



2-2016

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Recommended Citation

Wurtz, Mike, "Brief History of the University of the Pacific Library" (2016). *University of the Pacific Individual Histories*. 27.

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Brief history of the University of the Pacific Library

[Compiled by Mike Wurtz from secondary sources in the University Archives February 2016]

Santa Clara 1851-1871

Early campus literary societies, Archanian and Hesperian, provided the nucleus for the Library's first collection in the 1850s. From that time through the remainder of the 19th century, Library growth depended heavily on gifts from these groups as well as faculty and friends.

San Jose's College Park 1871-1924

When West Hall opened in 1871, the two ground floor rooms were reserved for a library and contained around 10,000 volumes. It was not a very comprehensive library and faculty continued to have their own collections as well.

Although there was no Librarian, English Professor Monroe Alexander, operated the facility as part of his regular campus duties. Pacific hired its first full-time Librarian, Miss Harriet Boss, in 1911.

In 1915 West Hall burned to the ground and all but 379 books were lost. By the end of 1916, insurance payments and gifts from other libraries and from individual donors had brought the collection back to its pre-fire size. One large ground floor room in East Hall housed the second college library until Pacific moved to Stockton.

Stockton

Weber Hall 1924

The Library, nearly 14,000 volumes, was granted the southeast portion of Weber Hall's second floor above the chemistry laboratories. In 1928 the Library took over the entire second floor of Weber Hall.

Stockton Power House 1938

The library moved into the former Power House (now Engineering's Baun Hall) which was remodeled and a second floor was added at a cost of some \$25,000. Mrs. Clara B. Congdon, a daughter of the College's first President, Edward Bannister, bore the expense of these renovations, and, in fall 1938, the new College Library opened its doors. After the War, a Music Library was created in quonset hut space and a Reserve Book Room in Owens Hall.

Irving Martin Library 1955

Irving Martin, publisher of the *Stockton Record*, agreed to provide \$125,000 of a required \$400,000 for Pacific's first ever library building. The two-story brick Martin Library, designed by San Francisco architect, Clarence Mayhew, was completed in summer 1955. It contained reserve book, periodicals, Western Americana, and basement staff work rooms, as well as stack space for 100,000 volumes.

As collections continued to grow, extra holdings were kept in a Pharmacy/Chemistry Library in the old Weber Hall library space, and others were stored in the Power House attic and in Weber Hall.

Wood addition 1966

In 1966 President Robert Burns and the Board of Regents announced that Lodi canner, Donald B. Wood, had given the University \$233,400 in memory of his son, John T. Wood, toward a new library addition on the northwest side of the original Martin building. Although books were placed around the walls in the new addition, most of the 177,000 volumes in the Library collection went into stacks in the Martin Library. This expansion essentially doubled the size of the library.

During the twenty years in which the Martin and Wood libraries alone served the campus community, collections grew to 750,000 volumes (1984). Satellite libraries sprang up at the Pharmacy School in 1969. The Western Americana collection, established in 1947, was moved from the Martin Library to the former Stockton College Library (now the Benerd School of Education building) on the newly acquired South Campus in 1974 and the Music Library continued in the quonsets.

Holt Addition 1986

(aka William Knox Holt Memorial Library)

Tractor heir Holt Atherton had a fondness for Western history and eagerly gave \$500,000 to provide a suitable home for Pacific's Western Americana Collection, and influenced the William Knox Holt Foundation to donate \$2 million toward the construction of a third addition off the northeast part of the original Martin library. The National Endowment for the Humanities also contributed \$600,000 while the rest came from smaller individual contributions. The new building facilitated the absorption of the Music Library and made possible the return of the Western Americana Collection, now called the Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, from the School of Education building. More than 2,500 contributors to the Library campaign represents the largest number of donors, gifts and dollars ever pledged to a single project in the history of the University.

Stockton Addition 2005

In the spring of 2005 the library completed another addition to the southeast corner of the library including the Community Room and more space for study and stacks. The \$8 million project had been partially funded with higher education facilities bond financing and major gifts from the Fletcher Jones and Conrad N. Hilton Foundations. Designed by Wenell Mattheis Bowe Architects and Fletcher Farr Ayotte the new area included 16,000 square feet to the existing 68,000 square feet.