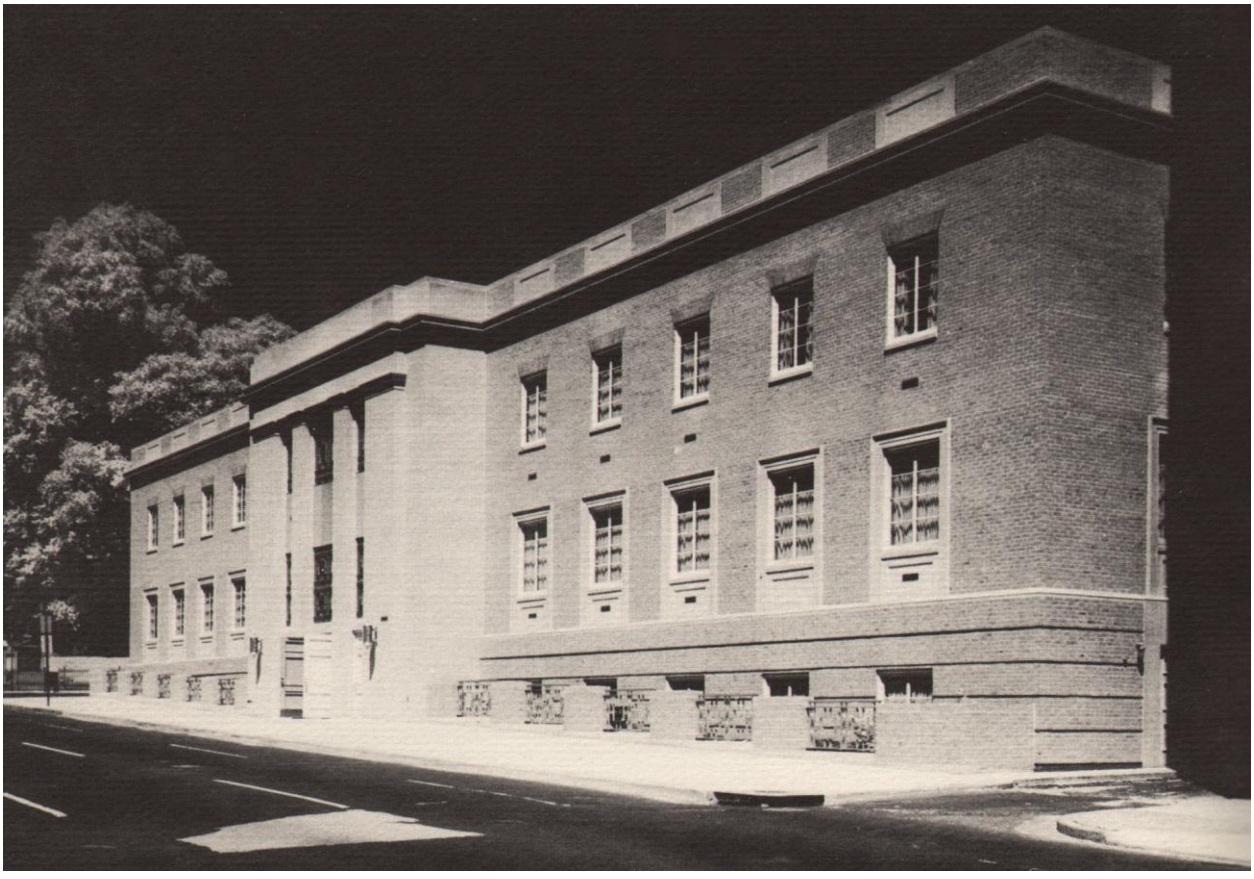
THE HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

University of Maryland

at Baltimore, Maryland



The Health Sciences Library, University of Maryland
A History, 1813 - 1960

BY IDA MARIAN ROBINSON

THE HISTORY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY, University of Maryland, has many facets, some clear-cut, some clouded in obscurity. Established early in the history of the University, the library has continued without interruption for nearly a century and a half. In general, its evolution is marked by two major periods: first, the century from 1813 to 1913; and second, subsequent years to 1960. The ultimate form of the library can be presented with clarity only by a recounting of each changing phase, such were the complexities of development.

FIRST CENTURY

FIRST PHASE — MEDICINE. The present School of Medicine, founded in 1807 as the fifth oldest medical school in the United States, is the oldest part of the University of Maryland. Thus it follows naturally that the first books ever purchased for library use in the University were medical volumes. At the death of Dr. John Crawford in 1813, a subscription of five hundred dollars was provided by his colleagues on the medical school faculty to purchase his medical library of more than four hundred titles and to establish it as the library of the college. Dr. Crawford was a remarkable man, with many interests and theories in advance of his time, and his versatility is apparent in the variety of the books which he collected. The volumes include texts in six languages and bear imprints from 1565 to 1811, reflecting Dr. Crawford's recognition of medical history as well as his pursuit of new developments to the end of his life. The Crawford Collection, now valued at many times its original cost, is one of the treasures on display in the historical room of the present library.

This collection, which established the oldest separate medical college library in the United States and started the present library system of the University of Maryland, was kept in the original building of the medical school in the "Provost's office," and there grew halt-

THE NEW HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY BUILDING, 111 SOUTH GREENE STREET, BALTIMORE 1, MARYLAND.

ingly during the century between 1813 and 1913. Old records show that up to 1830, twenty-six hundred dollars had been spent on the library, with a budget of fifty dollars annually for some years thereafter. Much of the growth during the nineteenth century depended on gifts, with a resulting twenty-two hundred accessioned volumes on hand in the eighteen nineties.

In 1903, Dr. Eugene Fauntleroy Cordell, Professor of the History of Medicine, was appointed librarian, and immediately began to make the library a rightfully active and growing part of the School of Medicine. Although various faculty and hospital staff members had acted as librarian in the earlier years, Dr. Cordell, noted Maryland historiographer as well as physician and teacher, must surely be considered the first professional librarian of the institution. (Hence, fitingly, the present medical historical collection is named in his honor and is presided over by his portrait in the medical alcoves of the historical room.) In his first three years as librarian, Cordell more than tripled the book collection and continued to develop the library until his death in 1913. Thus the first hundred years of the medical library came to a close.

Second Phase — Dentistry. The Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, first dental school in the world, was founded in 1840. Although no records have been discovered to prove the existence of a dental library in the beginning years, there is evidence of an early book collection. An enormous, antique bookcase brought from the original dental college contained many volumes of a period as early as the founding of the school, and included complete sets of the oldest American dental journals with the name of Dr. Chapin Harris (one of the founders) on the cover of each volume. The journals and various dental texts presented by dentists of the early years of professional dentistry bear witness to the existence of a dental library in use and growing between the years 1860 and 1895.

The Dental Department of the University of Maryland, which co-existed with the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1882, was not equally representative of all dental interests. Thus it was only with the amalgamation of the two dental schools in the twentieth century that a significant book collection began to develop.

Third Phase — Pharmacy. The third oldest pharmacy school in this country, the Maryland College of Pharmacy, was chartered in 1841. In the absence of any formal records concerning a pharmacy book collection in the beginning, it must be assumed that no organized library was immediately developed. In 1859, however, a library committee was appointed. By 1886, library quarters were included on the first floor of the new pharmacy college building. A special feature of the semi-centennial celebration observed in 1891 was an alumni gift of fine library cases and many additional volumes. It seems evident that the school was library-conscious.

In 1904, the Maryland College of Pharmacy was absorbed by the University of Maryland Department

of Pharmacy (later School of Pharmacy). A description of the merger mentioned the "extensive library and reading room" which would be available to all pharmacy students at the University of Maryland. This reference must have been to the library in Davidge Hall, which included pharmacy books and had at times had the hospital pharmacist as librarian. No records indicated whether the books of the Maryland College of Pharmacy were added to the Davidge Hall collection; if so, the number of pharmacy volumes was surprisingly small in 1913. This is one of the more obscure facets of the first century's history of our library development.

FOURTH PHASE — NURSING. The School of Nursing, second nursing school to be founded in Maryland, was organized in 1889 as a hospital school and for many years had no formal library. Through the medical library, some texts were maintained in the hospital for staff use and the general medical book collection made available to student nurses. At the end of the University of Maryland's first century, however, the need for a specific nursing library was yet unrecognized.

SECOND CENTURY TO 1960

During the librarianship of Dr. Eugene F. Cordell from 1903 to 1913, the growth of the University of Maryland demanded larger quarters. To provide a library building, the University purchased an old church (built in 1843) directly across Lombard Street from the School of Medicine, remodeled the first floor somewhat, and moved the book collection early in 1913. This building was then known as Davidge Hall, University of Maryland Library. When Dr. Cordell's death occurred later that year, Mrs. Ruth Lee Briscoe became librarian, remaining for the next thirty-two years. In 1913 the library was a consolidated one, including medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing, as well as law and commerce, representing the several schools which had been added to the University of Maryland since its founding. Here we see, nearly fifty years ago, the health sciences combined in one library.

But the trend towards specialization and decentralization gradually changed the composition of the library. As the various schools grew and occupied separate buildings, they withdrew their individual library collections. Eventually only the medical books remained in Davidge Hall and the building became the library of the School of Medicine, expanding into all three floors and needing more.

The significant development of the dental library began in 1923 with the merging of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and the Dental Department of the University of Maryland under the deanship of Dr. J. Ben Robinson, dental educator and historian. His great interest prompted the withdrawing of the dental books from Davidge Hall, gathering all dental book material available from the two combined dental schools, recording and shelving the books suitably, and purchasing important dental journals and modern textbooks. With this accomplished, a budget was re-

quested to provide a dental librarian as soon as possible. In 1926, the first dental librarian was employed and the dental library well established in the new dentistry-pharmacy building. Under the leadership of Dean Robinson, the dental collection grew in stature, to be recognized among the best of dental school libraries.

At is first spring meeting in 1926, the Maryland Dental Association established the Clarence J. Grieves Library Foundation to honor Dr. Grieves' contributions to dentistry. Dr. Grieves gave his books, which were combined with the library of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery Dental School under the name of the foundation. Foundation funds are responsible for numerous volumes in the library's outstanding dental historical collection. In the new Health Sciences Library building, Dr. Grieves' name is perpetuated in the Grieves Dental Historical Collection in the first alcove of the historical room. Here Dr. Grieves' portrait adorns the paneled wall and the bronze plaque honoring him is visible from the entrance of the room.

The new dentistry-pharmacy building of 1926 provided joint library space for the two schools, with a common reading room but separate stack floors for the two collections. The School of Pharmacy likewise withdrew its books from the library in Davidge Hall, employed a librarian, and developed its collection separately. It was many years before everyone concerned could be convinced that these two libraries, growing side by side in shared space, could be combined and more effectively administered as one unit.

In 1938, a change in library administration for the whole University of Maryland led to eventual adjustments in the Baltimore schools. Since 1920 when the Maryland State College at College Park had been combined by the legislature with the schools in Baltimore as the University of Maryland, two major library units had existed. The general library at College Park had its own librarian, responsible to the president; the separate libraries of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and law on the Baltimore campus functioned under their respective deans. The appointment of a director of libraries in 1938, with responsibility for all libraries of the University, was the first step towards the coordination of these several library divisions. By 1940 it had been agreed that one librarian should be appointed for the joint dentistry-pharmacy library, with appropriate staff to share technical processes and services to the students and faculty of both schools.

When this arrangement had functioned successfully for two years, the medical library was brought into the plan, with the administrative duties of the chief librarian in dentistry-pharmacy extended to include medicine. Working in cooperation with the schools represented, the librarian was responsible to the director of libraries, who in turn was responsible for all library services of the University of Maryland. This arrangement has continued with recognized advantages for all divisions of the library system.

In 1946, the hospital school of nursing was changed to an autonomous four-year school under the direction of Dean Florence M. Gipe. Recognizing the need for an organized nursing library, Dean Gipe consulted the director of libraries in the interest of establishing a library unit for students of nursing. Again the librarian in charge of the medical, dental, and pharmacy units was given responsibility for establishing a nursing library acceptable for accreditation. The new unit was set up in the Nurses' Residence, where there was space available, and was received into the system of libraries by the president of the University of Maryland. This added a fourth subject field in a third building for the health sciences.

In 1953 a new Psychiatric Institute was established adjoining University Hospital. By this time the medical library was overflowing Davidge Hall, with no space for expansion. The Psychiatric Institute offered a chance to organize a psychiatric library and add needed library space. Much of the psychiatric literature from the medical collection was transferred as a nucleus, and current publications in psychiatry and closely allied subjects were thereafter housed in the separate unit. The offspring of the medical library provided the fifth subject field in the fourth separate building, to make up the (nominally) "combined" library functioning as one administrative unit.

Much was done to coordinate policies and techniques in the four divisions, even to the extent of a circulating staff to give library personnel experience in each phase of the health sciences. Space problems of the library, technically one but scattered in four separated buildings, grew insurmountably, however, despite many makeshift adjustments. There was no building on campus where the units could be combined; there was only one adequate solution—a new library building for the health sciences.

In 1957, the legislature appropriated more than a million dollars to provide such a library building. The only feasible site was the southeast corner of Lombard and Greene Streets, occupied by the old medical library building, plus three other buildings which had to be purchased and razed. The medical library had to seek and crowd into a temporary home on Greene Street, with half the book collection sent to storage.

Ground was broken for the new building in July 1958; the building was completed in May 1960. Moving and combining of the four library units took place in June and July, with the doors of the Health Sciences Library first opened for service on July 28, 1960.

Perhaps few libraries have had the complex evolution of this one over a century and a half, with alternating centralization and decentralization through the present century. Now, after nearly fifty years, the book collections of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing are together again on the southeast corner of Lombard and Greene, where they first occupied a separate library building. The wheel has turned full circle.

Library Staff, July 1960

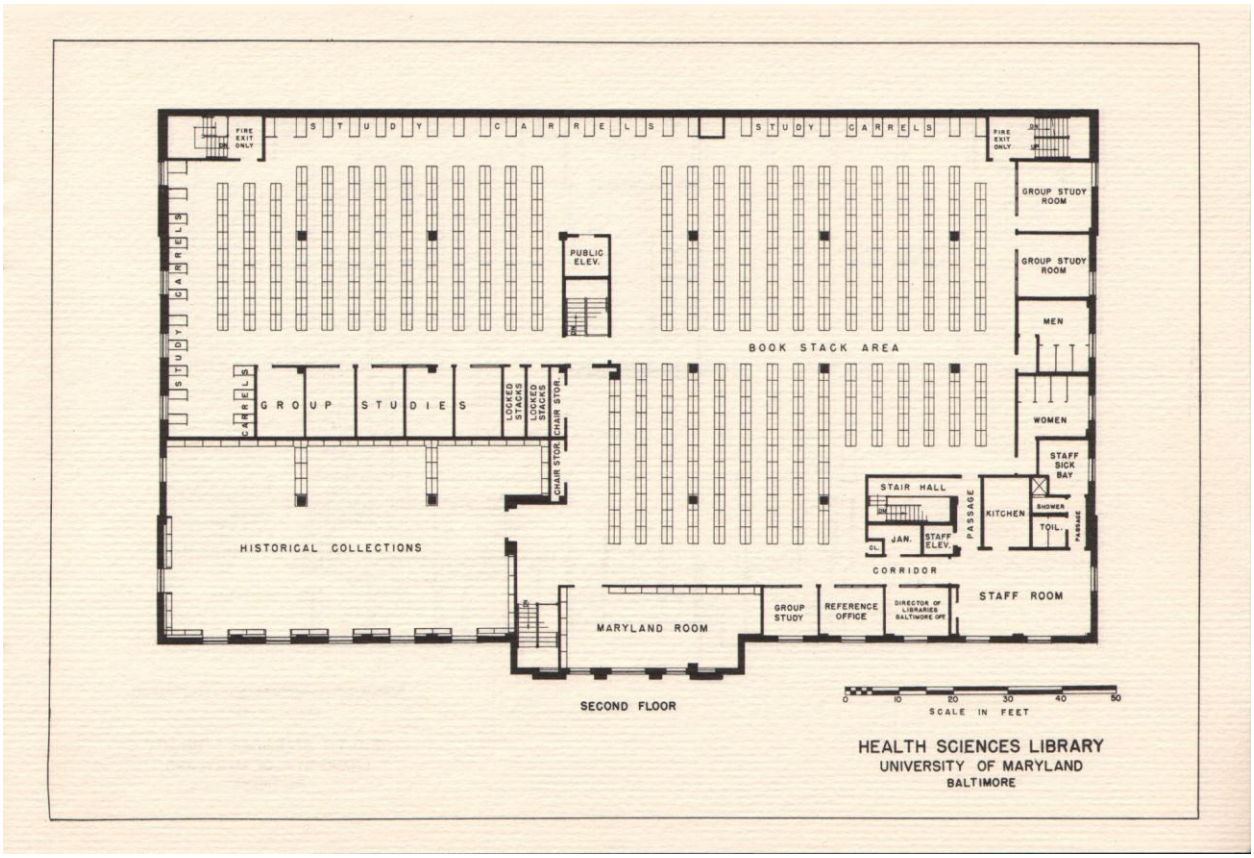
HOWARD ROVELSTAD, *Director of Libraries*
Professor of Library Science

*IDA MARIAN ROBINSON, *Librarian*
Associate Professor of Library Science

*HILDA E. MOORE, *Associate Librarian*
Assistant Professor of Library Science

SARAH J. ATKINS, *Cataloging Assistant*
JEAN L. BADGER, *Serials Assistant*
JACQUELINE B. CLEM, *Secretary to the Librarian*
MARIE M. CHAFFMAN, *Assistant Circulation Librarian*
*EDITH M. COYLE, *Head, Serials Department*
RUTH E. HANNA, *Assistant Acquisitions Librarian*
*SIMONE C. HURST, *Head, Circulation Department*
*FLORENCE R. KIRK, *Reference Librarian*
BETTY B. LINKOUS, *Cataloging Assistant*
HANS-GUENTHER R. LISTFELDT, *Assistant Serials Librarian*
*BEATRICE MARRIOTT, *Reference Librarian*
*ELEANOR M. MITTEN, *Head, Catalog Department*
ELWOOD STERLING, *Library Clerk*
MARJORIE F. VILK, *Cataloger*

* *Certified Medical Librarian*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STUDY CARRELS
STUDY CARRELS
FIRE EXIT ONLY
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GROUP STUDY ROOM
GROUP STUDY ROOM
MEN
WOMEN
STAFF SICK BAY
PUBLIC ELEV.
BOOK STACK AREA
STUDY CARRELS
GROUP STUDIES
LOCKED STACKS
LOCKED STACKS
CHAIR STOR.
CHAIR STOR.
STAIR HALL
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STAFF ELEV.
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DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES BALTIMORE OFF.
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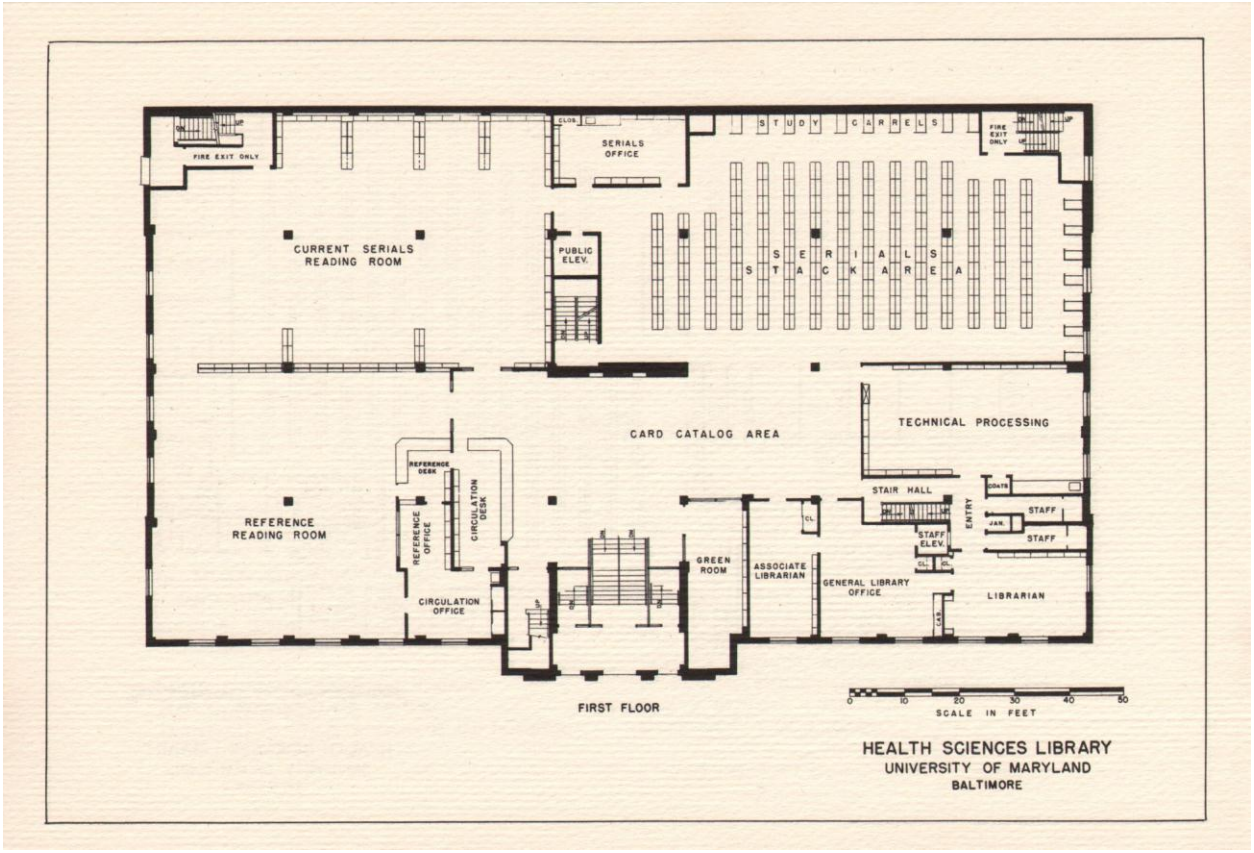
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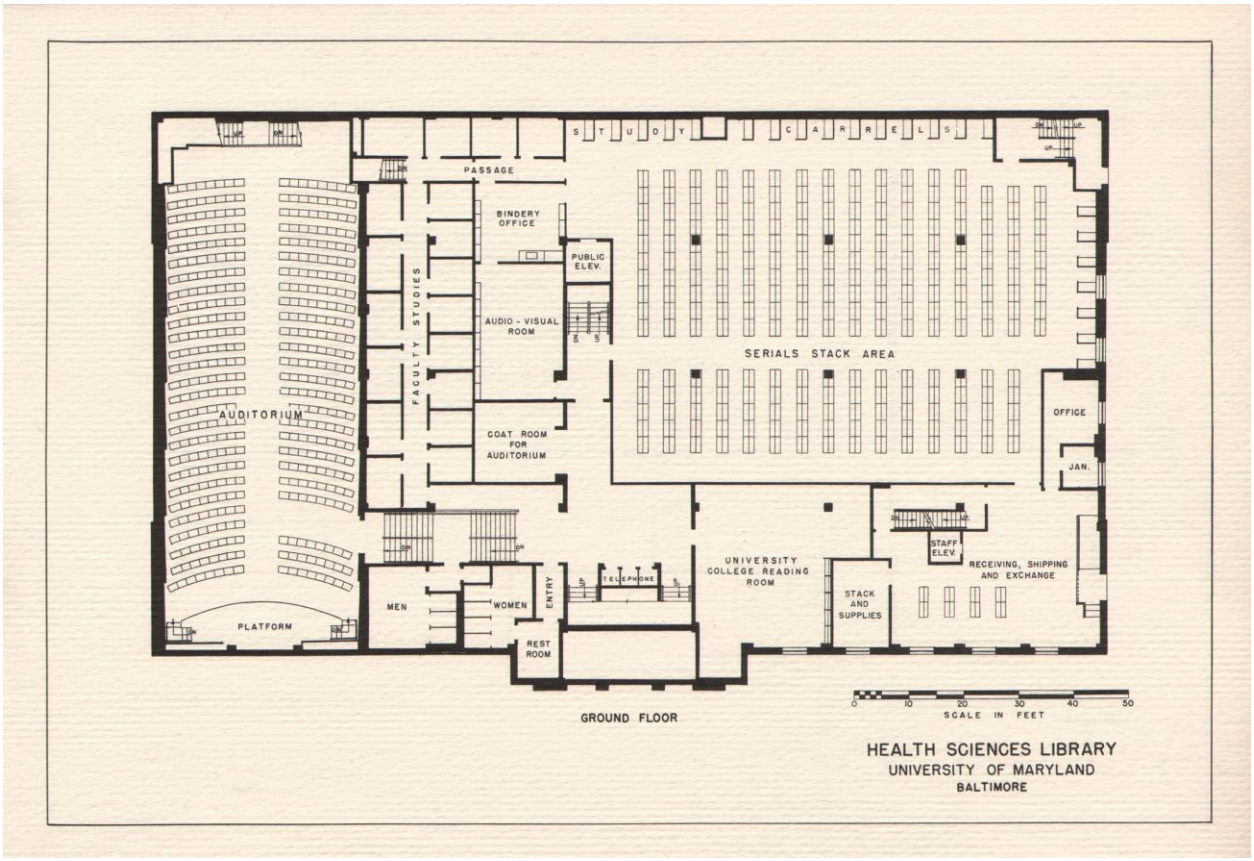
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SERIALS STACK AREA
AUDITORIUM
COAT ROOM FOR AUDITORIUM
OFFICE
JAN.
STAFF ELEV.
RECEIVING, SHIPPING AND EXCHANGE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE READING ROOM
STACK AND SUPPLIES
TELEPHONE
MEN
WOMEN
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REST ROOM
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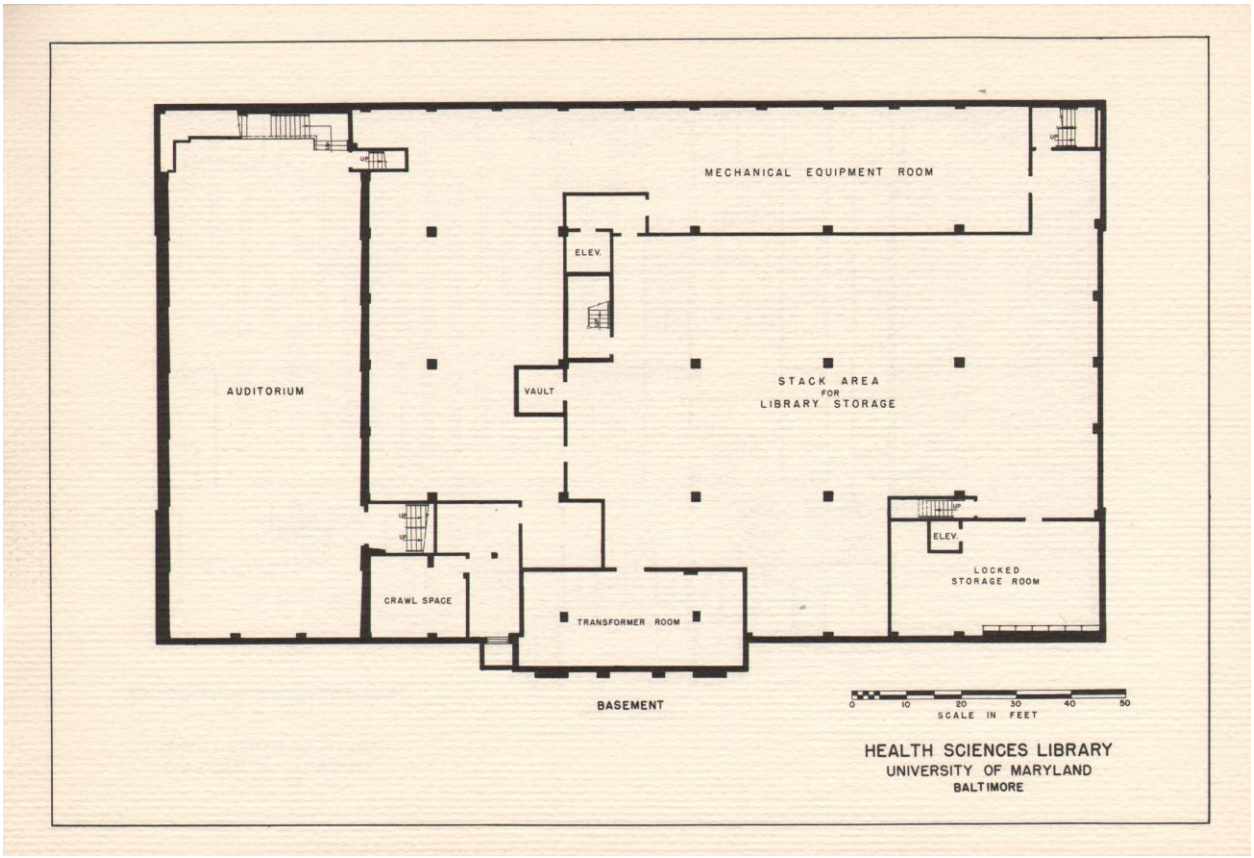
BALTIMORE


MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT ROOM
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AUDITORIUM
VAULT
STACK AREA
FOR
LIBRARY STORAGE
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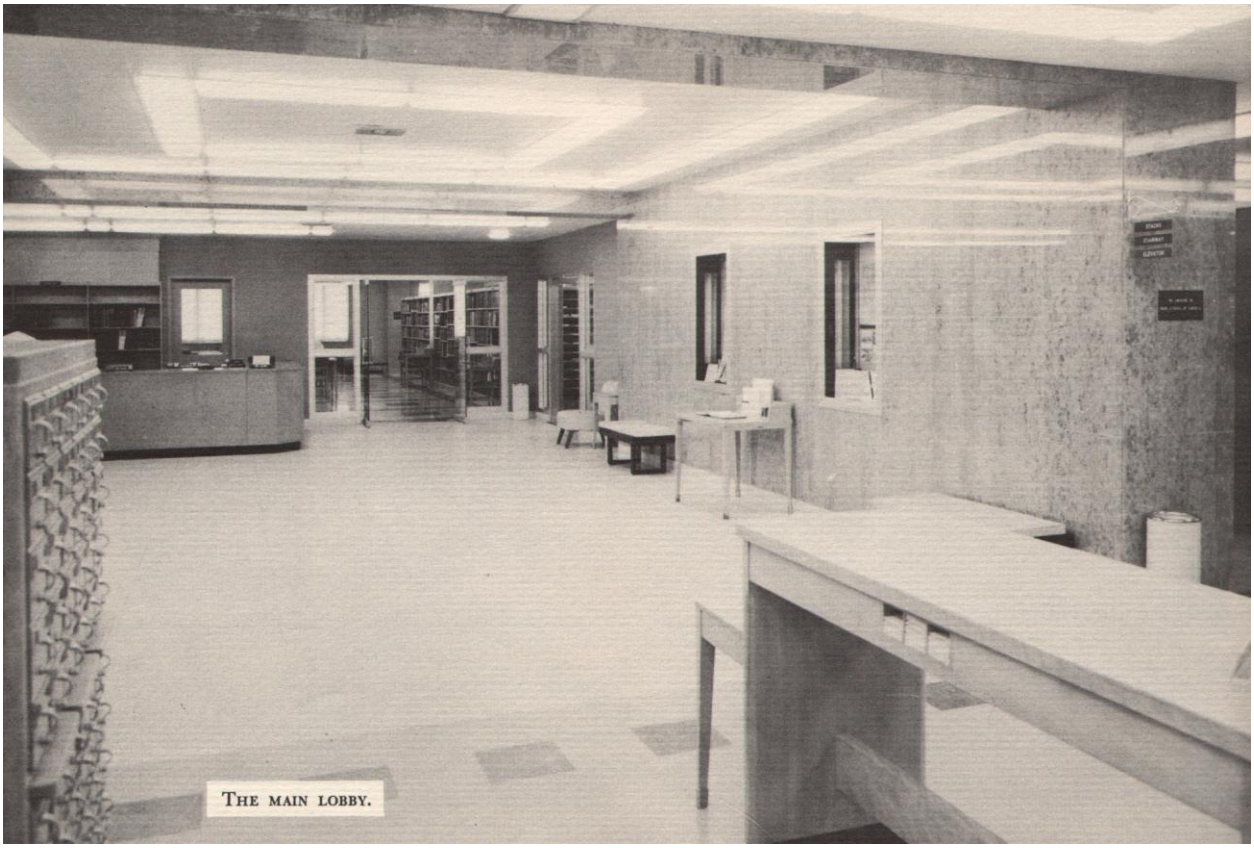
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
BALTIMORE



THE MAIN LOBBY.

THE ROOM FOR HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS.

The New Building

THE NEW FOUR-STORY LIBRARY BUILDING, HALF A block long and one hundred feet deep, provides modern library facilities for the professional schools of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, and social work (the last, newly established). An auditorium for campus use occupies the north end of the two lower floors; all other space in the air-conditioned building is devoted entirely to library services.

Library patrons have a choice of study arrangements. Some prefer the large reading rooms on the first floor: one for general reference works and one for current serials and indexes. Other readers like the privacy of individual study carrels surrounding the book stacks on three floors. For students who wish to study together, group studies are provided on the top floor. Faculty studies are available for assignment to faculty members with special bibliographic projects.

Recreational reading is not neglected. At the right of the first floor lobby is the Green Room (named after the green room of early theaters, where actors relaxed between their cues). Here are newspapers, popular magazines, non-technical books of both classical and popular nature—many of them gifts from good friends of the library.

Two large rooms for special collections occupy considerable space on the second floor. The room for historical collections, furnished in the period of 1813 when the library was founded, displays the separate historical book collections of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing. The Maryland Room opposite contains all available publications issued from the University of Maryland's professional schools in the health sciences from the founding of the University to the present time. In addition to modern facilities for daily activities, having adequate space and suitable background for special treasures of the library is a most satisfying aspect of the new building.

Information about the Building

Square feet of space: 70,500 sq. ft.

Four-story building, air-conditioned:
Three floors for public use; one floor for utilities and library storage; constructed for the addition of two floors, when needed.

Principal materials used:
Reinforced concrete; steel beams above the auditorium; exterior walls of Glengarry brick with Indiana limestone and granite trim; lobby of St. Claire golden vein marble; floors are Travertine in lobby and rubber, asphalt, cork tile throughout; interior walls are wood paneled, painted slag block, and Vicrtex fabric-covered; metal book stacks, wood wall shelving; fluorescent lighting.

Capacity: 200,000 volumes full capacity; 400 seating capacity plus 416 seating in auditorium.

Cost of construction (exclusive of the land): $1,157,936.

Cost of furniture and equipment: $90,000.

Length of building time: Two years.

THE SERIALS READING ROOM.