

History of the Library School

The groundwork for the School of Library and Information Studies was laid in 1895 with the establishment of summer sessions in the field of library science in conjunction with the University Summer School at Madison—making Madison the home of one of the oldest and longest running library school programs in the nation. The summer sessions were made possible through donations from J.H. Stout, a well known supporter and innovator of traveling libraries, and were seen as a form of library training for individuals who could not attend schools with longer terms. Stout fully supported the school for the first two summers, but by the third summer, students were expected to pay \$15 to attend. Classes were held in University classrooms as well as at the State Historical Society and were in session for six weeks. Teachings covered the basics of library method such as accession, classification, circulation and preservation. The Wisconsin Free Library Commission was instrumental in the success of these early classes.

In 1906 the summer sessions changed to a yearlong program when the Free Library Commission created the Wisconsin Library School, which gained appropriation funds through an act of the Wisconsin Legislature in 1905, making it the ninth library school in the country. The Library School was housed on the second floor of the Madison Free Library which was supported in part by funds from Andrew Carnegie. The Carnegie gift allowed for the building to have the Free Library on the first floor and the Library School on the second floor.

Through the 1930s, the Wisconsin Library School created and maintained close ties with the University of Wisconsin. In 1931 the Library School ended its practice of a separate graduation ceremony and determined that students would march with the rest of the university. In 1938 the Library School became officially part of the University when Governor LaFollette signed the executive order that as of August 1 the Wisconsin Library School would be transferred and attached to the College of Letters and Science of the University of Wisconsin, under the direction of the Director of the University Libraries

In 1950 the Library School announced its intention to offer a Masters Degree Program which would lead to either a Master of Arts or a Master of Science degree in Library Science. In order to be eligible for the Master's program, undergraduates were required to take eight semester hours of "pre-professional training" in his or her junior and/or senior year. And, in 1956 the American Library Association conferred accreditation on the Wisconsin Library School.

Events

May Day Breakfast and Tea

The tradition of a school sponsored event on or near May Day began early in the history of the School. For the years represented by this collection, the May Day Breakfast and Tea were celebrated by the faculty, students and alumni. Guests also included prominent politicians and community leaders. The breakfast was planned by the students and faculty and held at various locations in Madison, both on campus and off and celebrated and recognized the library program at the university. One of the largest breakfasts occurred in 1938 when Mary Emogene Hazeltine retired as director of the program, with over 350 attendees. May Day celebrations consisted of a large breakfast for over one hundred attendees and sometimes more, speeches from current and past class officers, and a keynote lecture. Speakers included prominent members of the University as well as writers and fellow librarians from across the country. The breakfast was generally followed by a library open house so attendees could tour the school and socialize with other participants. The breakfast was often a reflection of the times with speeches reflecting the technological and cultural changes of the world. In 1945 the breakfast was cancelled entirely due to war-related travel restrictions.

Class Trips

In the early years of the school, the class took a yearly trip to Devil's Lake. The picnics at Devil's Lake faded away by the late 1930s. Organized class trips continued to take place, but had an academic, rather than social focus. Classes toured area libraries, such as Fort Atkinson and Milwaukee, as well as book binderies. In 1954 and 1955 a class trip was arranged to tour the special libraries of Chicago. Both trips had students visiting over ten libraries in two days.

Lectures and Speakers

Throughout the years, the Library School at Madison attracted a variety of speakers to lecture on wide-ranging topics, both on library issues directly as well as world and social events of importance. Often the lectures were arranged around large events, such as the May Day Breakfast or commencement ceremonies. However, many lectures occurred during the school year and students were expected to attend. Here is just a sample of speakers and their topics:

▶ Dr. Mathews of University of Chicago Divinity School spoke to the Library School Commencement on June 20, 1929. His topic was "Contemporary Morals and Fiction."

▶ Hamlin Garland, a popular author on life in the Midwest, lectured in 1930. His best-known books were "The Middle Border" volumes.

▶ In 1930 George William Russell, the Irish writer and painter lectured on rural education on campus.

- ▶ Professor Philo M. Buck, Jr. of the Comparative Literature department at the University spoke on the topic, “Literature in this Changing Age” in 1940.
- ▶ In 1942, Dr. Max Otto, chairman of the department of philosophy spoke on “The New World” in which the speaker stressed that, “what happens in China, Japan, or Africa is infinitely important to us.”
- ▶ In 1951 Howard B. Gill, lecturer in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin gave a speech entitled “Librarians in the Atomic Age.”
- ▶ Mrs. Frances Clarke Sayers, author of *Ginny and Custard*, *Mr. Tidy Paws* and *Bluebonnets for Lucinda* spoke in 1954 on “How to Tell Stories” and “Young Feet on the Road: An Introduction to Children’s Books” and gave a lecture entitled, “The Hills Beyond, an Introduction to Broader Reading”.
- ▶ Mrs. Lillian Gilbreth, inspiration for *Cheaper by the Dozen* and guest professor, lectured on “Libraries and Librarians” in 1955.
- ▶ In 1958 Mrs. Rozana Belodedich, former Director of the Library School at the University of Belgrade spoke at the May Day Breakfast.
- ▶ Conrad A. Elvehjem spoke in 1959 on the increasing importance of libraries as sources of research as well as repositories of learning for the students.
- ▶ In 1964 Fred H. Harrington lectured on the changing and growing role of the librarian in this changing age.

Faculty

(Insert Faculty Lists)

Library School Director Biographies

Mary Emogene Hazeltine

A perennial figure at the Library School, and a lasting influence on the program, Hazeltine was one of the founders of the Library School in 1906. She had a prolific and respected career that spanned more than 30 years. Hazeltine was born on May 5, 1868, in Jamestown, NY. She graduated from Wellesley College and among other jobs worked for 13 years as a librarian at Pendergast Free Library in Jamestown. In 1906, Hazeltine moved to Wisconsin to help organize and lead the newly formed Wisconsin Library School. Public service was the main direction that Hazeltine wished the library program to take. Hazeltine and by proxy the Library School were nationally renowned. It was said that if she wrote a recommendation for a student he or she would find a job immediately. Hazeltine was involved in many organizations, including YWCA, Phi Beta, American Association of University Women, A.L.A., NYLA (New York Library Association), and the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) where she served as president. Hazeltine wrote profusely; her credits included monographs as well as articles for professional journals and the Encyclopedia Britannica. Her great service and work as a librarian resulted in a nomination to the Library Hall of Fame. When she was 69 years old, Hazeltine decided to retire. The 1937 May Day Breakfast was held in her honor and to celebrate her long career. Over 300 people came to the breakfast. All but 3 of her 31 classes were present at the breakfast. During the breakfast, they presented Hazeltine with her portrait painted by Marie Danforth Page. Convinced to remain for another year, Hazeltine did not officially retire until 1938. The 1938 breakfast had over 350 people come to bid Hazeltine farewell. Hazeltine's retirement was far from quiet, as she remained active in the library community. Hazeltine died June 7, 1949 at the age of 81. She did much to promote librarianship as well as endorse women's rights. Mary Emogene Hazeltine was an important force behind the Library School and was credited with its growth and accomplishments in its first thirty plus years.

Gilbert H. Doane

Gilbert Doane was the first director of the Library School after its incorporation into the University of Wisconsin system. Originally from Vermont, Doane graduated from Colgate University in 1918 and worked as a librarian at the U.S. Naval Training Station at Newport Rhode Island. Doane received a certificate from the New York State Library School and from New York moved to Arizona, Michigan, and Nebraska. In 1937 he became the Director of Libraries of the University of Wisconsin.

George C. Allez

Director of the Library School from 1941 until 1950, Allez was born in New York. He had served in the army during World War I where he was wounded in battle. In consequence he spent five years in a veteran's hospital recovering from his injuries. Afterwards he earned a Bachelor's Degree in education from the University of

Washington and a Bachelor's in Library Science from Columbia. After an exemplary career, he was named Assistant Director in 1938 when the Library School was transferred to the jurisdiction of the University. Allez published several articles and was highly esteemed by his colleagues and the students. One wrote, "he gave so freely of himself and of his time." George C. Allez passed away unexpectedly on April 27, 1950 after nine years of leading the school.

Rachel K. Schenk

Name acting director after the death of George Allez, Rachel K. Schenk, took on the leadership of the Library School when she was named director in 1950. Schenk specialized in cataloging and classification and her academic background included a Bachelor's of Science from Purdue, a Bachelor's of Science from Columbia and a Master's in Library Science from the University of Chicago. After spending 17 years at Purdue, Schenk joined the University of Wisconsin Library School staff in 1945 as an assistant professor. In addition to her other duties as director, Schenk acted as the advisor to all graduate students. Rachel Schenk retired in 1963

Margaret Monroe

Dr. Margaret E. Monroe became director of the University of Wisconsin Library School on July 15th 1963. Monroe came from New York City and was originally a school librarian. While at the New York Public Library she worked as a branch librarian, supervisor of the book discussion program, librarian in charge of book selection processes for the branch system, and young people's librarian. She was also the director of the American Heritage Project for the American Library Association. Her teaching career included a period as associate professor at the Graduate School of Library Service at Rutgers University. Dr. Monroe was a woman ahead of her times, and prided herself on being up to date on all trends in library service. She had many articles published as well. Dr. Monroe led the school until 1970 and established the doctoral program. She remained on staff until her retirement in 1981. After her retirement she co-authored the book *The Challenge of Aging: A Bibliography*. Dr. Margaret Monroe passed away December 17, 2004 at the age of 90.

The Program

School Location

The early summer classes of the Library School were held at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, but by 1906 when the Free Library Commission created the Wisconsin Library School, classes were held at 206 North Carroll Street. The school had a large study hall, reference and reading room, lecture room, book room, typing room, technical library rooms, offices, and a gallery for exhibits. The Library School advertised their ability to give each student an assigned individual desk in the study hall.

The school was housed at 811 State Street (currently the Madison Club) from the late 1930s through the mid-1960s. Originally built as a fraternity house and known as the Phi Psi House, the building was purchased to hold the Library School in 1938. With the assistance of a WPA project, the building was redecorated and prepared for the new residents. The rooms once inhabited by the Wisconsin Library School at North Carroll Street were taken over by the Madison Free Library, allowing the cataloging department to move from the basement to the second floor and for the creation of a new children's room.

The Library School began to plan for a move in 1964. Two moves were required, the first move was to be temporary and the second would be to the current school's location in the Helen C. White building. However, the "temporary" move to 425 Henry Mall (the former location of the Wisconsin High School) lasted until 1971 when the program finally moved to its permanent location. The Henry Mall location had class and laboratory rooms as well as offices and a growing library.

Admittance, Requirements and Courses

1928-1937

Students could be admitted if they had already graduated from an accredited college and students could work towards a dual degree from the College of Letters and Science. Other students wanting admission had to take an entrance exam, which consisted of various questions on literature and general political knowledge as well as language translation (either French or German). The admission review included an interview and there was an age restriction; a person had to be between 20 and 35 years old. It was also recommended that the applicant have library experience, typewriting ability, "library hand" (good penmanship), and outside readings.

Course work went from September to June of the academic year comprising 36-weeks of "residence study". The curriculum was divided into four main subject areas: bibliographic, technical, administrative, and practical. Bibliographic courses included Book Selection and Evaluation, Reference Work, Public Documents, Library Work with Children and Schools, Subject Bibliography, and Trade Bibliography and Book Buying. Technical classes consisted of Cataloging and Classification and Subject Headings, while

the Administrative coursework included Library Administrative, Circulation of Books, General Administration, Library Records and Routine, Library Science, and Library Work as a Profession. There was also a Practical, or field practicum. The field practicum was an 8-week course of “regular library work.”

1938-1947

During these years the school awarded the degree of Bachelors in Library Science. The program was completed with one academic year of study. The school was changed to a Type II school (requiring four years of college coursework prior to admission and providing one full academic year of library science). The change was approved by the Board of Education for Librarianship as of December 1941. Admission requirements remained largely intact during these years. These requirements included previous library experience, age (at least 20 years of age but not over 35), reading knowledge of either French or German, and acceptable personality.

1948-1955

In 1950, the Library School became an official graduate program. Admission to the program required admission to the Graduate School, the equivalent of the Bachelor’s Degree with several library pre-professional courses and the ability to read a foreign language. To obtain a Master’s Degree, students were required to take a minimum of 24 credits and could select from such classes as Cataloging, Reference, Classification, Reading Interests of Children and The Library as a Social and Educational Institution, among others. Students were required to also pass a comprehensive oral examination.

The major academic news for 1952 was the introduction of a series of courses taught by the staff of the State Historical Society. There were four courses, one course offered per semester, which covered the following topics: Historical Records; Historical Museums, Sites, and Restorations; State and Local Histriography; and The History and Administration of Historical Agencies. These new courses marked the beginning of a formal, educational relationship between the Library School and the Wisconsin Historical Society which can still be seen today in the form of courses taught by Historical Society staff and an archival program which has staff from the Historical Society teach classes and has hands on work available through coursework in the Library School.

1956-1964

In 1956 the Library School received accreditation from the A.L.A.. Some of the recommendations from the A.L.A. were that the Library School should occupy the entire building at 811 Henry Mall (this recommendation was taken seriously and the school was moved to larger quarters in just a few years). The A.L.A. also suggested air-conditioning the classrooms.

New requirements were introduced for school librarians in 1960. A 15 credit load was required of all pursuing the field. The “Earn as you Learn” program was started in 1963. This program allowed for busy adults to work in libraries as they earned their degree. The minimum requirement was four courses of graduate work, as well as an undergraduate degree. The basis of the program was that the students would either work

full-time one semester and then take classes the alternate semester, or that the student would work part time and attend school part time. The incentive was that the salaries for the students in the program were at the professional or pre-professional level. Several libraries in the area supported the program by providing job opportunities for those that were involved.

The curriculum of these years was far smaller than the curriculum today, but several classes are still available. The classes included Introduction to Cataloging and Classification, Introduction to Reference, Introduction to Materials, School Library, Public Library, Special Library, Reference, Introduction to Librarianship, Children's Literature, Reading Interest of Adolescents, Cataloging and Classification, and Reading Interests of Adults.

Time Line

1895—The Library School is born. Summer sessions are established in the field of library science and in conjunction with the University Summer School at Madison as well as the Wisconsin Free Library Commission.

1906--Summer sessions are changed to a yearlong program when the Free Library Commission creates the Wisconsin Library School, which gained appropriation funds from an act by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1905, making it the ninth library school in the country.

1928—Mary Emogene Hazeltine publishes *Anniversaries and Holidays: A Calendar of Days and How to Observe Them*, a popular reference work.

1931—The Library School ends its practice of a separate graduation ceremony and determines that students would march with the rest of the university.

1933—The Library School is nearly cut from the State budget due to the Depression. While the school was saved by Hazeltine and others who led an aggressive campaign, the budget of the school was cut from \$16,000 to \$12,000, which meant cutting the Summer School session.

1936—On May 2, the May Day breakfast is held in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Wisconsin Library School, the 60th Anniversary of the A.L.A., and the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Wisconsin territory as well as the first library in Wisconsin, the State Law Library of Wisconsin.

1938--The Library School becomes officially part of the University when Governor LaFollette signs the executive order that the Wisconsin Library School should be attached to the College of Letters and Science of the University of Wisconsin, under the direction of the Director of the University Libraries.

1938—The Library School moves to 811 State Street, a former fraternity house.

1938—Mary Emogene Hazeltine retires from her post at the Wisconsin Library School.

1940—Wisconsin receives its first bookmobile, financed by American Legion posts throughout southwestern Wisconsin and Work Projects Administration (WPA) funds.

1940—Helen M. Ferris (also known as Mrs. Albert M. Tibbets) donates her personal library of children's books to the Library School. The collection includes many first additions.

1941—George C. Allez becomes director of the Library School. He retains the post until his death in 1950.

1941--The school is changed to a Type II school, requiring four years of college coursework prior to admission.

1941—The University votes to eliminate all vacations and holidays post-Christmas so that senior male students can finish their degrees prior to going into service.

1942—The class of 1942 dedicates its yearbook “to freedom, an ideal which has been our heritage and whose existence as fact is now being threatened” which references Pearl Harbor and American participation in World War II.

1942—*Alumni Jottings* notes the growing importance of Spanish and knowledge of South American culture.

1943—Althea Warren, graduate of the 1911 class of the Wisconsin Library School, is named president of the A.L.A.

1943—The first Library School casualty is announced, alumni Waldemar Thurow from the class of 1938. A room at the Library School is dedicated in his honor in 1947.

1944—The school purchases a delinescope which projects slides, microfilm and pages of books as well as catalog cards and other like materials on a screen. The department planned to use the delinescope extensively for teaching.

1945—The May Day celebration is cancelled due to war-related travel restrictions.

1948—The Library School offers an eight-week summer degree program. The program could be completed within four summers.

1948—The first Institute on Library Service to Schools at the University of Wisconsin Library School is held with speakers from the University of Minnesota and the University of Chicago High School. The program, for which classes were cancelled, included book reviews, films, and showings of books, pamphlets and magazines.

1949—On June 7, Mary Emogene Hazeltine dies at the age of 81.

1950—Library School Director George C. Allez passes away unexpectedly on April 27 after nine years leading the school.

1950—Rachel K. Schenk is named director of the Library School. She remains director until her retirement in 1963.

1950--The School announces its intention to offer a Masters Degree Program which would lead to either a Master of Arts or a Master of Science degree, in Library Science.

1950--Groundbreaking for the Wisconsin Memorial Library takes place on July 24, 1950. Students and faculty of the Library School take part in the groundbreaking ceremonies, which includes a concert and speeches.

1951—Senator Joseph McCarthy, best known for his hunt for communists in the 1950s, visits the University and tours the University library, with Stephen Ambrose as his guide. During the tour, McCarthy inspected the card catalog and expressed his outrage at the large number of books on the subject of Marxism, revolution and communism.

1954—On February 1 students and faculty attend the dedication of Memorial Library. The cost of the library was \$5.5 million and took nearly four years, from groundbreaking to dedication, to complete.

1956—The American Library Association confers accreditation on the Wisconsin Library School.

1960—A fifteen credit load is required for students pursuing a school library degree.

1962—Three alumni participate in the World's Fair at the A.L.A. sponsored "Library 21" exhibit. Computer technology, in the form of an UNIVAC information retrieval and storage system, is a highlight of the fair.

1963—Margaret Monroe is named Library School Director. She retains the post until 1970 and remains on staff until her retirement in 1981. Dr. Monroe passed away in 2004.

1963—The "Earn as you Learn" program is introduced to attract busy adults to work in libraries as they earn their degree.

1963—The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) is opened. The CCBC was used as a depository for children's literature and additionally is now an important resource on intellectual freedom.

1964—The School moves to the Henry Mall location. The move is meant to be temporary, but the school is housed at this location for seven years.

1971—The Library School moves into its permanent location in the Helen C. White building.