee at Coker College, Clark had also been a pastor of a South Carolina Baptist church.⁷⁹ Hulley apparently thought that if Clark did not run the library to his disciplinary standards (enforcing a strict separation of boys and girls), he had enough academic credentials that he could move him to teach in one of the academic departments. During the summers of 1930 and 1931, Dr. Clark attended library school classes at the University of North Carolina to gain the qualifications required of the Southern Association.⁸⁰ He also took some library training at Peabody College in Nashville in the summer of 1931.⁸¹ Gilbert Lycan, in his history of the University, characterized Hulley's efforts to get Clark some library training as "pretending to make a 'trained librarian' out of Dr. R.E. Clark....."⁸²

A wing, oddly called the Sampson Library "Building," was added to the south side of the Sampson-Carnegie Library in 1929. It was built of "the best material, with plenty of light" and followed the architectural scheme of the original Carnegie structure.⁸³ In the beginning, the book stacks and study tables occupied the first floor of the new wing, with the main section being used as a reading room. The second floor of the wing was used as a stack room for the government documents collection, rare volumes, and reference books. Like the older portion of the Carnegie building, the wing had a capacity of 40,000 volumes. Later, periodicals were also moved to the wing.

Francis Alton Hammond was hired as the first law librarian and served from 1930 to 1935. He was an attorney licensed to practice in Massachusetts, but for the previous nine years had been the manager of the Volusia County Abstract Company of DeLand. Hammond was listed under the faculty heading, "Lecturers and Instructors" the first year; the following year the law faculty members were listed separately and Hammond's title was "Law Librarian and Instructor in Legal Bibliography." Hammond was followed by Oveda Cheatham who served as both law librarian and secretary to the dean of the law school. By this time the law library had extended its hours and opened to students and faculty from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm Monday through Saturday.⁸⁴

After 1930, library assistants were no longer listed as "Officers of the Administration." Sarah Harriet Kennedy is listed as an "assistant to the faculty" in 1932 (most likely as Dr. Clark's assistant because from 1933 to 1935 she is listed as "Assistant Librarian" with an A.M. degree). Kennedy had worked as a library assistant from 1927 to 1930, and probably in 1931 as well, while a student. She earned her B.S. in Library Science (likely from Columbia University as it is noted in the 1931 *Sampson Library Annual Report* that she took classes there) and resigned in 1935.

A major change was made in the classification of faculty beginning in the 1930-1931 academic year. Up until that time, faculty members were listed as either "Professors" or "Instructors" in a particular field. In 1930, the faculty was divided into two groups: professors were assigned the rank of Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor, while the rest of the faculty members were listed as "Lecturers and Instructors." As the Librarian holding the Ph.D., Richard Clark, was

included in the first group and ranked as a Professor. The University became a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1932.

In the early 1930s, Stetson was still feeling the effects of the Depression. President Hulley, desperate to pay the University's bills, cut faculty salaries significantly in order to keep the school afloat.⁸⁵ During this period, the library made do with limited funds. The collection had grown to 36,000 volumes with 100 purchased journal subscriptions and an additional 50 gift subscriptions. The library expanded its hours from two nights a week to five and reported serving more patrons than ever before.⁸⁶

After almost thirty years as Stetson's President, Dr. Hulley passed away in January 1934. After Dr. Hulley's death, his wife gave the library a substantial collection of books and documents that had belonged to her husband.⁸⁷ Dr. Charles Sherwood Farriss, Vice President, assumed the title acting president until Dr. William Sims Allen became Stetson's third president in August 1934. Under Dr. Allen, Richard Clark was moved to the Sociology Department and Dr. Lewis Stieg, who held a Harvard Ph.D. as well as a degree in Library Science from the University of Buffalo, became Librarian and professor of library science in the fall of 1935. He remained only one year, when he left to become head librarian at Hamilton College. Stieg was highly regarded in the profession and showed "first-rate abilities" in running the library.⁸⁸ Dr. Allen had a strong belief in high standards across the campus and from the time he became president, all Stetson librarians have held a library science degree. At the same time that Stieg came on board, Allen hired Amy Fetzer, A.B., B.S. in library science, and Dorothy Alexander, A.B. in library science, as assistant librarians, which brought the staffing to three full-time professional librarians and 31 student assistants (who worked a total of about 6,200 hours a semester).⁸⁹

When Dr. Allen became president, the various library and library building names were combined to become the Carnegie-Sampson Library. At this time, the periodicals and books were moved to the first floor to a closed stack area. If a student wanted to use a book, a request slip was presented to an attendant who got the book. Closed stacks were used so that no book could be removed until a record had been made by the Circulation Department. The main building contained the Sampson Library collection on the first floor. The annexed wing contained government documents on the first floor and a large reading room, seating 150 students, on the second floor. The library staff recognized the importance of the library as a gathering place for the University community and faculty and students often used the Gordis Room for teas and informal meetings.⁹⁰

President Allen was shocked, however, to discover the deterioration of the buildings on campus, including the library. Lighting in the library was so inadequate that it was difficult to read in parts of the building at night or on cloudy days. He set out to make major improvements to the facilities and, little by little, made headway in repairing the buildings. Allen also upgraded the curriculum significantly, adding academic departments (Greek and Geology and Geography), dropping vocational departments (home economics and journalism) and adhering to the standards of the Southern Association. He also added a department of library science, which included seven courses and ran from the mid-1930s until 1940. Library Directors Stieg, and later Severance, taught the courses. All students seeking the AB or BS degree at that time were required to take Library Science 101; the rest of the courses were designed for those who would become school librarians and 12 semester hours were required for a Library Science minor.⁹¹ Also increased were the number of library staff, the number of hours the library was open (from 7:30 am until 10:00 pm on weekdays), and the amount of funding to repair and bind books.⁹² New tables and a charging desk were added and charging policies were put into place to eliminate theft.⁹³ Although Allen made improvements to the physical library building and praised Stieg for his work on "renewing" the library, he was unable to significantly increase the book budget; therefore the once grand collection was no longer the pride of the south.

Allen also turned his attention to the law library. Although just a few years earlier Hulley had called the library "one of the best appointed law libraries to be found anywhere in a denominational institution,"⁹⁴ in truth the quality of the College of Law had diminished greatly over the years and

running it was a financial drain. Stetson had barely made it into the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) in 1931 and the Association made it clear that improvements must be made for continued membership. By 1932, the Association required each member school to spend at least \$10,000 every five years (no less than \$1,500 in any given year) on law books and journals – another hurdle for Stetson. Ten years earlier, Stetson had spent only \$547 on law books, less than on laundry or on city water, and far less than on care of the grounds.⁹⁵ Allen spent a number of years trying to upgrade the law collection and, with considerable legal wrangling and in-fighting, to get rid of poor law professors and bring in a talented law faculty and administration.⁹⁶

A 1937 rule by the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) stipulated that by September 1940, the law school must employ “a qualified librarian whose principal activities are devoted to the development and maintenance of an effective library service.” Considerable disagreement ensued within the AALS over the term “qualified librarian” – while some felt that it clearly indicated a person formally trained in librarianship, others felt that the important part of the rule was that the person devote all of their time to the law library.⁹⁷ Apparently the argument was resolved in favor of dedication rather than education at Stetson as Mrs. Oveda Taylor (formerly Cheatham) was assigned as the full-time law librarian and an AALS inspector reported positively on the supervision of the law library. (No indication of her educational level has been found, but she is not believed to have had a library science degree.)⁹⁸

By the mid-1930s, the law library collection numbered 12,000 volumes. The main library moved much of the legal works to the law library collection and upon his retirement as Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, William H. Ellis donated his entire library of 630 volumes to the library, so the collection grew steadily.⁹⁹ The library obtained nearly all the Florida state session laws for the collection and the library was able to gain copies of early Florida territorial session laws through the WPA's Rare Books Project.¹⁰⁰

Although Allen maintained discipline on campus, enforcing restrictions on drinking and gambling, he lifted many of Hulley's more oppressive restrictions, especially for women. The library no longer had separate nights for boys and girls and the students could even attend dances in town.¹⁰¹ Allen instituted more work-study opportunities and both boys and girls worked in the library for thirty cents an hour off tuition. A typical nine hours of work a week, therefore, paid \$100 worth of annual tuition.¹⁰²

Robert Watson Severance, A.M., B.S. in Library Science, followed Dr. Stieg as head librarian in 1936 and remained until 1940 when he left Stetson to become a dean at Baylor University. Severance found the library in good condition upon his arrival and complimented his predecessor by claiming “that so thoroughly did he study the situation and establish basic ideas that the present Librarian has been confronted chiefly with matters of routine and physical improvement.”¹⁰³ Severance made some changes, however, including the reclassification of thousands of books and the establishment of several special collections. What is now known as the University Archives started under Severance's direction and all materials relating to Stetson and people connected to Stetson were gathered together; Severance also started the rare and expensive book collection, known today as the Treasure Collection.¹⁰⁴ Extended statistics began to be kept during the 1936-1937 school year, including books used in the Library (10,287); reserve books used (22,242); and overnight reserve books used (4,414). With a student population of 760 in 1936, about 6,000 books circulated annually for two week loan periods.¹⁰⁵



Librarians in 1940

Left to Right: Charlotte Smith, Camilla Manson, Director Robert Severance, and Fay Lineberry

During Severance's tenure, the serious collection of Florida Baptist material began. Gordon Reeves, a graduate student, first worked on gathering the material which originally included Florida Baptist Association minutes, thousands of Association reports, the Florida Baptist Annuals, and the *Florida Baptist Witness*.¹⁰⁶

Although it is unclear when a separate Music Library was established, a separate room for such a library was included when the Music School moved into a renovated DeLand Hall in 1937. The Music Library housed 100 volumes of books on music, several hundred band music scores, as well as chorus, orchestra, ensemble, and instrumental music.¹⁰⁷ The Music Library ran as an independent unit with its own budget under the direct supervision of a Music Librarian who reported to the Dean of the School of Music. Little mention is made of a Music Library in any University annual reports until the 1980s when the duPont-Ball Library Director took over the administrative responsibility for the collection.

Severance reported three important milestones for the library in 1937: the completion of the periodicals reorganization (with all volumes bound and a complete written inventory of the collection completed), a steady increase in library use by students and faculty, and the receipt of two major gifts. The gifts included the private libraries of Mr. A.V.S. Smith and of Dr. Philip Dowell, both of DeLand. The Smith collection consisted of about 1,500 books, including a number of early European imprints. A sixteenth-century book was donated, along with 25 books from the seventeenth century and a rare Bible dated 1629. As Phillip Dowell was a botany and zoology teacher who had served as president of the American Fern Society and as editor of the *American Fern Journal*, the Dowell volumes emphasized ferns and mosses. The University received the entire library upon Dowell's death and the collection was thought to include almost everything printed in English (along with some foreign language material) on the subject of ferns. Although it is unknown exactly how many items were included in the Dowell collection, Severance indicated that the size of the collection was "almost overwhelming."¹⁰⁸ The book collection numbered in the hundreds and many can be found in the collection today. The full run from 1910 to 1936 of the *American Fern Journal* is also still on the shelves.

Other important and valuable gifts from the 1930s have since gone missing from the collection, most likely withdrawn, sold, or stolen at some point, including a 1629 Bible issued by the Cambridge University Press, a 1607 edition of *Eirenarcha*, and a first edition (1791) of Bartram's *Travels*. An old shelf list indicated that *Travels* was withdrawn and sold by then Library Director Dudley Yates in

1971. William Faden's *General Atlas*, filled with colored maps dated between 1788 and 1801, met the same fate, and was sold in 1977 for \$1,000; unfortunately not all of Stetson's library directors had an appreciation for special collections and some valuable items were let go to make up for budget shortfalls. Two gifts from the 1930s that survive in the Treasure collection today are *Apophthegmata*, published in 1609 and the *Annual Register of the Baptist Denomination, in North America*, published in 1792.

Circulation increased dramatically under Severance's leadership. Although "circulation" included in-house circulation of periodicals and reserves, which makes it impossible to compare to today's circulation rates, a still-impressive 61,684 items circulated in 1938. Over two years, the circulation rate jumped 43%; Severance attributed much of this to the use of the library by the library science students. A staffed reference desk fielded 200 "major" questions, with many other directional and informational queries handled.¹⁰⁹ In 1939 the use of government documents increased 500% over the previous year, primarily due to better cataloged access to the information.¹¹⁰

While at Stetson, Severance served as President of the Florida Library Association – an indication of Stetson's reputation in the state. (Stetson history professor Harry Winters served as a vice president of the Florida Library Association in the late 1930s as a result of his service as a trustee of the DeLand Public Library.) Severance went on to gain a national reputation, serving as President of Texas Library Association, President of the Alabama Library Association, President of the Association of College and Research Libraries, as well as holding a number of American Library Association (ALA) and Southeastern Library Association positions, and founding the Federal Librarians Round Table of ALA. He was active in the Florida Historical Society and represented Stetson at some of its meetings, as well as serving as the personal representative of John B. Stetson, Jr. in at least one of its meetings.¹¹¹ By all accounts, Severance served Stetson well as library director despite chronic poor funding of the library.

Due to the growth of the library, additional librarians joined the staff in the mid-1930s. Amy Steen Fetzer, B.A. in Library Science from the University of North Carolina (and two other bachelors degrees), was hired as Assistant Librarian; Dorothy Jane Alexander, A.B., B.S. in Library Science from Emory University, was named Reference Librarian; and Alberta Williams Bush, A.B., A.B. in Library Science from the University of North Carolina, served as Circulation Librarian. James Drake, a graduate of Eastern Kentucky State Teachers College and of the Library School of George Peabody College, replaced Amy Fetzer in 1937-1938 while Fetzer was on leave of absence.¹¹² Drake left after a year to accept a position at Purdue and was replaced by Charlotte Smith.¹¹³ The next year, the position of Cataloger was added and it was filled by Marjorie Ann Stuff for a year before she left for a cataloging position at the University of Nebraska.¹¹⁴ Stuff's replacement was Fay Lineberry, a cataloger from Duke University.¹¹⁵ With the exception of the head librarian, the librarians were not listed as faculty members. After Severance resigned, librarians were not considered faculty members again until 1950, when they were considered faculty without professorial rank.



Library Circulation Desk in Sampson Library

With much consideration given to its religious affiliation, the library added Sunday hours in 1937. President Allen said in a written note to the library director, "I have thought through the matter of opening the Library on Sunday afternoons for two or three hours. It seems to me if it were clearly understood that this is a reading period, and not a period for study of lessons, that it would be a move in the right direction and would help many students."¹¹⁶

The son of a faculty member wrote many years later of his time spent in the Sampson Library during the 1930s:

It was not a particularly lovely building. To me, its columns were ugly by virtue of being thick, solid, and gray, when they should have been thin, fluted, and white. Fortunately, by the time I started using it, in the late 1930s, enough trees had grown around it to hide a good deal of its ugliness.the Sampson Library assumed a fairly important role early in my life. Almost always I saw the indefatigable librarian, Charlotte Smith, wearing pince-nez eyeglasses, and through them, keeping an observant eye on all that transpired in the vast reaches of the main reading room. Eventually, as she came to know me, her face might even crack a smile. In any event, she was always most helpful whenever I needed aid.¹¹⁷

Enrollment peaked in 1939 when 884 students were enrolled. The library hosted two WPA projects that year. The first employed Vernice Barnette for 30 hours per week to do mending, typing, and other assistance. The other engaged two workers in mining data from the Florida Baptist Association minutes to be used by the statewide church records survey sponsored nationally by the WPA.¹¹⁸ As the effects of World War II began to hit colleges across the country, Stetson's enrollment dropped from its highest ever to a meager 362 students in 1940. The University rented out its facilities to Army training groups to help meet the payroll.¹¹⁹

Charlotte Anne Smith became Librarian in 1941. A graduate of the library school at Emory University, she was considered an "officer of the administration" until 1947 when she was dropped from that status and listed solely as "library staff." Smith took a leave of absence in the fall of 1949 and the library was under the direction of Associate Librarian Susie Persons Brown during that semester. Charlotte Smith reappears as an "administrative officer" in the 1950 catalog. Considered a decent, though not overly dynamic or visionary, leader for the library, Smith did the best she could

with a meager budget. The glory days of the Stetson library were long gone and Stetson librarians learned to make the most out of insufficient appropriations (an unfortunate tradition that continues today). Smith, for example, succeeded in getting a number of gifts for the library, including the well-regarded library of Dr. Harry L. Taylor, a retired rector of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church and former Stetson faculty member.¹²⁰ Harking back to the “no rubbish” days, many at the time considered the library to have “little trash in it.”¹²¹

Sometime in the 1940s, the library became known simply as the “University Library” (although many continued to refer to it as the Sampson Library). In May 1945 the library opened the Gordis Room with a formal dedication. Located on the second floor, the meeting and lecture room was named in honor of first Stetson librarian Warren Stone Gordis who was still serving on the Stetson faculty. By this time, the library employed three professional librarians, four full-time assistants, and about 15 student assistants. Miss Brown served as Associate Librarian and Mary Nelle Martin, a Peabody Library School graduate, held the position of Circulation Librarian. Smith and the library staff did everything they could to encourage student use of the library and use, at least as measured by circulation, was high. In 1947, bound periodicals were moved to the ground floor of the library and a periodicals reading room was created there. The next year, some renovated storage rooms in the basement became work rooms for the Catalog Department.¹²²

While Stetson suffered greatly from lack of enrollment during the World War II years, a number of veterans began enrolling in Stetson in the mid-1940s and in 1946 they constituted fully half of the student body which caused total enrollment to increase by more than 100% over the previous year. Enrollment soared from a low of 362 to an all-time high of 2,554 in 1948. The veterans were considered a mature and serious group, and, as many were commuter students, they spent much time in the library studying and working on assignments.¹²³ Enrollment would drop after the surge of veterans and by 1951 enrollment had fallen back to 1,166 students.¹²⁴

On January 1, 1948, Dr. J. Ollie Edmunds became Stetson’s fourth president after President Allen resigned due to poor health. President Edmunds looked back on the past half-century at Stetson and noted the growth and achievements of the University, but also noted that “in library facilities, we have fallen way below most our sister institutions.”¹²⁵ In discussing standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools to which Stetson needed to adhere, Edmunds quoted from the Southern Association’s Library Committee report:

It is remarkable that the Stetson Library has been able to meet even passably fair the needs of a modern university program of instruction and research. The book collection is a monument to neglect over the years. It is too small in quantity to support the curriculum. It has not been systematically or carefully built in select study areas. It is lacking in quality in most classifications, and cries out, not only for greatly increased current support, but also for considerable expenditures for arrearages of books, magazines, audiovisual and other library materials. In other words, the Stetson Library is at this time insufficiently strong to meet the standards customarily set for the support of the average four-year undergraduate college of its size and is most certainly not of sufficient quantity or quality, in any area, to meet the demands being placed up on it of an expanded university graduate program leading to a Master’s degree.¹²⁶

The underlying cause of the dismal condition of the library was not a lack of qualified staff, but rather a lack of adequate financial support. Included in the Library Committee’s report was a table of eighteen southern college and universities which showed Stetson last in number of volumes and sixteenth in total library expenditures. (Similar tables created more than fifty years later again show Stetson at the bottom of their peer institutions in library expenditures.) The Southern Association’s Library Committee’s report concluded with the wish that “Stetson University will soon invest the funds needed to put the library in position to render the excellent service that instructors, librarians, and students so earnestly desire and so well deserve.”¹²⁷

Some limited progress was made in the libraries in 1949. Thanks to the influx of veterans with their educational benefit money, the University's income went from \$139,000 during the War years to \$1,018,000 just a few years later.¹²⁸ A new concrete floor was poured in the basement of Sampson Hall and new lighting was installed in the law library. The 75,000 government documents that had been deteriorating in piles in the basement were moved to new shelving on the second floor of the library and more than half of them were cataloged. (The following year, the government documents were completely cataloged – probably very minimally – thanks to the efforts of a displaced Polish student sponsored by the University.)¹²⁹ A "U.S. Documents Division" was created within the library, giving the documents prominence for the first time.¹³⁰ Much was left to be done, however, and the University had a long way to go to meet even the most lenient Southern Association standards. Dr. Edmunds made some significant progress in the financial situation in 1950 and the library reaped a budget increase to address some of the noted inadequacies in the collection; unfortunately, by the end of that year Stetson began to feel the effects of the Korean War as many male students left to join the services and tuition income dropped. The University's financial situation once more became shaky and the library's funds were again curtailed.

By the 1950s, Stetson had a library board of trustees. The "Library Maintenance Trustees" were J. Ollie Edmunds; G. Henry Stetson (the younger son of founder John B. Stetson) from San Fernando, California; David Harshaw of Philadelphia; John B. Stetson, Jr., of Elkins Park, Pennsylvania; and the Florida National Bank of Jacksonville. John B. Stetson, Jr. died in November 1952 and the remaining three board members carried on administering the trust until 1958 when Frederick S. Allen was added to the group. The Library Maintenance Trustees apparently functioned for about 10 years until their tasks were absorbed by other University bodies. Also in the early 1950s, the University began to consider seriously fundraising and development, and hired the first professional staff members dedicated to those tasks. Unfortunately, the Southern Association still had little encouraging to say of the library: "the Stetson Library is at this time insufficiently strong to meet the standards customarily set for the support of the average four-year undergraduate college of its size."¹³¹

The College of Law also continued to experience problems. Though the faculty had been greatly improved, the law school was moved to the Naval Air Station on the outskirts of DeLand in 1947. Conditions were terrible; the library was housed in a wooden building called a "constant fire hazard" and was still considered inadequate. The Association of American Law Schools once again admonished Stetson to improve the library and the facilities or lose accreditation.¹³² Despite gallant efforts by law school alumni and DeLand citizens, the Trustees eventually decided that the only way to improve the physical plant, get out of financial trouble, and retain accreditation was to move the College of Law out of DeLand. Both Jacksonville and St. Petersburg fought for the campus, but the decision went to St. Petersburg in 1953 (actually, the adjoining city of Gulfport, although the law library is still often referred to as being in St. Petersburg). DeLand supporters who had donated a total of \$33,000 toward a local law building were given the option of a refund or donating the money to the law library; only 17 of the 280 donors asked for a refund and \$29,000 went to the new law library.¹³³ Miss Ray Jordan became law librarian in 1946 and served in that position until the law school moved to St. Petersburg in 1954. At that time, she became Periodicals Librarian in the main library, a position she held until she retired in 1983.

At first the law library was housed in three separate buildings, none of them fire-resistant, which perpetuated less than ideal conditions. Charles A. Dana, for whom the law library was named, offered a challenge grant of \$250,000 (some sources list the grant at \$200,000) from the Dana Foundation for an impressive law library building that would be one of the keystones in the reversal of the College of Law's woes.¹³⁴ By 1957 the University had raised the necessary challenge funds and secured the Dana money¹³⁵ and the Charles A. Dana Law Library opened in 1958 with a formal dedication on March 8, 1959.¹³⁶ When opened, the library was spacious enough to house classrooms and an auditorium on the second floor.¹³⁷



Groundbreaking for the Charles Dana Law Library in Gulfport
At left, President J. Ollie Edmunds; with Shovel, Judge Carroll T. Runyan, LLB, 1936

As Stetson grew, the DeLand campus library outgrew Sampson Hall. Years of inadequate funding had left the library in deplorable condition both physically and in terms of the collection. At some point, consideration was given to enlarging Sampson with new wings as a solution to space problems and an architect from Daytona Beach, Harry M. Griffin, actually drew up plans.¹³⁸ J.B. Rodgers, Jr., president of the Alumni Association, spearheaded a "Loyalty Fund" to raise money for a fireproof wing for the Sampson Library. The *Stetson Alumnus* publication heralded the enlargement of the library as its number one goal in 1950 and said that the expansion would cost \$225,000.¹³⁹ A new graduate wrote to the Alumni Office commending the idea of an expansion for Sampson:

Since I believe the library to be of such importance to school life and spent so much of my time there while in school at Stetson, I want to make a personal contribution to the expansion with the understanding that this money is to be used for this purpose only.¹⁴⁰

Although the University alumni, Trustees, and "planning board" all agreed to the expansion, the administration eventually realized that the addition would not be enough to meet the future demands for library services. Dr. Edmunds considered the library "medieval"¹⁴¹ and he began to raise money for a new library building rather than an expansion; by the mid-1950s, the administration, the faculty, and librarians were already discussing what the new library should encompass. Debate centered on the size needed and the possible need for branch libraries. The Faculty Library Committee sent out questionnaires to deans and department chairs for feedback on their library needs. Dean Hugh McEniry correctly predicted the future when he wrote that the University would have graduate students within 25 years and that the library should be planned with their needs in mind. He also suggested that the University might grow to 2,500 students and that seating should accommodate that number. Most of those involved in the discussion seemed to believe that branch libraries would not be needed, with the possible exception of a separate Music Library.¹⁴²

Dean C. Howard Hopkins, on the other hand, promoted a "modular library," as the "only type of library we dare build, since our future is at present fluid. It would be the worst kind of

shortsightedness to freeze the present in a traditional building. 'A standard approach' would in the long run be very expensive." He warned that decisions about the new library building should not be made in haste and cited the advances in "micro methods" of keeping information. Finally, he was convinced that the new library should be located as the focal center of the campus.¹⁴³ President Edmunds also looked toward new technologies in his vision for the library citing the need to "take advantage of the improved modular system of storing books....to make provision for microfilm and microcard booths, audio, and air-conditioning."¹⁴⁴

As early as 1949, Dr. W. Stanley Hoole, Director of Libraries at the University of Alabama, who had been hired as a consultant to look at the needs of the library, concluded that: (1) the book collection was not large enough to carry out the teaching program of the University; (2) the library staff was not large enough to perform the services required of such as program; and (3) the library building did not provide adequate reading room space, adequate working quarters for an enlarged staff, or adequate housing for the books needed. Apparently, the report yielded some positive outcomes for the library, as the University expended \$64,750 on the library in 1949 – the most money ever spent on the library in a single year up until that time.¹⁴⁵ The book budget was increased from \$18,500 to \$38,500, allowing more volumes to be added (3,210) than in any previous year. The turn of fortunes prompted the head librarian to comment that "it is almost too good to be true."¹⁴⁶ Librarians could finally begin to add to the collection and professors became more involved in selecting books for their departments. Even with the buying frenzy that ensued, librarians worked to ensure that the books added were well-reviewed and supported the curriculum.¹⁴⁷

Also in 1949, the four Stetson librarians (Librarian; Associate Librarian in charge of Reference and Bibliography; Cataloger; and Circulation Librarian) first began to engage in some standard modern library functions such as formal library instruction, producing bibliographies and handouts on the use of the library, and opening an information desk. Interestingly, the desk was staffed by a student because no librarian was available to do the task and the head librarian concluded that students were more likely to approach another student for help. Around this time, Charlotte Smith, Head Librarian, spent a four month leave of absence in Europe and visited many libraries; it was reported that after her trip she incorporated "many of the features of the leading libraries both in this country and abroad."¹⁴⁸ Dr. Hoole also reported that the library's five-year average circulation rate of 20 volumes per patron was consistent with national norms. In response to Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, it was in 1949 that the copyright date was added to catalog cards and that the subject heading file was started. An increase in the library's budget allowed for enough staffing to do more such work on the catalog and by 1949 six clerical staff and about 30 students worked in the library.¹⁴⁹

The library received one of its finer special collections in 1955 from the Bert Fish Testamentary Trust. The 23 volume collection titled *Description de L'Égypte, ou Recueil des Observations et des Recherches qui ont été Faites en Égypte Pendant L'Expédition de l'Armée Française, Publié par les Ordres de sa Majesté l'Empereur Napoléon le Grand* belonged to DeLand native Bert Fish, a graduate of the first Stetson law class who served as United States Minister to Egypt. These volumes serve as the definitive work on the antiquities and natural history of Egypt. Publication began in 1809 under Napoleon Bonaparte and finished under Charles X in 1829. A custom-made locking wood case with glass front doors was made in Egypt to house the volumes and was included with the gift; the set is today found in the Stetson Archives and Special Collections office.¹⁵⁰ A prominent library journal, *College & Research Libraries News*, featured an intricate color illustration from one of Stetson's volumes on its cover in 2003.

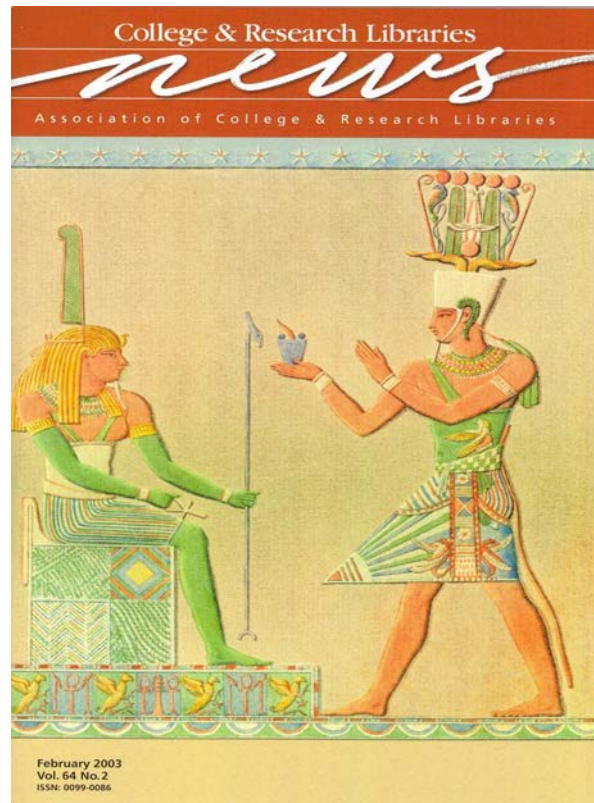


Illustration from Stetson Library Special Collections

The Government Documents Division was directed by students under the supervision of the Reference Department until August 15, 1958 when Miss Charlotte A. Smith was replaced as head librarian and took charge of the division on a full-time basis with the assistance of three trained students who had developed an interest in the collection.¹⁵¹ By the late 1940s, the library had begun to invest in microfilming. Several items considered particularly valuable were reproduced in film as back-up copies. In the mid-1950s, the library began subscribing to the Evans-Sabin Microcard Project, and was cataloging from this source a steadily growing number of items relating to early America. (By the early 1990s, however, machines to read these types of microcards were no longer available and the collection went largely unused. The last of the microcards was finally discarded in 2007.)

As seen below in the photo, the Sampson Library featured a large globe manufactured by the Weber Costello Company in Illinois. Presented to Stetson by Mr. Charles B. Prettyman and Aksel Wichseld of West Palm Beach, it was one of twenty globes manufactured during the war for use by President Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill, and the allied commanders. At the time of its manufacture it was the largest accurate globe ever made with a scale of 157.7 miles to the inch.¹⁵² No one working in the library today remembers the fate of the globe, which apparently is no longer on campus.

Charlotte Smith chronicled the woes of Stetson's library in her annual reports. The building had numerous flaws: not big enough for the collection; weak foundation; inferior bricks that allowed water to seep into the basement (which meant a loss of valuable square footage); upper floors not constructed to hold the weight of added bookshelves (resulting in the danger of collapse); no fire escape from the upper floors; a leaky roof; excessive humidity; poor ventilation; inadequate lighting and electrical wiring; unpleasant restrooms; and "active enemies" (silverfish, roaches, termites, and bookworms). (One librarian working in the building at the time remembers that there was only one women's staff restroom in the building and none for the public or for male employees. Male staff

members needing a bathroom break had to go to the one men's restroom in the Elizabeth Hall basement next door.¹⁵³)



Students in Sampson Library Circa 1960

Dean Hopkins warned the administration about the effects of neglect:

It is too easy to forget the Library, to avoid the problem and challenge it presents by forgetting it. But as we do so we weaken the heart of the very process for which the entire University exists; how can we have Christian scholars – or any scholars at all – without a growing, stimulating, and vital collections of books at the center of the enterprise? Staff, books, and a building – all are musts. And more of all three. But to cut Library expenditures for any purpose other than dire emergency is not merely short-sighted, it is tragic and self-defeating.¹⁵⁴

Students in Sampson Library





These Captains Chairs Can Still be Found in the Library Today

When Charlotte Smith resigned as head librarian in 1958 and became the Government Documents Librarian, Bob Lee Mowery took over as head librarian that same year. Mowery, a Catawba College graduate, received his library degree at the University of Chicago. According to President Edmunds, Mowery's two principal assignments included evaluating the collection and organizing the ideas of the faculty concerning the proposed new library building.¹⁵⁵ While no written documentation can be found to support the assertion, speculation has long been that Smith was forced to resign so that the University could bring in a man to oversee the planning and move to a new library building. (In support of this argument, Mowery left Stetson shortly after the move to the new library building and Smith was reappointed head librarian until her retirement a number of years later.)

Mowery evaluated the library, librarians, and library staff for the 1960 University Self-Study:

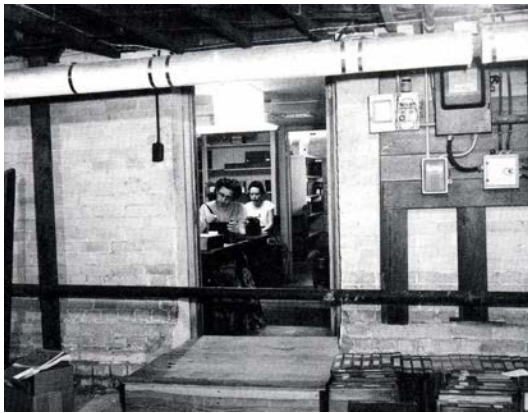
As far as "making do," we would seem to rate pretty high. We keep finding places for new books where there was no room even for the old ones; we get work done with intermittent and haphazard help; we maintain reasonably pleasant manners toward our clientele. Rapport between librarians and faculty members is certainly much better than it was eleven years ago. Our chief weaknesses seem to me to lie in the fact that we do nothing more than the above. Somehow we seem to lack vision, and our scholarship seems to lie in mothballs... We are endeavoring to live by bread alone.... We ought to try to strike a spark from what we have, and then nourish it till it produces more light and at least a modicum of inspiration.¹⁵⁶

In celebration of its 75th anniversary in 1958, Stetson published a booklet titled *75 Years of Vision*. The booklet listed "Challenge No. 1: To Establish a Library Worthy of Stetson's New Era" and suggested that the greatest 75th birthday present that could be given to Stetson would be a modern library building. The current building's woes were many. The structure was apparently not built to hold the weight of the number of books that had been accumulated and the number of stress cracks in the walls and floors were increasing. Constructed mostly of wood, the building was considered a fire hazard and the library had lost the offer of a valuable historical document collection John B. Stetson, Jr. wished to donate due to his concerns about the fire risk.¹⁵⁷ Dampness, mold, rats, and termites plagued the basement which was filled with bound periodicals and other volumes. Yet, due to lack of space, offices were housed in the basement amid pipes and other impediments to good working conditions. Technical Services staff actually had to step over a pipe to get into a storage space adjacent to their work area. Book stacks had crowded out seating areas and the library could not grow as fast as was necessary to keep up with the curriculum.¹⁵⁸

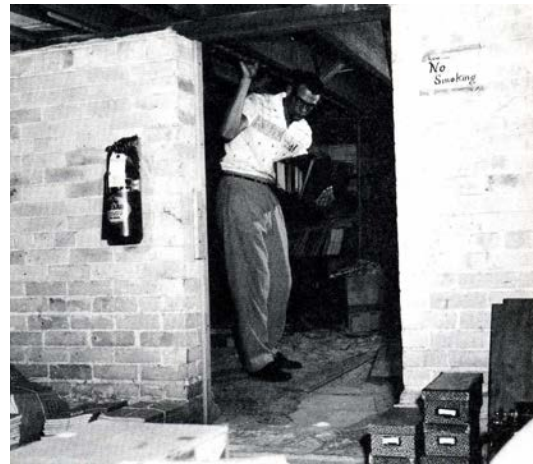


Stetson Librarians, 1960.

Left to right: Eleanor Anne Hurst, Frances Mills, Charlotte Smith, Ann Elizabeth Mitchell



Technical Services Offices in Sampson Library, 1958



"The Salt Mines":
Storage in Sampson Library, 1958

Mowery worked with Dr. Edmunds and Dr. Hoole on planning for the new library building. In a talk to the faculty, Dr. Hoole stressed that "the college library has emerged as the most meaningful and the most generally used teaching facility in the realm of higher education."¹⁵⁹ Hoole noted that the roles of all involved in university life had shifted with concern to the role of the library on campus. Not only did university administrators need to invest more money in their libraries, but professors had to take an active role in developing their college libraries. Post-war students, he argued, were much more serious about their education and their needs demanded a modern, fully engaged library staff. He also addressed the changing role of the college librarian as the library moved from its static role to a dynamic force:

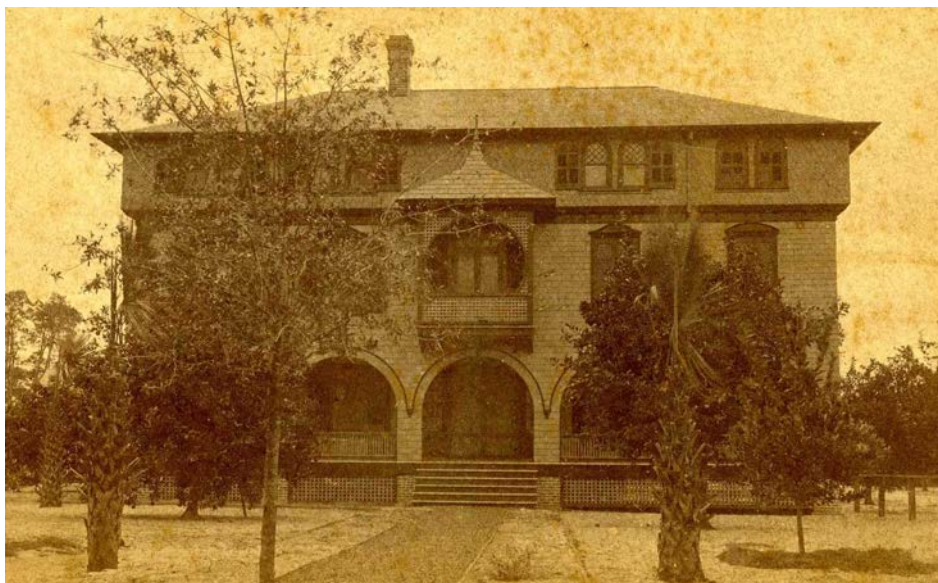
This reversal of policy focused the white heat of criticism upon the library and sent the librarian scurrying off to analyze his own dilemma. He discovered, first, that a nightwatchmanly attitude toward his profession was done for. He found that clerical duties and technical skills, important as they may be, could no longer be wholly relied upon to keep him afloat in the churning educational sea. He came to know that his office demanded a thorough knowledge of the instructional objectives of the institution – only by understanding what the teachers were trying to do could he do what he was supposed to do. Moreover, he learned that he had to combine good administration with respectable

scholarship. As executive, he had to deal with the cold and calculated business of budgeting, of personnel, of convincing his administrative superiors (and often his colleagues on the faculty) of the potentialities and the needs of the library. As scholar, he had to earn his place in the academic sun, not merely by comprehending the needs of other scholars, but also by being a scholar himself.¹⁶⁰

Librarians did not traditionally embrace this notion of producing scholarship, as they were rarely accorded benefits of flexible schedules and did not have the advantages of sabbaticals and research support. In addition, few incentives existed to actively engage in publication or research as they did not affect salaries or promotions. In later years this changed, as librarians increasingly became more engaged as faculty members and were held to higher standards of scholarship that had a direct impact on their success at Stetson; at the same time they began to be offered some of the same benefits as other faculty members such as sabbaticals and summer research grants.

The University community debated on the best location for the new library building. One architect wanted to place it on the northeast corner of Woodland Boulevard and Minnesota Avenue as a showcase for those driving past the campus. DeLand Hall, however, would have to be destroyed or removed for that plan which proved unpopular. Finally, the current location just to the northeast of Sampson Hall was chosen, prompting the need to move or demolish Holmes Hall. Unfortunately, Holmes Hall, a wonderful old historic house originally built as the Forbes family residence and inhabited by the Art Department at the end of its use, had deteriorated to the point of no return. Rot throughout, a poor foundation, floors and walls giving way, and the presence of termites prevented moving and preserving the building.¹⁶¹ According to architects and artists, Holmes Hall was one of the best-designed buildings on campus and a good example of Romanesque style; the arches inspired the architect of the new library to adapt the arches into his design of the brick screen that would surround the building.¹⁶²

Minnesota Avenue, running right through the heart of the campus, had been an issue for years and the library would be adjacent to the busy street. Stetson President John E. Johns convinced the DeLand City Manager that the traffic from Minnesota would affect the sensitive scientific equipment that would go into the new science building that would soon be built;¹⁶³ the DeLand City Commission voted on February 14, 1964 to close Minnesota Avenue between Woodland Boulevard and Amelia Avenue. A great gift to Stetson, the closure unified the center of campus and made the new library's location even better.



Holmes Hall

President Edmunds told the Board of Trustees in 1961 that the University had amassed \$780,000 toward the construction of the "first unit" of a new library.¹⁶⁴ (Although his wording implied that additions would be made to the library over time, an addition to the "first unit" did not happen until more than 30 years later.)



Head Librarian Charlotte Smith and Dean Hugh McEniry Look On as Catalogue Librarian Betty Johnson and Student Assistant Barbara Lindsey Process the 100,000th Volume

Named for two major donors, Mrs. Jessie Ball duPont, a trustee, and her brother, Edward Ball, the duPont-Ball Library was designed by a Boston firm, Perry, Shaw, Hepburn & Dean, specializing in library architecture. (Portraits of Mrs. duPont and Mr. Ball were hung in the library foyer in 1968 where they remain today.) Mrs. duPont had donated generously to Stetson during lean periods, and later she would help to build the College of Law Library in St. Petersburg. President Edmunds signed a construction contract for \$842,900 in early 1963¹⁶⁵ and Daniel Construction Company of Jacksonville started construction of the duPont-Ball Library soon after for a final cost of \$1.25 million. The library officially opened in May 1964. During the first week in the building, the library officially added its 100,000th volume, *Chartres*, underscoring the need for the new facility. When the move into the new 350,000 volume capacity library was completed, the building contained 248,000 cataloged items with more than 100,000 books, 20,000 bound periodicals, 5,000 volumes in microprint, and 100,000 government documents.



The Foundation of the New Library is Constructed



duPont-Ball Library in 1964



View from the Northwest

The outer walls of the 50,000 square foot building were constructed of more than 11,200 square feet of glass with an open work brick screen surrounding the building about eight feet from the main outer walls. More than 144,000 colonial style reproduction bricks make up the exterior screen which can be lit at night by lights which shine down on the sides of the screen. The interior is lit with more than 600 lights. The building consists of three floors: the ground, main and mezzanine. When the building first opened, the English and Education Departments used the ground floor for classrooms and offices while the rest was taken up with the receiving room and the heating and air conditioning equipment. The main floor and the mezzanine housed book stacks and periodicals, work rooms, the library director's office, the Circulation Department, other offices, the Stetson collection room (containing the University archives), the Treasure collection room, studies for graduate students, and a seminar room.



Center Entrance of the duPont-Ball Library



New Card Catalogs

The main floor atrium housed a large round marble table, comfortable chairs and couches. Upon opening, the library provided seating for 450 people. Ellen Peek, an assistant reference librarian and consulting decorator, designed the interior highlighted by a bright blue and avocado green color scheme typical of the 1960s. Remnants of the contemporary blue and green furniture remained in use until the late 1990s. (The now-whimsical blue and green matching file cabinets can still be found in offices in the building.) The mezzanine held book stacks, the government documents collection, and the government documents librarian's office. The Baptist Historical Collection, previously housed in Allen Hall, occupied a part of the north side of the mezzanine. Although the library began receiving Baptist material years earlier, a Florida Baptist Historical Society publication indicates that the Society (organized by the Florida Baptist Convention) officially chose to make Stetson's library its depository for materials on the history of Florida Baptists in 1950.¹⁶⁶ A facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible, given in memory of Harry C. Garwood, head of the Department of Religion for many years and Dean from 1941 until his retirement in 1955 as Dean Emeritus, was placed on the mezzanine floor and was housed there until it was stolen during a major renovation of the library in the late 1990s. The library purchased a replacement copy and in 1999 it was put on display on the main floor. The "Banta" Bible, one of the oldest volumes in the collection, was showcased on the mezzanine for many years; the Bible was brought to New Amsterdam (New York) by Epskie Jacob Banta in 1659 and was given to Stetson by descendant J.J. Banta in 1911. Today, the Banta Bible is housed in the locked Treasure collection on the ground floor.



Library Director Bob Lee Mowery (center) and Morgan Welch Accept the Gutenberg Bible Facsimile from Mrs. Grace Garwood

The moving of the books from the old Sampson Library to the new building is a Stetson story that is often retold. Because students did not want to lose access to the library's books during a professional move, the decision was made to have the Stetson community move the books by hand in one day. Dubbed "Operation Book-Lift," the move was planned with military precision by the library staff and a book-lift committee for May 7, 1964. Volumes were carefully measured and shelf stacks adjusted accordingly. A week before the move, Library Director Mowery led a group of fifteen students in a practice run and they moved 11,000 volumes. From this test, it was determined that 65,000 volumes could be moved in one day.

A computer printout assigned students a time to join the human conveyer line and each student was asked to work for no more than one hour and carry no more than 65 books. In March the Student Senate passed a resolution creating a book-lift holiday¹⁶⁷ and soon after Dr. Edmunds issued an official proclamation declaring May 7th an official Stetson holiday and canceling all classes.¹⁶⁸ The Commons closed on that day and a lunch in Stetson's Forest of Arden was offered with the University Band providing live music. Although students were expected to participate, their presence could not be enforced and Mowery said later that he would not have been surprised had there been a general exodus to the beach. He credited the leadership of the student committee co-chairs, David Stacy and Patty Snow, for organizing the students and getting them to show up in droves.¹⁶⁹

Led by a ROTC Color Guard, President Edmunds was first in line at 8:00 am that morning and carried the Gutenberg Bible facsimile from Sampson to its new place in the duPont-Ball Library. Both he and Dean Hugh McEniry, along with other administrators, faculty, and staff rolled up their sleeves and pitched in on and off throughout the day to carry more than their fair share of books. As each 1,000 books were moved, the Hulley Tower bells rang out and a large thermometer poster marked the progress as the books entered the new library. In all, some 1,200 Stetson students, faculty, and staff moved books for seven hours, walking the equivalent of an estimated 12,000 miles in the process. Many students originally scheduled for a one-hour shift stayed on and worked longer. The operation was so successful that the campus moved 100,000 volumes rather than the planned 65,000, along with 225 chairs and the card catalog. Students self-proclaimed the feat a world record and challenged any other library to match their book-moving time. At the end of the day, Dr. Edmunds publicly mentioned the "oneness" of the entire Stetson family as it pitched in to work like a regular family on any moving day. All participants received a souvenir leather bookmark

to mark the occasion, but more importantly got to participate in one of the most well-remembered campus events.¹⁷⁰



President Edmunds Leads Operation Book-Lift



Books Arrive at the New duPont-Ball Library



Dean Hugh McEnery Tracks the Book Move

The remainder of the items in Sampson was moved over a bit at a time. Once the elevator became operational, the documents were moved over during a week in July.¹⁷¹ Most of the documents collection remained unindexed and uncataloged and because of that were called “useless” in one library study. After the library vacated the building, the Art and Modern Languages Departments moved into Sampson Hall. President Edmunds said in his annual report to the Board of Trustees that the “opening of the duPont-Ball Library, our first new academic building on campus in more than half a century, almost dwarfs in importance any other news of 1964.”¹⁷² The library proved so popular that Edmunds claimed that the students, faculty, and townspeople have “demonstrated their appreciation of the building by using it at such a rate that threatened to make it too small even before we had completely moved.”¹⁷³ The University was forced to temporarily limit the use by the community and nearby junior colleges and high schools – a restriction that was later relaxed once the novelty of the new building had worn off.

Shortly before moving into the new building, librarians began to reclassify the library's collection from the Dewey Decimal to the Library of Congress (LC) classification system. The LC system, adopted by many colleges and universities around that time, allowed for more precise cataloging, as well as more room for growth in the collection. Reference books were the first to be converted, then literature, education, philosophy, religion, history, and the arts. Science volumes followed, and seldom-used collections such as the Treasure collection were saved for last. The effort took years and although the main collections were converted by the early 1980s, the last Dewey Decimal book in the building would not be converted until 2005. While more money had been allocated for books for the new library than in past years, the collections still suffered from lack of funding. President Edmunds acknowledged the deficiencies, stating that "the collection of books in DeLand and St. Petersburg are both respectable now, but they are not the libraries required on either campus. Much more money will be needed to bring them to the standard of excellence toward which we are moving."¹⁷⁴

In July 1964, two months after moving into the new duPont-Ball Library building, Mowery resigned to become head librarian and to supervise the building of a new library at Wittenberg College. Charlotte Smith was again appointed Librarian and served as head librarian until she retired in 1968; upon her retirement she was named Librarian Emeritus, a title she held until her death in 1990.

The opening convocation in September that year was held in the quadrangle and dedicated the new library. Dr. Edmunds recited an Act of Presentation:

Sir, in the name of the entire University community, its friends and generous supporters, I present to you the duPont-Ball Library, to be dedicated to the service of Almighty God in the enlightenment of His children. This building is named for Jessie Ball duPont in grateful appreciation of her continued benefactions to the many colleges and universities she has favored, and in special gratitude for her generous contributions to the faculty and students of Stetson University over a long period of years.¹⁷⁵

It is unclear exactly when librarians became members of the faculty. Librarians were hired with faculty contracts and assigned professorial ranks by the early- to mid-1960s, although they were usually hired at the rank of "Instructor" rather than the customary "Assistant Professor." In 1967, librarian faculty ranks are listed in the University *Bulletin* for the first time: Charlotte Smith, professor; Anne Hurst, Circulation Librarian, associate professor; Betty Johnson, Catalogue Librarian, and Mary Lewis, Reference Librarian, assistant professors; and Lois Musgrove and Ellen Peek, Assistant Reference Librarians, instructors.¹⁷⁶ Librarians had the same academic year contracts as the rest of the faculty, with time off during interims, and optional eight-week summer contracts. Administratively, the librarians fell under the College of Liberal Arts with their contracts signed by the College's Dean. At that time, though, librarians did not serve on most faculty committees or on the Faculty Senate. Under Library Director Dudley Yates, however, librarian contracts became 12-month contracts with leave accruing as it did for exempt administrators. By the 1980s the librarians were considered a separate entity within the University faculty and had begun to be placed on University committees and elected representatives to the Faculty Senate.¹⁷⁷

The School of Business was growing and many of the faculty members thought it time to seek membership in the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Stetson applied to the Assembly in 1966, but was denied membership primarily because some of the professors lacked terminal degrees and the library was deficient. The AACSB Visitation Committee did acknowledge recent improvements in the library, but none of the librarians would disagree that the library was under-funded.¹⁷⁸ The School of Business was finally admitted to the AACSB in 1995 (it had received accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, the ACBSP, an organization Stetson helped found, in 1988).¹⁷⁹

Dudley Yates became library director in July 1968. While serving Stetson, Yates left briefly from the summer of 1971 until February 1972 for Florida State University where he completed the work

for and was awarded a Ph.D. From the time Yates took on the directorship until 2002, more than 30 years, Stetson's library would be headed by male librarians. Men held almost all of Stetson's administrative positions, so it is not shocking that the school favored men, but the bias was especially evident in the librarian profession in which females far outnumbered males. Yates worked with the registrar to institute a student identification card that could be used as a library card as well, finally negating the need for a separate library card.

Shortly after Yates arrived at Stetson, John E. Johns, a former Stetson professor and business manager became Stetson's fifth President. Johns increased the endowment and operating funds, which helped the library's budget grow. In 1974, Dr. Yates resigned to become head librarian at the Tennessee School of Technology in Cookeville, Tennessee.



Director Dudley Yates Accepts a Gift Book

The Music Library, part of dismal physical facilities occupied by the School of Music for years, found a new home when the Music School opened Presser Hall in January 1970; Janice Jenkins, Music Librarian since 1968, supervised the move of the collection. Although the building experienced numerous problems over the years, including leaking, mold, and crowding, the three-story building provided the best accommodations the Music School had ever had. The library's small quarters and small staff was inadequate almost from the start, so duPont-Ball Library staff took over acquisitions functions in the mid-1980s. Most cataloging functions were taken over in later years as well.

By the early 1970s, the Charles A. Dana Law Library in Gulfport held 64,000 volumes and had an annual materials budget of \$60,000. Despite gains, the library received a critical evaluation by the Southern Association during the 1971 accreditation process; the most pressing need was additional seating space. A successful proposal submitted to the Charles A. Dana Foundation resulted in a \$200,000 challenge grant. The Trustees approved an addition to the library that opened in the fall of 1972 and doubled seating capacity and more than doubled volume capacity.¹⁸⁰ The new facilities included 10 typing-audio cubicles, a conference room, a photocopying room, four microform reading cubicles, a reference office, private offices for the head librarian and a secretary, an expanded staff work area for the staff, and a private research and study area for the law school faculty. By this time, the law library had a law librarian and assistant law librarian (both attorneys with a graduate degree in library science), a cataloger, a circulation assistant, a secretary, and a number of part-time staff and student assistant employees.¹⁸¹ When the law library addition was dedicated in 1973, President Johns claimed that "the College now has one of the finest library facilities of any law

school in the United States.” He added, however, that “attention is now being directed toward a qualitative and quantitative improvement of the collection.”¹⁸²

President Johns recognized that the Stetson library was not growing at a rate conducive to a “stronger institution.” Although the library held approximately 118,000 volumes and added about 8,000 books each year at the time, the library’s budget was not keeping up with the book inflation rate of about 20% annually. Likewise, the inflation rate of periodicals was increasing at an even greater rate and the 1,200 annual subscriptions could not be increased for lack of funding (and, in fact, 50 subscriptions were cancelled in the early 1970s to cut costs). The library also dealt with lack of shelving space as the library quickly filled up the “new” building. Additional shelving and card catalogs purchased in 1971 helped somewhat, but also filled up open spaces. The library made a considerable investment in “ultrafiche” about this time – like the microcards that had been purchased years earlier, the ultrafiche was considered a state-of-the-art method to compress research material and deal with space issues.¹⁸³ Like the microcards, however, ultrafiche eventually became obsolete and had been discarded by the early 2000s.

Several significant gifts were made in the mid-1960s to early 1970s. Robert Fleischer donated about 150 limited editions by classic authors such as Bronte, Dickens, Dostoevsky, Hugo, Poe, and Shakespeare; the collection was then valued at \$6,000 and is today housed in the Treasure Collection.¹⁸⁴ In June 1971, Ralph Ferrell donated his collection of 1,525 books to the library; the Ralph and Cornelia Ferrell collection covered religion, history, and biography and many remain in the collection today. The Sears Foundation gave \$1,500 to the library for book purchases and President Johns allocated a \$7,500 grant from the Esso Foundation that also went to the book fund.¹⁸⁵ In addition to the gift books, the ROTC special collection was assimilated into the main library’s circulating collection. Mrs. Robert Fleischer, wife of the man who had given the extensive limited-editions collection in the 1960s, donated two valuable books in 1975, *Evangelisches Gesangbuch* (1855) and a one-volume edition of Sir Walter Scott’s *Works* (1830).

Despite the fact that the collection numbered far below standards quantitatively, more than 60% of the students and faculty responding to a survey rated the library as having at least “an adequate” collection to support the teaching of undergraduates. Twelve percent of the faculty and 13% of the students believed the collection to be “better than adequate.” That left, however, 33% of the faculty and 32% of the students who found the library holdings either “weak” or “unsatisfactory.”¹⁸⁶ When considering how well the collection supported their own research, nearly three-fourths of the faculty rated the holdings in their field either weak or inadequate. The School of Business faculty members generally expressed more satisfaction with the collection for their research than those in the other schools.¹⁸⁷

The Catalog and Acquisitions departments were combined in 1972 to form a more efficient Technical Services Department. The book ordering process became faster, the backlog of books awaiting cataloging was eliminated, and the bookkeeping system was improved.¹⁸⁸ Library instruction efforts continued and reference librarians taught research skills to more than 400 students in 1972. Interlibrary loan progressed with the 1973 publication of the *Florida Union List of Serials*. The library’s Audio-Visual Department grew with demand for equipment to supplement lectures and laboratory instruction. A familiar refrain appeared in the President’s 1973 annual report to the Trustees: “To maintain the University’s standard of excellence, the budget for books, periodicals and binding should be significantly increased. Stetson University has a good library which is striving to become an excellent library.”¹⁸⁹

In the late 1960s, Library Director Dudley Yates worked with Education Department Chair Richard Morland to add some library instruction courses to the Education Department curriculum.¹⁹⁰ Initiated for those wishing “to be certified at the Rank 3 and Rank 2 levels as educational media specialists, the designation recently adopted by the Florida State Department of Education to replace the former classification, Library and Audio-Visual service,” the classes were all taught in the duPont-Ball Library.¹⁹¹ Courses such as Library Administration, Library Materials for Young People, Classification and Cataloging Library Materials, Reference Materials, and the Utilization of

Audiovisual Materials were offered as three-credit courses as part of the Teacher Education program.¹⁹² Yates, along with librarians Betty Johnson, Maurice Leatherbury, and Mary Genevieve Lewis taught the courses until they were discontinued in the mid-1970s.

It was in the mid-1970s that the duPont-Ball Library took steps to stop a significant amount of theft of library material. Although a security system had been discussed in previous years, funding was not available for an electronic system. Student and part-time employees, therefore, were hired to sit at the front doors of the library and check backpacks and book bags.¹⁹³ Although the library had a remarkable lack of major security problems, the usual situations came up over the years, including bomb threats, flashers, and disgruntled patrons. The library was even a victim of "extortion" in 1976 when a man called the library declaring himself "desperate" and demanding \$5,000 in a brown paper bag or a bomb that he had placed in the library would go off later that day. No bomb was found and library business resumed as usual.¹⁹⁴

Joe I. Myers succeeded Dr. Yates as Director of the duPont-Ball Library in 1974. His time as library director is not noted for any substantial advancements and his annual reports indicate some rather lackluster years for the library. It is unclear exactly when the library started charging unaffiliated users for borrowing privileges, but in 1980 library memberships with circulation privileges were being sold or given away (51 paid and 98 complimentary memberships). President Johns resigned in 1976 to accept an appointment as president of his alma mater, Furman University, and Dr. Pope A. Duncan became Stetson's seventh president. Duncan had been a professor of religion from 1946-1948 and 1949-1953. He would preside over the University's Centennial celebration and he oversaw its selection for the first private university chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in Florida.

The Education Department finally vacated the ground floor of the library in 1978 and the space was converted to help alleviate stack overcrowding. The conversion was funded in part by \$53,000 of the proceeds of the sale of the Turnbull Castle, a residence in New Smyrna Beach donated by the Matthews family.¹⁹⁵ The English Department would leave the following year and the library claimed the entire building for the first time, which gave it a 60% enlargement of its service area to house the growing collection. After the renovation, the ground floor included the receiving room, the machine room for the heating and air conditioning system, the government documents collection, the government documents librarian's office, and the Instructional Media Center. The reference collection and periodicals were on the main floor, and the Archives, Special Collections, and Baptist collection were on the mezzanine floor.

In 1979, the duPont-Ball Library added its 200,000th volume, a rare leather-bound 1634 book titled *The Compleat Gentleman*.¹⁹⁶ The book was one of a number of quality volumes worth several thousands of dollars donated by Dr. William M. Gafafer of New Smyrna Beach. Dr. Gafafer, a book lover and collector, hoped that his donations would lead to the creation of a Rare Book Room;¹⁹⁷ although the library never achieved what may have been envisioned, today's Treasure Collection (housed in the library's Archives and Special Collections) holds 825 rare and/or valuable titles. Still, the library struggled to keep up with the demands of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools due to low budgets, inflation, and added programs.¹⁹⁸ A rare infusion of funding was noted in the library director's 1980 annual report; the library received a 21% increase in its materials budget (4.5% of Stetson's educational and general budget which was thought to be high at the time, although still below the American Library Association recommendation of five percent and below the five to 6.2% common in the 1950s).¹⁹⁹ Almost 6,700 books were added to the collection that year; about 37,000 items circulated in the 1979-1980 academic year. The library had six full-time librarians and seven full-time staff members, supplemented by a number of part-time employees; this was actually fewer net staff than had been in place a decade earlier. By this time, the library was open 87 hours per week.

Transition to the Library of Congress classification system was completed for all circulating items. Betty Johnson, Head of Technical Services, devised a new budget allocation system that allowed academic departments more input in selecting their own material. Along with the budget help, the AV position was upgraded to a professional librarian slot, and authorization was given to hire two

part-time reference librarians to supplement the professional staff. Mediated online database searching, a relatively new innovation at Stetson, was improved with the purchase of a high-speed terminal.²⁰⁰ The following year saw another increase to the materials budget, bringing the total to \$145,000. The first microfiche-microfilm reader-printer was added.²⁰¹ In the early 1980s the library installed the 3M Tattle-Tape Detection System to fight theft; magnetic strips were placed in books and gates at the front doors would alarm if a book was removed from the building without having been checked out.



Library Staff, 1980

Seated left to right: Betty Johnson, Ray Jordan, Dorothy Minor, Ann Hurst, Martha Scott, Susan Connell, Doris Lyon, name unknown. Standing left to right: Madeline Quinn, Joe Myers, name unknown, Marshal Toney, Neil Scott, Sims Kline, Barbara Cullen, Mrs. Toney, Marlene Beeler. Myers, Kline, and Johnson would all serve as Library Directors.

A library history would not be complete without mention of Miss Olga Bowen. Bowen entered Stetson as a freshman in 1915 and earned both her bachelor's and master's degree by 1919. Immediately after, she joined the Stetson faculty, teaching history and English. She went on to serve the University in a variety of positions, including Assistant to the Dean, long-time Registrar, and finally, University Archivist. She was a personal friend of six of the seven Stetson Presidents who served during her lifetime. In 1968 the University honored Bowen with a "half-century" diploma in appreciation of 50 years of University Service; she would go on working in the library's Archives for many more years until she fell ill in the late 1970s. Until 1979 she had attended almost every Stetson homecoming since 1918. In honoring her, Mortar Board (an honorary society) representatives wrote of her: "She undoubtedly knows more Stetson graduates than anyone alive...."²⁰²

Olga Bowen died in 1980 at the age of 84. Stetson lore has her ghost haunting the library, but no one confirms a sighting. At the time of her death, Joe Myers said, "With the death of Miss Olga Bowen, University Archivist, a great gap occurred in the University Archives. Miss Bowen possessed a wealth of information about Stetson and knew the archival holdings by heart. She left no catalog or inventory, however. A special project is underway to organize and inventory these important documents."²⁰³ This was not entirely true; although the Archives had never been cataloged or particularly well-organized, Bowen had produced some extensive indexing to early University correspondence that is still used today and she wrote some invaluable accounts of major Stetson events. Her notes, indexes, and an unpublished Stetson history serve as her legacy.

The 1982-1983 academic year marked Stetson's Centennial celebration. The library joined the Southeastern Library Network / Online Computer Library Center (SOLINET / OCLC) which greatly enhanced the ability to share cataloging records, sped verification of bibliographic information and the production of catalog cards, and improved the interlibrary loan process significantly. Membership in OCLC constituted the first step in building an electronic database of the library's collection. In addition, the long awaited library re-roofing began and the carpet was replaced after it had sustained significant water damage from old roof leaks.²⁰⁴

Joe Myers resigned as library director in 1982 due to poor health; he remained at the library as a reference librarian and archivist until he retired in 1985. Once again, Stetson failed to place a woman in the director's position. Despite at least one well-qualified woman candidate with far more experience, Sims D. Kline, who had arrived at Stetson in 1976 as Reference/Documents Librarian, was made Acting Director on September 1, 1982 and appointed director in 1983. The fact that Stetson appointed a director with only six years of experience underscored the climate of male dominance on the campus.



Joe Myers and Sims Kline, 1983

Kline's tenure spanned a time of many technological changes in libraries across the country, and for the most part, the library failed to keep up with the pace of change. The 1984-1985 academic year marked a number of firsts, however, for the duPont-Ball Library. The Government Documents department was staffed with a full-time librarian and full-time clerical assistant in response to the growth and needs of that collection; the first microcomputers for regular staff work arrived; the library director assumed administrative control of the Music Library budget and operations; and the library finished a full-year of cataloging and interlibrary loan activity using the OCLC system. Only 338 interlibrary loan transactions had occurred in 1982-1983 (261 items borrowed and 77 items loaned). The implementation of the OCLC system, however, increased the use of the loan system rapidly. Just two years later, items borrowed had risen by 124% and items loaned rose by 116%.²⁰⁵ As microcomputers became more prevalent in the library, Technical Services staff moved as much of their operations as possible to computers; the library contracted with Baker & Taylor as the library's major book jobber which allowed for the later transition to online ordering.²⁰⁶

Students generally expressed satisfaction with the services and staff of the library; dissatisfaction with the facilities, however, was common. A study on student and faculty attitudes toward the library in 1983-1984 revealed complaints about the hours, noise, climate control, and lighting.²⁰⁷ To appease student demand for more hours, Friday closing was extended from 5:00 pm until 10:00 pm

in the fall of 1990; head counts indicated relatively little use of the library during the extra five hours, however, and the library went back to a 5:00 Friday closing three years later. Overdue fines were also a source of complaint; the library extended the circulation period from two to three weeks for students in the mid-1980s to help offset the fine accrual. Circulation periods were increased to four weeks in the early 1990s and fines were eventually abolished in 1999.

During the 1980s, the library had begun to out-grow the existing duPont-Ball building and the building had begun to show its age. The roof leaked in many places and large plastic tarps and trash cans were often employed to minimize damage. During the summer of 1983, roofers replacing the skylights left temporary covers on the skylights overnight. A torrential rain hit that evening and the entire atrium area was flooded and leaked through to the ground floor. Extensive damage resulted and with the pending recarpeting of the main floor, a decision was made to take advantage of the disruption and remove the large marble table and furniture from the center of the building and to replace them with book stacks for the reference collection which had outgrown its limited stack space in the southwest corner.²⁰⁸

The once open space had become closed in, the growth of staff had led to a shortage of offices, and the circulating book stacks were almost full. The decision was made in 1986 to purchase large numbers of periodical titles in microfiche instead of binding them; the space limitations were so severe at the time that buying microformats became the only real option other than canceling a large number of journal subscriptions. With space issues becoming ever more critical, Dr. David Kaser, a distinguished professor of Library Science and a consultant on more than 100 college and university library expansion projects, visited the library in 1987 to gather information and make recommendations. The recommended expansion, if implemented, would have enlarged the library to 75,000 square feet.

The library's Government Documents depository, the oldest in Florida, celebrated its centennial in November 1987. The planned festivities were muted, however, by an incident that embarrassed the library. The Government Printing Office (GPO) discovered (apparently through an anonymous tip from someone on the Stetson library staff) that Joel Zucker, the Government Documents librarian who had come to Stetson in 1985, had thrown away thousands, if not tens of thousands, of federal documents without authorization. The GPO enforces strict rules on the disposition of discarded items and it splashed the misdeeds across the front page of its newsletter that went out to depository libraries across the country. Not only did Zucker cause the library's reputation to suffer, but he completely compromised the documents shelf list which has caused headaches for succeeding documents librarians to this day. Zucker also slashed the depository's selection rate from 30% to 20% in the short time he was here, leaving gaps in many important series that librarians spent many years trying to fill. Zucker left Stetson in August 1987 and the centennial passed with little notice.

Pope Duncan retired in 1987 and served as chancellor until 2002; at that time the Board of Trustees named him Chancellor Emeritus of Stetson University. H. Douglas Lee was appointed to succeed Duncan and became Stetson's eighth president. Lee arrived at Stetson in 1978 as the vice president for development. Highlights of the Lee administration include the \$200 million dollar fund campaign, the opening of the Stetson Celebration Center, the construction of Melching Field at Conrad Park (a state-of-the-art baseball stadium), the inauguration of the Institute for Christian Ethics and the Howard Thurman Program (established to integrate the works of scholars and community leaders to seek solutions to social, religious, and ethnic problems), and the creation of the University Values Council. Lee's tenure is also noted for the 1995 formal split with the Baptists.

Jane Bradford and Dr. Mary Pollock, both in the English Department, worked with librarians to develop the first comprehensive *Library Handbook* that would be used in freshmen English classes for decades to come. Jane Bradford worked in the library part-time at the reference desk and also as a "backpack" checker at the library front door in the mid-1970s. Later, she left Florida to get a graduate degree in library and information science at the University of Illinois and would return to Stetson to work as an adjunct English teacher and later to join the library faculty full-time. She

eventually became the Coordinator of Library Instruction and developed the first comprehensive instruction program for the library that included long-range planning, pre- and post-testing of students, and student evaluations of instruction sessions.

The library lagged far behind other libraries technologically during the 1980s and 1990s. While almost every academic library of any standing in the country had an integrated library system by the early 1990s, and some were investigating second generation systems, Stetson's library used a card catalog until well into the 1990s. Finally, in 1987, the library purchased a CD-ROM catalog (BiblioFile from Library Corp), which was updated monthly, from School of Business Rinker grant funds. Although a poor substitute for a true online catalog, it offered improved access to the library's collection. Unfortunately, the "Intelligent Catalog" as it was called, had a number of problems and monthly tapes had to be re-run and re-loaded at times. The Intelligent Catalog did allow, however, for the library to "close" the card catalog and cards were no longer filed for new items. For lack of an integrated system, Betty Johnson developed a microcomputer based ordering and fund accounting system called *BookBase III*. She later developed a PC-based checkout system, *Patron Plus*, which finally replaced the checkout card system. This "make-do" spirit kept the library afloat for many years, but librarians were frustrated by the lack of technological progress.

The Rinker grant also provided funding for an influx of business periodicals, and the microfiche collection grew rapidly. Microfiche, the answer to the lack of space and to preservation issues, was purchased and used heavily in the 1980s and 1990s, but would come to haunt the librarians as both they and the library's users hated the format. In later years when they had online options, students avoided using microformats completely.

The library added its first CD-ROM indexes (*Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*) in 1987 with a \$5,700 grant from the Orlando Sentinel Foundation. Other CD-ROM indexes followed (such as *ERIC*, *Sociofile*, and *PsycLit*) as the next small step in providing access to electronic information. Also in 1987, Periodicals Librarian Ruth Armstrong resigned and that position was moved to the growing Reference Department (a paraprofessional staff member took over supervision of the Periodicals Department). Two associate director positions were created in 1988; Kline appointed Betty Johnson Associate Director for Technical Services and David Everett, Head of Reference, took the title of Associate Director for Public Services.²⁰⁹ Their increased authority helped the library run more smoothly.



CD-ROM Reference Area, Early 1990s

The library joined the Florida Library and Information Network (FLIN) in 1988 which allowed more free resource sharing between Florida libraries; demand for interlibrary loan service continued to grow and consortium arrangements such as SOLINET and FLIN kept costs down. Library Director Sims Kline was one of the founding members of the Central Florida Library Consortium (CFLC), which started in 1988 and incorporated in 1989. CFLC began with a focus on resource-sharing (Betty Johnson was instrumental in getting the CFLC Union List established on OCLC), and eventually hired permanent staff who helped expand the group's efforts into librarian interest groups and training. Kline also helped establish an Independent College & Universities of Florida (ICUF) library group; the group negotiated with database vendors for advantageous group pricing and enabled smaller libraries like Stetson to add many databases that would have been otherwise out of financial reach.

To add to the overcrowding and other building woes, water leaks and a sewer back-up on the ground floor ruined almost 100 volumes in 1989. The city water and sewer back-up issues would resurface for a number of years, including a major basement flood in August 1990. On August 14th, 4.6 inches of rain fell on DeLand, beginning about 3:00 pm that afternoon. By the time the basement started to fill with water, most of the staff had gone home, but the few remaining librarians and staff members, along with quite a few facilities staffers, worked quickly to save as many periodicals and government documents as possible. Weeks of work and dehumidifying were required to completely dry the basement, and carpets and many stored items were lost to water damage or mold.²¹⁰ While many lessons were learned to avoid some of the damage in the future (storing items off the floor, higher bottom bookshelves, the use of tile instead of carpet in basement areas), another lesser flood in 1991 damaged more books, carpets, and furniture.

In 1990, due to the increasing presence of community college students and other community users who wanted to use the library's new computer resources, the library closed to the public. Annual access and membership cards sold for a nominal fee to let serious researchers use the collection; this practice ceased in 2001 with the creation of the Stetson Library Associates (a library support group whose members receive complimentary membership and access cards based on the amount of giving). At that time, Associates memberships brought in about \$2,000 annually and the library had an endowment of about \$190,000; in 2007-2008 more than \$154,000 was raised and the library had more than \$1,000,000 in endowments.²¹¹

During the 1990s, Stetson librarians began to assume leadership positions in local, regional, and state library organizations such as the CFLC, the Florida Library Association and the Association of College and Research Libraries, and Betty Johnson served on the Networking Topic Committee for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Rapid technological changes in the library stretched librarians thin; four Public Services librarians handled almost 13,000 reference questions, conducted about 450 mediated online searches, regularly instructed students in the use of nine bibliographic CD-ROM databases, integrated sophisticated statistical and mapping CD-ROMs into the government documents collection, and taught classes in a pilot University Experience 101 course for freshmen. The number of other classroom instruction sessions offered increased significantly. Interlibrary loan transactions rose every year as more libraries offered access to CD-ROM bibliographic indexes. The two Technical Services librarians were equally engaged with major changes in the OCLC software, a large Union List project, retrospective conversion of the library's catalog records, and an increasing book collection that needed to be ordered, cataloged, and processed in a timely manner. Head of Technical Services Betty Johnson secured a federal grant to catalog and add all of the serials to OCLC; the records resulting from this three-year project not only enhanced the Stetson library catalog, but led to a further increase in interlibrary loan requests as more of the holdings could be seen online by other libraries.

The library had two satellite dishes by the early 1990s; these were used by the Instructional Media Center (IMC) - the updated name for the Audiovisual Department - to receive educational and Russian programming. The IMC, considered part of the library, struggled for many years to work with inadequate budgets, equipment, and staffing. Although the Media Center remained on the

ground floor of the library building, responsibility for Instructional Media was transferred to the Information Technology Department in 2000 and its facilities, equipment, and budget situation improved considerably. Also acquired in the early 1990s were the first central fire and alarm systems and Ethernet wiring to the campus network that was under development. By 1994, all books in the collection were stripped with magnetic security strips that triggered an alarm if removed through the front doors without having been checked out.

The library received some local and national attention in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* for its "Quiet Library Society" started by Sims Kline in the early 1990s. Students were encouraged to join and pledge to keep the library a quiet place conducive to study. Six or seven "recruitment" events held in the library, complete with a mime and free Society t-shirts, garnered some 135 members.²¹² The program disturbed most of the librarians, however, who felt that it reinforced librarian stereotypes, did not promote the library's image in a positive manner, and wasted very limited resources. The Society quickly died a natural death and in later years librarians worked to make the library an inviting academic and social center that did away with the more traditional policies (banning drinks, email, cell phones, etc.) that were once in place.

Although the library enjoyed a few years of success in staying ahead of the curve on acquiring CD-ROM databases, Stetson lagged far behind other libraries in most areas of technology; Stetson Provost Eugene Lubot famously called the library's various homegrown computer set-ups a "Potemkin Village." It was an apt description for a variety of piecemeal systems used to automate various functions as much as possible on the shoestring budget provided by the University's administration. The Associate Director for Public Services commented at the time: "...the library's traditional user base, students, is coming to Stetson with higher expectations of what a library can and should be, particularly in the use of technology. Many come from high schools with media centers more technologically advanced than the duPont-Ball Library."²¹³

On April 21, 1995, the University's Board of Trustees finally approved funding for a comprehensive online library automation system. The system was to be funded from a \$50,000 matching grant from the Ball duPont Fund and from a \$200,000 allocation coming primarily from the sale of the D.C. and Marian Hull estates. After extended review of information from four prominent vendors, the library contracted with the SIRSI Corporation and purchased their Unicorn System. Betty Johnson worked extensively with the Vice-President for Information Technology Shahram Amiri on the negotiations that resulted in a grant of \$200,000 from SIRSI in exchange for using their K-12 automated system at the Stetson-affiliated Celebration school and teaching academy located near Orlando. The server to run the system was housed in and maintained by the library. The cataloging and authorities modules were brought online in late 1996 and the online public catalog, acquisitions, and serials control modules came up in early 1997.²¹⁴ Led by Catalog Librarian Carla Davis, sixteen cash labor students, along with other librarians and library staff, took part in a massive 1996-1997 winter interim effort that placed barcodes in 60% of the books.



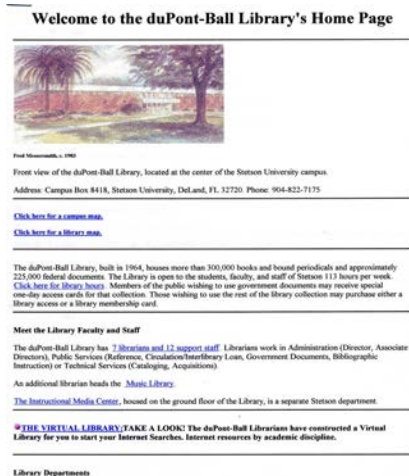
Librarian Debbi Dinkins Demonstrates
SIRSI Integrated Online System
To Dr. Amiri



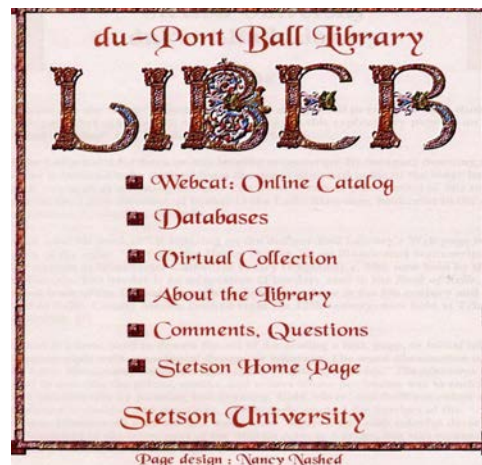
CD-ROM Server Arrives

Along with the new integrated system, the library installed a Novell CD-ROM server. Affectionately (or not so affectionately, as the server could be notoriously difficult with which to work) called “the refrigerator,” the massive server housed many of the library’s growing CD-ROM database collection (45 CD-ROM databases by 1997). The mid-1990s was a time of rapid technological change. In response to the growing role of technology in the library, a Systems and Web team formed (informally called SWAT and made up of several librarians most involved with the library’s hardware and software) to handle the demands of the SIRSI Unix system, the CD server, Novell software, and other technologies.

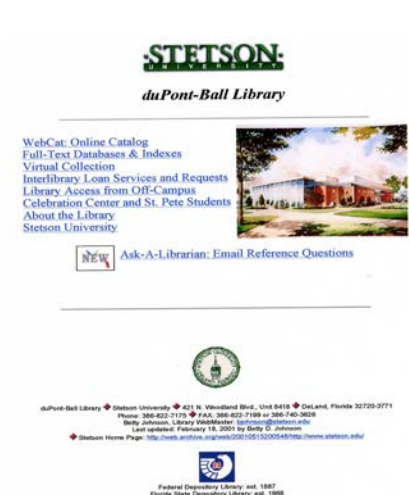
In 1995, the Internet arrived at Stetson and the library was one of the first departments on campus to put up a home page. Government Documents Librarian Susan Ryan designed the rudimentary first library home page and oversaw many revisions over the next dozen years. (In 2007, as Library Associate Director, Ryan worked with student Daniel Quinn on a complete website revision that is in use today.) Librarians quickly became Internet-proficient and taught search skills in instruction classes and, with Academic Technology staff members, taught the first faculty and staff web page development classes on campus. Ironically, however, due to the lack of hardware and networking capabilities, students did not have Internet access in the library until more than a year later when the library became fully networked and offered four public Internet workstations; the workstations proved so popular that students often had to wait to use them.²¹⁵ The library inaugurated its first subscription Internet database, *EbscoHost*, during the 1996-1997 academic year and library patrons had instant access to 1,600 full-text journals. The *FirstSearch* and *Congressional Compass* databases soon followed, and thus began a collection of online databases that today numbers well over 100. After working in a DOS environment for a number of years, computers with Windows software finally arrived and by 1998 the last public DOS-based machine was gone. Librarians and library staff constantly learned to deal with not only new hardware and software, but a burgeoning collection of online databases in a variety of formats.



Library Home Page in 1995



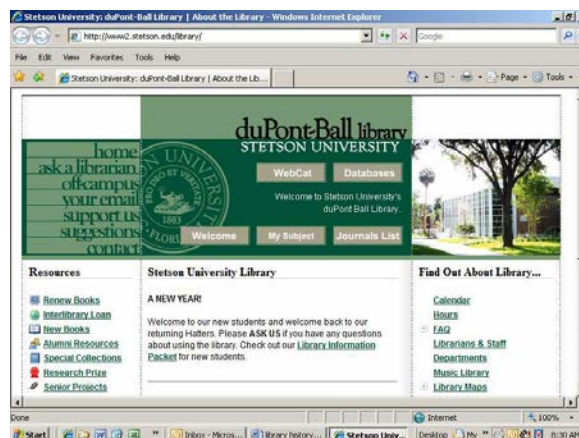
Library Home Page in 1998



Library Home Page in 2001



Library Home Page in 2004



Library Home Page in 2008

The new technological era ushered in a change in philosophy from ownership to access. Never before had the library's materials budget been used to purchase items not physically in the building.

Online access, however, had great advantages over ownership in terms of storage, cost, upkeep, and the quantity of material that could be acquired. Before online database subscriptions, the library had some 1,300 current print journal and newspaper subscriptions; today the library has more than 29,000 (mostly online) current periodical subscriptions. The concept of the library catalog changed as well; no longer did the catalog contain only records to what was physically in the building, but it also included online subscriptions, websites, and, later, e-books.

After nearly a decade of planning, the library began a major renovation in the summer of 1996. By this time the building had been stretched so thin that the Associate Directors shared a small office and librarian Jane Bradford's office was in part of a converted storage room literally no bigger than a small closet. The University selected Rogers, Lovelock & Fritz (RLF), a Winter Park architectural firm, to produce the feasibility and cost study based on the library building program prepared by the librarians. The proposal estimated costs between \$1.5 and \$2 million for a 13,000 gross square feet (GSF) addition. Campus master planner Dale Sprankle, utilizing the cost estimates in the RLF study, proposed a 13,400 GSF two-story addition on the north side of the library, a 2,400 GSF entrance pavilion on the west side (front), and a partial fill in of the main floor atrium area to gain an additional 2,200 GSF. Consensus emerged that the construction project would be funded at a cost of \$4 million with the assumption that the total 18,000 GSF additions would house the growing collection for 10 years and additional phases of the expansion would be implemented.²¹⁶

Although all librarians participated in the detailed planning process, Associate Director for Technical Services Betty Johnson and Associate Director for Public Services David Everett (and later, Susan Ryan, when Everett left in 1998 to become Director of the Hiram College Library) coordinated most of the details. The first phase of a \$5.3 million renovation and construction project addressed some immediate spacing and technology needs. The center beams and trim of the main floor were painted. The current periodical stacks on the main floor were dismantled and the new periodicals were integrated into the bound periodicals section. The ground floor auditorium was split in half and a temporary space was created to house large sections of the government documents during the construction. In July and August of 1996, the reference books were moved with the bound periodicals and the shelves in the center of the main floor were dismantled and removed. A large new reference desk was placed in the center of the main floor; new light oak furniture was purchased for the main floor to create both formal and casual seating areas; the circulation counter was totally renovated; and new computer workstations (in matching light oak carrels) were installed. That summer, library staff and student assistants began the task of completing the barcoding of every volume in the library.



Reference Desk Before Renovation



Reference Desk After Renovation

In March 1998, a construction fence went up around the building and the library broke ground on what was to be a 13,400 square foot three-story addition to the north side of the building. (Plans for the entrance pavilion and the partial fill of the atrium had been discarded.) The rear parking lot was

closed and a construction headquarters set up. The satellite dishes housed on the roof of the library were removed and temporarily re-located on the ground on the south side of the library. Because the construction efforts were designed to work around regular library operations, the first of many temporary office moves was made. In April, the brick façade began to come down on the north side of the building. Electricians began the extensive re-wiring efforts, and the bulldozers began to dig out the space for the addition. A temporary wall went up on the north side of the building to shield those in the library from the outside construction. Much work was done inside, however, and librarians, library staff, and library users soon got used to working with significant distractions.



Brick Façade Comes Down on North Side of Library

By May, the heavy equipment was in place and the north side was under full construction. Dirt that was removed was relocated to Rinker Field. The roofers started extensive roof work and construction on a booklift for the circulation area began (the shaft was part of the original building, but the actual lift had never been installed). Footers for the addition were poured in June and the outer courtyard of what was to become the Instructional Media Center took shape. Inside, four large new HVAC ducts were added to the mezzanine and main floor. July brought a shipment of large steel beams that were carefully lowered into place by cranes. The upright beams were soon fastened together by large cross beams and the shape of the additional three floors became visible. Behind the library, concrete was poured to prepare the large new HVAC pad. Asphalt was removed from the old parking lot and a new driveway leading to the receiving room doors was poured. Inside, the north basement was largely stripped of everything and new building partitions were installed.



North Wing Construction Begins

In mid-August, everything in the library, including the stacks, was wrapped in plastic to prepare for spray painting the interior ceilings. Many of the library staff took vacation because little could be accomplished during this time. New water pipes began to go in throughout the building at the same time and an ADA-compliant ramp was built at the entrance of the building. By the time students and faculty returned to campus in late August, the north addition was well underway. Concrete floors had been poured for the addition and the library was clearly under major construction and renovation.

The construction process did not always go smoothly. On the afternoon of May 28, 1998, after construction workers had left for the day, rain began pouring through a new air-conditioning chase and through old unsealed air-conditioning vents onto the book stacks. The art books experienced the most damage; prompt recovery efforts by everyone still in the building in moving wet books, discarding book jackets, and inserting paper towels between pages resulted in saving most of the damaged books. With quick action, only 86 books were ruined beyond repair. Although the responsible subcontractor's insurance paid for the damage, much time was spent drying, repairing, and assessing damage and replacement costs.²¹⁷



The Library Prepares for Spray Painting

The 1998-1999 academic year proved challenging for anyone working in or wishing to use the library. Constant noise, dust, dirt, temperature inconsistencies, repeated relocation of staff offices, and general confusion on where things were housed on any given day tried the patience of all. But the library remained fully operational and the staff did their best to provide service during the trying time. In September, the booklift, a small elevator just big enough for a cart of books, was installed in the Circulation area and new lighting was installed. September also marked the Great Shelving Collapse of 1998. Early one morning, before the library opened, a construction worker knocked against the south-most row of periodical stacks on the ground floor and started a domino effect that collapsed the entire length of 14 rows of shelving. About 43,000 bound journal volumes and tons of steel were left in a twisted mess, the floor tiles were torn from the ground, and the scene resembled the aftermath of an earthquake. An investigation revealed that the support braces that ran along the top of the shelves and were bolted to the north and south walls had been removed by subcontractors in order to work on pipes and wiring near the basement ceiling. While insurance covered most of the costs, the time and effort involved in the clean-up was enormous. Amazingly, most of the bound journals were salvageable and were packed and removed to storage while the shelving was all removed and the flooring and shelving was replaced. Those volumes that could

not be saved were either replaced or compensated for by insurance. Seven months later, the volumes came back to campus and were returned to all new shelves. The reshelving required a complex plan to sort and reshelve everything in its proper place; Periodicals Supervisor Linda Grooms orchestrated the effort using a combination of student assistants and temporary employees.



Great Shelving Collapse of 1998



Journals Packed for Temporary Storage



New Stacks to Replace Collapsed Shelving

At the time the renovation was complete, the library held about 275,000 books, 58,000 periodical volumes, and 245,000 government documents. To celebrate the completion of the library construction-renovation, Stetson held a duPont-Ball Library Rededication Ceremony on September 9, 1999 with President H. Douglas Lee and Chairman of the Board of Trustees David B. Rinker in attendance. Highlighted during the ceremony was the new wing, along with the replacement or expansion of the air conditioning system, roof, skylights, electrical system, computer networking, circulation and reference service areas, student group study rooms, a Congressional reading room, satellite reception platform, an instruction lab and office spaces. (The instruction lab, long desired by Stetson reference librarians, was short-lived, and was soon taken over by IT as a general computer lab until 2007 when the room was returned to the library to house Special Collections.) For the first time, Stetson's library was protected by a sprinkler system. The new north wing housed the Instructional Media Center (accessible through the Nemec courtyard) with its 87-seat presentation room and advanced electronic projection technology on the ground floor, half of the periodicals collection on the main floor, and the circulating language and literature collection on the mezzanine level. An additional 125 seats were incorporated into the project, along with new reading tables, study carrels, network connections, and lounge seating. The results of the annual student survey

showed strong support for the renovations: 91% of the respondents were satisfied with the library's "environment for study."²¹⁸



North Wing Addition to the duPont-Ball Library



Nemec Courtyard on the North Addition Ground Level



Newly Renovated Interior

In a public relations effort to encourage library support, the library held its first champagne reception in the “new” building on August 17, 2001. The reception was held just before the start of classes to attract faculty. Despite the split from the Baptist Convention, alcohol at any Stetson function was rare, and special permission was received to serve wine and champagne. Students from the School of Music provided live music and the turnout was large for such an event. The August reception turned into an annual event that now celebrates the beginning of the academic year and honors recently promoted and tenured faculty members.

To no one’s surprise, the 2000 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) review highlighted the inadequacy of the library’s budgets to keep up with inflation and with the increasing number of new programs the University added. It was gratifying, however, that of the two University commendations from the SACS Visiting Committee one was for the library, specifically for the academic program distinctive in library instruction and information literacy: “In fact, the faculty regard the librarians as colleagues and respect their involvement in advancing the academic agenda. Therefore, the Committee commends the Library for successful efforts to partner with teaching faculty to integrate information literacy skills into the curriculum.”²¹⁹ Library instruction efforts, led for many years by Instruction Coordinator Jane Bradford, generally reached more than 1,000 students each year.

As had happened many times in the past, the changing nature of library services forced the librarians to look at limited position allocations and make some changes. In 2000, Peter Shipman, the Circulation Librarian, was moved into a full-time Reference Department assignment and a paraprofessional position was created to supervise Circulation and Reserves. Shipman soon resigned, and the position was revamped as an Electronic Services Librarian position that would deal with the growing array of hardware and software in the library. (In 2008, the Electronic Services Librarian retired and the position became the Electronic Services Technician, a non-librarian staff position with a hiring emphasis on college-level computer training rather than librarianship.)

A major reorganization came when Kline resigned as Library Director effective September 1, 2002 and became Reference/Outreach Services Librarian. Betty Johnson, Associate Director for Technical Services (as well as a Stetson alumna and a 40-year veteran of the library) was appointed Library Director; Susan Ryan, Associate Director for Public Services, was appointed Library Associate Director; and Debbi Dinkins, Catalog Librarian, was appointed Head of Technical Services. Naming a long-time librarian as library director is not always the best option for a struggling library. Johnson, however, had been the defacto leader of the library in many ways for a number of years. She held the library together through a series of weak directors and her abilities to make the most of limited funding and limited technology through some very lean years truly saved

the library from complete mediocrity. The changes in the library administration after so many years brought both challenges and opportunities, but were seen by the librarians as a chance for increased visibility on campus and a fresh start.

One of Johnson's most significant challenges was the 17% (\$100,000) reduction in the library materials budget that was part of a campus-wide three-year "budget stabilization" plan put into effect to deal with the serious endowment issues and financial struggles with which the University dealt after the September 11, 2001 attacks. The budget cuts had far-reaching implications for the development of almost every collection in the library. Although collections definitely suffered (27% fewer monographs were cataloged in the first year of the process), the cuts forced a comprehensive evaluation of both serials and monograph purchases by librarians and departmental faculty members which resulted in canceling a number of journals that were no longer needed or that were adequately covered in electronic journal subscriptions (about 170 titles). To make up for some of the loss, an anonymous donor offered \$5,000 for several years to cover some of the science journal titles and more money was spent on document delivery – buying articles on-demand rather than purchasing a subscription to very expensive titles.

In the fourth year after the budget stabilization was implemented, some of the \$100,000 was returned to the library's budget, but about \$20,000 has not yet been returned as of 2009. Not only has the library's purchasing power been diminished in real dollars, but no attempt has been made to supply the library with a budget that keeps up with the high inflation rate of library materials (especially serials and electronic subscriptions).

As part of her first year agenda as Director, Johnson revitalized the Library Associate's program that had been started the year before and started more aggressive fundraising than had ever been done in modern library history. During that first year, \$26,000 was raised. With stringent controls put on spending and an increased emphasis on fundraising, the library's budget was not overrun for the first time in many years. Since Johnson became director, almost \$800,000 has been raised through gifts and endowments. One of the largest gifts came from alumna Daphne Brownell in the form of a \$338,000 book endowment; the money earned annually from the endowment has purchased hundreds of books that the library would otherwise not have been able to obtain. Alumnus Wes Brumback and his family gave to a number of library initiatives, including naming a room in the newly renovated library, funding computer workstations during budget stabilization, and starting the library's first unrestricted endowment. Sandra Stetson Martinuzzi, a descendant of founder John B. Stetson, seeded another large endowment. Fred Gerstell, who discovered the library by chance on a visit to DeLand, gave several large gifts that funded books in a number of subject areas. Countless other donors contributed since 2002 and their participation has enabled the library to advance in ways that would have been impossible without them.

Despite the aggressive fundraising, the library continues to suffer from lack of funding. By 2006, the library had lost a cumulative \$400,000 to the budget stabilization process, while at the same time inflation rates for journals (the largest portion of the library's materials budget) ran between nine and 13 percent each year. Clearly, the library has been losing purchasing power for years while the University continues to add to the number of students, faculty, and programs.

While Kline had focused on the promised "next phase" of the library expansion in his agenda for the building, Johnson realized that an expansion was unlikely for many years, if ever. The challenge was to find the right mix of resources and use of space to maximize the current facility for years to come. In 2001, a ten-year "weeding" program was initiated to rid the collection of outdated material and to make room for newer books. A series of reference book usage studies proved that the bulk of the collection got little use and the decision was made to transition much of the print reference collection to electronic format. Fewer print reference titles have been ordered in recent years and a comprehensive weeding project in 2006 resulted in 5,000 volumes removed from the reference collection. The collection was shifted to allow for the removal of three stack ranges in 2007 which offered additional space for student seating on the main floor. The goal is to achieve zero, or even

negative, growth in the physical collection over the next decade so that new electronic resources and seating space can be secured for a growing student body.

Despite the continual lack of funding and inadequate budgets, the library hosted record numbers of students each day in the first years of the new century. About 200,000 people came in and out of the library in a year, more than 25,000 items circulated each year, reference librarians answered almost 10,000 queries, and the library's web pages were among the most used across campus. Librarians struggled to keep up with the insatiable demand for computers (33 were available when Johnson became Director in 2002) and added more each year until the library reached 46 in 2008, along with full wireless access throughout the building. A new server for the library's integrated system was purchased in 2004 and the website continues to evolve and grow.

As mentioned above, the Stetson University Library had been the official depository for items relating to the Florida Baptist Convention since 1950 due to the University's historical connection with the Convention. The Baptist collection was always treated as a special collection and housed separately from the main collection. When Stetson's connection with the Convention was dissolved in 1995, the collection remained at the library, but negotiations began to find a suitable institution to house the Archives. After a careful evaluation by librarians and members of the Department of Religious Studies, it was determined that those parts of the collection relating to Stetson or to general Baptist history would be integrated into Stetson's other collections. The University Board of Trustees agreed that the remainder, such as Association Minutes and some books and periodicals, would be transferred to the Convention and housed at the Baptist College of Florida in Graceville. The Convention hired an Archivist, Carla Summers, to oversee the transfer of the collection in June 2003. The transfer was formalized with a ceremony at the Florida Baptist Convention in Tampa in November of that year. Johnson represented the University, presenting the Chaudoin Diary as a symbol of the transfer and she accepted the gratitude of the Convention on behalf of the University.²²⁰

Once the Baptist collection was moved, Associate Director Susan Ryan and Archives Specialist Gail Grieb began work on a complete reorganization of the University Archives and Special Collections area. University papers and memorabilia that had long been neglected and poorly stored were inventoried, indexed, and stored in proper archival containers. University photos and back and current issues of the *Reporter* were indexed. By 2008, all of the more than 1,600 items of memorabilia, 2,500 *Reporter* articles, and thousands of photographs were accounted for in the indexes. In 2006, Dr. M. Jean Greenlaw, class of 1962 and 1965, a noted children's literature expert, donated her collection of 1,500 children's book to the library's Special Collections; most are first editions and most are signed by the author and/or illustrator. The library received the official papers and memorabilia of south Florida congressman and Stetson alumnus E. Clay Shaw, Jr. in 2006; this was the first special collection of such a magnitude to be accepted by the library, and the IT-operated computer lab in the northwest corner of the ground floor of the library was returned to the library and converted into a special collections "Politicos Room" to house it. The personal and political memorabilia of alumnus Max Cleland (U.S. Senator from Georgia) was added to the Politicos Room in 2007. The library now routinely capitalizes on the nostalgia of the Archives collection by showcasing items in displays, newsletters, and on the website to encourage alumni to reconnect with Stetson and to support the library.



The Library's Politicos Room: Special Collections

A less traditional gift was given by Stetson College of Law graduate Cliff Gosney, Jr. He donated a beautiful hand-crafted desk made in Africa of a Himalayan wood, sheesham, with brass inlay. He had the desk and matching bookcases made in for him while he served as a volunteer in Pakistan in 1969-1970. The desk took a year to make and now proudly sits in the Library Director's office. Mr. Gosney has also donated a number of volumes on the political and social history of Africa, many published in Africa and difficult to obtain in the United States.

A semi-annual "Milk and Cookies Night" tradition in the library began in 2003. To encourage students studying for finals, library staff supplied a large assortment of cookies and drinks for one night during exams. A couple of years later, the Circulation Department staff added free coffee from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am throughout the final exam periods. The events have become very popular and the students look forward to them each semester.



Students Enjoy "Cookies and Milk" During Finals

Under Johnson's leadership, librarians addressed a long-standing fairness issue in the promotion and tenure process. As faculty members, librarians are subject to the same criteria for promotion and tenure as other faculty, with effective librarianship in place of effective teaching. However, the

University Promotion and Tenure Committee, the group that made the ultimate promotion and tenure recommendations to the President, did not include a representative from the library. Efforts to remedy the situation failed due to concerns by some about upsetting the voting balance (two College of Arts & Sciences, one Business School, and one Music School voting committee members). In the fall of 2002, Johnson proposed to the Faculty Senate a plan for representation in which a library faculty member would take full part in all discussions and deliberations but would vote only on the library applicants; this was accepted and implemented. After the librarians had served for several years as non-voting members of the committee, the librarians once again pressed for full voting rights. Despite some opposition, primarily from Arts & Sciences faculty members who did not want the voting balance changed, more than 80% of the faculty present voted to give the librarians full committee membership rights effective spring 2006. Susan Ryan became the first voting library representative on that committee.

The library increased the open hours during final exams beginning in 2004, staying open until 1:00 am for at least 10 days in a row. Many students advocate a 24/7 library, but the funding is not available to meet those demands. Extensive headcounts during the semesters and during final exam periods show that the current 92 hour a week schedule (with additional exam hours) meets the needs of the majority of students using the library. Rising expectations for services, resources, and staffing, combined with a weak budget climate, create a difficult situation for the library administrators. Hard choices have to be made regarding the most cost-effective and curriculum-centered mix of print and electronic (which are available 24/7) resources.

Stetson has maintained a few branch libraries during its long history, most notably the Law Library and the Music Library. While the Law Library moved to St. Petersburg with the College of Law, the Music Library has always been housed separately on the DeLand campus. Renamed in 1994 for long-time Music Librarian Janice Jenkins, the Jenkins Music Library, housed in Presser Hall since 1970, has for many years been under-sized for the number of students it serves. While most of the Music Library books and journals were transferred to the duPont-Ball Library for space reasons, the growing collection of heavily used and needed sound recordings and scores has created a situation in which most student seating has been removed. In order to negate the need for even more CD purchases, the library subscribed to three online listening libraries of music that students and faculty can access 24/7. The Music Library has become more of a listening lab than a library, and if a separate library is to be retained, an adjacent room must be added to the library or the listening lab must be moved elsewhere. In 2008, in response to administration calls for budget cuts, Betty Johnson proposed that the Music Library either be closed (and its contents moved to the duPont-Ball Library) or that the Music Library significantly cut staffing and operating hours. The Music Faculty voted unanimously in favor of curtailing the staff and hours in order to keep the library in Presser Hall and President Doug Lee agreed to that plan for the immediate future. The long-term fate of the Music Library is today undecided, but is at best a marginal facility as it now stands.

When Sage Hall, the new science building, was constructed in 1967, a small chemistry library was created near the science faculty offices and classrooms to house chemistry journals, books, and the *Chemical Abstracts*. Never staffed (except on occasion by some student assistants), but under administrative control of the Chemistry Department chair, the room was difficult to maintain and secure. As the science program outgrew Sage Hall, the faculty members wanted to reclaim the library space. During the 2003-2004 academic year, the small chemistry library in Sage Hall was finally closed; the chemistry journals and books were absorbed into the main library's collection and the large run of *Chemical Abstracts* was replaced with an online version.

From 1968 through 1984, Stetson had a small satellite campus in Brevard County. The Brevard Center "library" was a collection of books selected by faculty teaching at the Brevard campus and funded by a small budget administered by the Brevard Center Director. The books were housed at the Merritt Island Public Library; the public library staff assumed control of the collection, and in exchange, the material was available for anyone to checkout and use. Professors could also put duPont-Ball Library books on reserve at Merritt Island for Stetson students, and in 1970, about 100 books from the main library were on loan to Merritt Island. The Center budgeted \$8,000 to

purchase library material between 1974 and 1979, but during those five years only \$300 was spent. Rather than order books to be housed at Merritt Island, faculty members often checked out books from the DeLand campus for use in their Brevard classes, and many volumes were lost due to this practice.²²¹ When the Brevard campus closed, most of the books housed in the public library were returned to DeLand.

Stetson began offering classes at its Celebration location in 1997 and the library had to look closely at providing services for distance learners. From a separate budget, a small library collection was created for the Celebration building; the collection consisted mostly of current journal subscriptions, videos and DVDs, and a small number of books. Although a part-time librarian administered the collection, the library largely operated as a “self-serve” operation and theft and loss prevailed. After consultation with the Celebration faculty, and with the advantage of the availability of sufficient online resources, the Celebration library closed in 2006 and the students and faculty today rely primarily on electronic resources, an in-house collection of videos and DVDs (primarily supporting the Counseling program), and books-by-mail from the main library.

In 2005, the library joined the Affinity Group of Academic Libraries (AGAL) which compiles library statistics for institutions like Stetson. Of Stetson’s ten reference schools, eight belong to this group. The comparisons are not favorable to Stetson which ranked in 2004-2005 eight out of nine in total library expenditures; seven out of nine in total salaries; and nine out of nine in total library resources acquisitions. The Affinity Group data for 2006-2007 showed little improvement: Stetson fell to last place in library expenditures; ranked sixth of eight in total salaries; and last again in acquisitions. Johnson has repeatedly stressed to Stetson’s administration not only the relative budget shortfall, but also the loss of buying power as serial and database inflation continues unabated.

Despite the dismal financial situation of the library, many positives can be noted. Library use is very high; both observational and quantitative data show that the library is used heavily during almost all the hours it is open. Debbi Dinkins, Head of Technical Services, surveyed book usage and found that 37% of the total circulating books were checked out at least once in the last eight years. When restricted to items published in the last twenty years, 53.8% had been checked out. Use of the key library web pages is consistently higher than almost any other pages on campus and usage statistics of the more than 100 subscription databases reflect very high use. During the summer of 2007, the library’s East Room was constructed in the northeast corner of the main floor (where microforms were housed) to give students more computer workstations and an area conducive to collaborative study.



East Room Created in Northeast Corner, Main Floor, in 2007

Some themes run throughout the library's history. With a few relatively short time periods as exceptions, the library has always been under-funded. The materials budget has never allowed the library to have the holdings that would take it from "good" to "great" and the budget has not kept up with the inflation of books, serials, and databases in many years. The facilities have never been superb. The two library buildings that have been built during Stetson's history have been hampered by inadequate funding from the start, which meant that both were built too small to begin with and low-quality materials were used as cost-cutting measures. As a result, both buildings experienced leaks, mold, bugs, climate-control issues, and extreme crowding. The library has almost always been behind in areas of technology – not for lack of expertise, but for lack of funding. The library has been hampered by more weak administrators than strong leaders, and the library suffered greatly as a result. The University administration is largely to blame for allowing weak directors to remain at Stetson. One has to wonder if strong leaders would have succeeded in demanding sufficient financial support for the library over the years, or if truly visionary leaders would have been disheartened and left Stetson for lack of support.

Some library directors, however, succeeded admirably given the cards with which they were dealt. Warren Stone Gordis stands out for giving the library a strong start and for having the foresight to engage in the best practices of the times as promoted by the American Library Association. Robert Severance, while only at Stetson for five years, held high professional standards and was actively involved in the profession at the state and national level. He understood the importance of special collections and started the University Archives, the Treasure Collection, and the Baptist Collection; extended library statistics began to be routinely kept during his tenure. Betty Johnson, the current library director, is leading the librarians through a time of rapid technological change, where the very definition of a library is being questioned. She is forcing her librarians and staff to examine what the library of the future will be and how the Stetson library can get there. The collections, by virtue of the electronic resources now available to small academic libraries, have never been stronger than under her leadership. Johnson has been by far the most successful director in fundraising for the library, and most of the gains made during her administration have been due to outside donor funding.

Consistently noted throughout the decades is a hard-working, dedicated group of librarians and staff members who have made the most of the limited resources they have been given. Many library paraprofessionals, most of whom receive little recognition, have stayed at Stetson for decades and

are dedicated to making the library the best it can be. Through the years, Stetson librarians have found ways to contribute to the profession and to promote Stetson. As noted above, Stetson librarians have served as the chair persons of many of the major local, regional, and state-wide library organizations and committees. Most of today's librarians publish in the top journals in the field; Jane Bradford, Barbara Costello, Debbi Dinkins, and Susan Ryan have all had articles appear in the top two academic library journals. Ryan won the Bernard Fry Award for the best article of the year in the field of government information, as well as Stetson's Hand Research Award. Laura Kirkland serves as the editor of the Florida Library Association's statewide newsletter. Director Betty Johnson served as the elected President of the Florida Library Association and was named Florida Librarian of the Year in 2006, highlighting a prominent career spanning more than four decades. Bradford was chosen for the J. William Fulbright Senior Scholars Roster and became the library's first exchange librarian to Pädagogische Hochschule in Freiburg, Germany.

The Stetson library's 125 year history is a rollercoaster ride of highs and lows; the librarians and staff over the years have made the library the best it could be despite financial and space limitations. Technology, while straining the budget, has allowed Stetson students and faculty access to vast amounts of information that would have never been possible to provide in a print environment. Technological advances will inevitably change the nature of library services in the future, but the library remains, for now, a central player in the academic life of the campus.

NOTES

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- ¹ John F. Forbes. *A History of Stetson University*, unpublished handwritten history, circa 1889.
- ² Warren S. Gordis. *John B. Stetson University: History and Reminiscences* [unpublished manuscript], Chap. II, p. 5-6.
- ³ John F. Forbes. *A History of Stetson University*, unpublished handwritten history, circa 1889.
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