



THE NEW JOYNER LIBRARY AT EAST CAROLINA COLLEGE

By CHARLES T. LAUGHER*

With the greatly increased enrollment at the end of World War II, it was obvious that the library on the East Carolina College Campus would no longer be adequate. There was neither room for study nor space to house the collection and service it efficiently. It was decided to go ahead with the preliminary planning for a new library, to be built when building costs went down.

It was not until June 7, 1954 that the plans formulated in this period were realized. On that date, the new million dollar Joyner Library opened for service.

Plans for the building were drawn by Architect Eric G. Flanagan of Henderson, North Carolina, following the suggestions and incorporating the ideas of Librarian Wendell W. Smiley, who worked tirelessly to give the college a library of which it could be justifiably proud. That he did so is very evident today.

The physical plant itself, planned to house a collection of 120,000 volumes, is built of brick in dark and light shades with limestone trim, on a steel and concrete foundation. It was erected by R. K. Stewart and Company of High Point, North Carolina.

Of modern functional design, the library stands out on the campus with its simple, clean lines, yet manages to blend with the architectural style of the rest of the buildings.

Approaching the building from the north, one is struck by the wide expanses of glass; two-story-high windows run across the face of the building around the reading room on the west end. This extensive use of glass gives natural light for study throughout the building during most of the year.

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Entrance is from the north through large class doors set in aluminum frames. From an entry hall, the patron may either enter the lobby through another set of glass doors, or reach the second floor by a stairway to the right of the entrance. To the left of the entrance is a cloakroom, a pay telephone booth, and a drinking fountain.

The lobby is the focal point of the library, giving access to the combined reference and reading room, the periodical room, the offices and work areas, and the stacks.

The lobby floor is of terrazzo and the ceiling is of accoustical tile. Wainscoting is of natural maple, with plaster above. Lighting is indirect of the instant starter fluorescent type.

The custom built service desk opposite the entrance dominates the lobby, commanding a view of the main reading room and the periodical room through glass panel partitions. The service desk, paneling, furniture and built-in shelving throughout the building were built to the librarian's specifications by the Myrtle Desk Company of High Point.

The reserve book section is located behind the main desk on free standing shelving. There is a slot in the front of the desk for the return of books to a depressible book truck.

The cataloging and order departments open directly off the lobby, and the card catalog and tables for bibliographic tools to the left of the desk are strategically located for both librarians and patrons.

Flanking the entrance to the lobby are four specially designed tables holding the *Reader's Guide* and other periodical indexes, with space for a maximum of thirty-two users at one time.

The combined reference and main reading room, with a seating capacity of two hundred and fifty students, occupies the whole west end of the building, extending the full two stories high with a twenty-five foot ceiling.

Built-in shelving of maple for the reference collection, runs around the outside walls of the room. Above the shelving, the walls are white plaster. Study tables and chairs, atlas cases, and map cases are also of light maple. The floor is rubber tile and the ceiling accoustical tile.

Natural lighting is furnished during the day by windows starting above eye level and extending to the ceiling, and during the evening by suspended fluorescent fixtures. All windows are fitted with Venetian blinds, and the room is mechanically ventilated, though it is hoped one day the air conditioning, which at present extends only to the stacks and the radio-television studio on the second floor, will be expanded to include this area as well.

On the northeast side of the lobby is the periodical room with slanting shelves for the collection of over five hundred current periodicals, built-in shelves for bound general periodicals, and tables and chairs for seventy readers.

Opposite the periodical room, running along the south side of the building are the librarian's office, a staff room, a recreational reading room. At the east end of the building are the rest rooms, two seminar rooms and the periodicals office.

An automatic elevator and a book lift located behind the service desk give quick access to the four stack decks and to the study areas and carrells for graduate students and faculty located on the various decks.

Flooring and shelving are of steel throughout. Use was made of the stacks from the old library in combination with additional new shelving manufactured and erected by the Virginia Metal Products Company, Inc.

Special shelving areas for the collection of back issues of newspapers are located on the third and fourth decks.

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

All lighting in the stacks is of the fluorescent type. The basement floor contains the necessary library work rooms, a receiving and shipping room, and space for the ventilating and air-conditioning equipment. Another automatic booklift connects the receiving room with the order department on the main floor directly above.

The second floor is given over to the North Carolina Room, the Library Science Department and the Audio-Visual Department.

The North Carolina Room is at the head of the stairway on a balcony overlooking the main reading room.

On the north side of the long corridor running the length of the second floor east of the North Carolina Room are the juvenile room, the library science classroom, the curriculum laboratory and the audio-visual laboratory. On the east end of the building is the radio and television studio from which a weekly radio program originates on tape, and where rehearsals for the weekly television program, "Let's go to College," are held. At the end of the hall are rest rooms for men and women and a photographic darkroom.

The south side of the building is given over to an auditorium seating one hundred and fifty people.

As on the main floor, all rooms and corridors are finished in light colors, with floors of asphalt tile and ceilings of accoustical or fiber tile.

Students have access to the North Carolina Room and all the classrooms on this floor for study, giving a total area large enough at present to serve six hundred patrons.

Plans are now under way for the formal dedication of the library on March 8, 1955. An ambitious program is planned with L. Quincy Mumford, new Librarian of Congress, as guest speaker.
