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Medical Library

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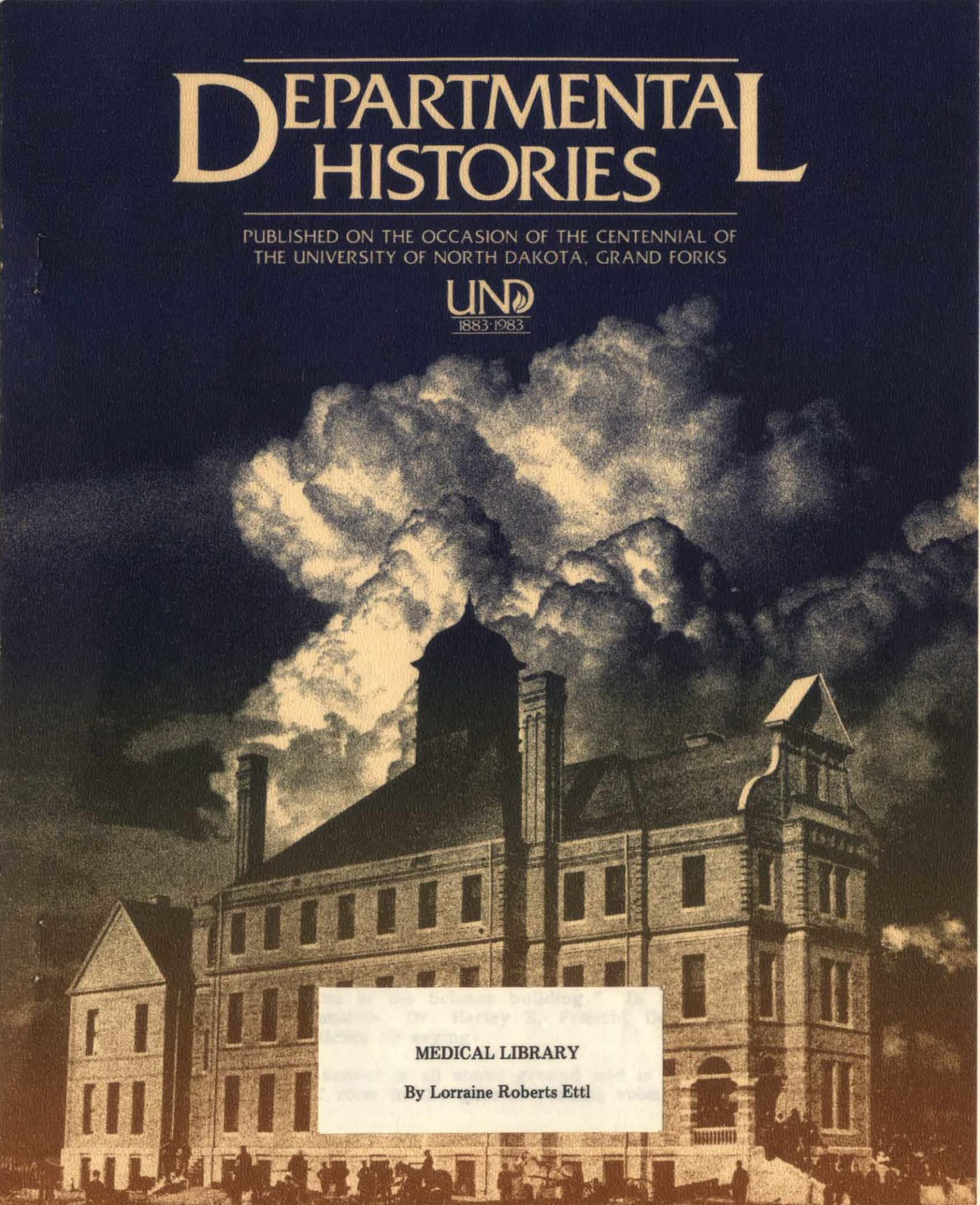
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DEPARTMENTAL HISTORIES

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MEDICAL LIBRARY

By Lorraine Roberts Ettl

HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY

by

Lorraine Roberts Ettl

The trustees of the University of North Dakota, in the belief that many young men and women of North Dakota would prefer to do as much of their medical work as possible in the state, decided to open the Medical College of the University September 26, 1905. Classes were held in Science Hall, and a library containing suitable reference books, text books and journals was located on the third floor. A central portion of the space was used as a lecture room and library of the Biological Department. The philosophy of the faculty of the Medical College concerning the library was expressed in this statement: "The student is encouraged and, to a certain extent, required to make use of the leading authorities and become familiar with them."(1)

Although only a few lines were accorded to the library of the Medical College in the earlier University catalogues, the importance of the library was attested to by a statement in the 1910 catalogue which said that during a student's first year a course in library science was required. One credit was received for one hour a week and was "intended to give such information as will enable students to use the library intelligently."(2)

By 1915, the library collection had moved to the second floor of Science Hall, sharing with the Department of Biology a room and an attendant. The room was open from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily and contained several hundred volumes and thirty-five magazines, "among the best."(3)

From 1919-20 through the Bulletins of 1930-31 the few lines about the book collection were listed under "Equipment" which also included description of the laboratories and department museums! The "equipment" in 1930 included 4000 bound volumes and 60 magazines.

No mention was made of the library in announcements concerning the Medical School from 1932-34. The University's General Library included five departmental libraries at that time, and though not mentioned by name, the medical collection in Science Hall was considered one of the departmental collections.

In 1936 the Medical College lost its Class A rating and was given a probationary status. The report made by the Association of American Medical Colleges stated that "the Medical School Library is located in 2 or 3 stacks in the basement of the University Library building . . . the alcove between the stacks provides reading space to accommodate 5 or 6 students." The report also stated "there are said to be 3034 volumes. These must include books scattered throughout the various departments and a group of books which are on shelves in the students coat-room in the Science building." In a letter to a member of the accreditation committee, Dr. Harley E. French, Dean of the Medical College, responded to criticism by saying:

But this basement is all above ground and is well lighted, and there is plenty of room in the general reading room. We could also count

more than two or three stacks. In response to the number of books, he said, the librarian, of course, furnished the figure. There are a few library books in my office and in the other departments brought over to be more accessible for use by both ourselves and the students. These, of course, are included in the number catalogued and listed, but the number given does not include the many hundreds of books that are of somewhat less value and that are largely duplicates that are mentioned as being in the students coat-room.(4)

Dr. French's plea did not affect the accreditation report, and the school remained on probation but continued to accept classes. Depression and drought caused loss of tax revenue with a subsequent decrease in state appropriations. As the economy improved in the 1940's, an effort to improve conditions in the Medical College resulted in the creation by the state legislature of the North Dakota Medical Center. \$250,000 was appropriated for the construction of a Medical Science building.

To support the Medical Center, a one mill levy was proposed. In urging passage of the tax bill, the Alumni Review, October 1948, listed as a reason for passage: "A complete and modern medical library and research center will become available to our doctors, clinics, hospitals and state agencies." On Sunday, November 7, 1948 the Grand Forks Herald reported the passage of the Medical Tax by 22,000 votes.

The Council on Medical Education, after placing the school on probation, had not inspected the school in a number of years. Accreditation was a goal of the Medical Center and the Dean. A typed manuscript, unsigned, in the University Archives Collection makes these recommendations for the library:

A trained medical librarian should be employed by the Medical School to start work now. There is much preliminary work to be done. A library must be created which will not only adequately serve the professional schools of Medicine, Nursing and Medical Technology at the University but serve as a reference and lending library to physicians and other professional personnel throughout the state, as well as lay groups and individuals who seek information along health lines. In effect, such a medical library would be a valuable extension agency for the University. It would not be too much to expect the University Medical Librarian to consult with the American Medical Association and American College of Surgeons librarians as well as with librarians of well-established medical libraries in other teaching centers in order to bring to the North Dakota library the most modern methods. The time is short in which to accomplish this. Even a two-year school will not be acceptable without a modern library. The present Medical School library might readily be the cause of rejection by any authoritative inspecting agency!(5)

One recommendation was accomplished in the summer of 1949. The Sunday edition of the Grand Forks Herald, July 3, 1949 reported that:

The establishment of a statewide medical library service for North Dakota doctors was started Friday with the appointment of a medical librarian for the state medical center at the University of North Dakota. Named to the post was Loretta Swift, Appleton, Wisconsin, a 1931 graduate of the Illinois Library School.

Loretta Wheeler Swift began her duties as librarian with empty rooms in the new four story brick building that housed the School of Medicine. In September 1949, 5606 books and bound journals were transferred from the departmental library to the new space. Dean of the Medical School, F. W. Potter, M.D. was quoted as saying, in a Grand Forks Herald article, "The University eventually wants to build up its first medical library to a point where it will be possible to make loans to doctors throughout the state."(6)

The new library was named in honor of Harley E. French, M.D., Dean Emeritus. Approximately 2000 square feet of floor space on the first floor of the building and in the basement provided for a reading room which accommodated 36 people; six study carrels available in the stack room for faculty members and others engaged in research activities; a library office and book stacks. The Nursing Library, which was a separate unit, was also housed in the Medical Library.

During the period September 1949 to June 30, 1950, 75 books were added to the collection at a cost of \$449.96--approximately \$5.99 per book. The following year, 1950/51, 1369 books were added at a cost of \$10,055.83. This was a considerable expenditure, allowing the librarian to immediately begin to build the collection, and does indicate that the need for a library was recognized and supported by the Medical School budget. The next year \$9,015.32 was spent for back journals, a major expense necessitated by the need to develop the very inadequate journal collection. The collection included recent textbooks and monographs, journals and abstracts in the field of clinical medicine and the medical sciences, the Index of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, the Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus, and the Current List of Medical Literature. The library was to be used by students enrolled in courses offered by the School of Medicine as well as doctors and other affiliated personnel of the state.

Freshman medical students were to be thoroughly acquainted with the library and the classification systems used. The students were assigned project work and supplemental readings which required that they have an understanding of library methods.

In 1950, Miss Swift applied for institutional membership in the Medical Library Association. The Association asked that an application form be completed which described the library buildings. At that time the library contained 2472 volumes (not including bound journals). By the Medical Library Association definition, "a volume is a printed work bound in still covers so as to stand on a shelf; also an unbound book of over 100 pages, and an unbound book of less than 100 pages if catalogued and treated as a volume in all respects."(7) 115 periodicals were currently received, 86 through purchase. An attendant was on duty during all the hours of opening: 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday hours could be arranged. The first library committee in 1949-50 included:

- A. K. Saiki, M.D., Chairman, Professor of Pathology
- Dean W. F. Potter, M.D., ex-officio
- E. A. Haunz, M.D., Instructor in Clinical Medicine
- R. E. Leigh, M.D., Assoc. Prof. & Head, Dept. of OB-Gyn
- W. H. Witherstine, M.D., Lecturer Emeritus in Medicine
- Miss Mildred Davis, Professor of Home Economics
- Miss Alta R. Gault, Assoc. Prof. of Physiology & Pharmacology

Harold Brody, Asst. Professor of Anatomy
Dr. G. L. Hoffman, Asst. Professor of Bacteriology
Yukio H. Tsumagari, Asst. Prof. of Pathology
W. E. Cornatzer, M.D., Prof. & Chairman of Biochemistry
Miss Loretta Swift, Librarian

The Harley E. French Medical Library was accepted as a member of the Medical Library Association (MLA) in the fall of 1950. That membership in the MLA was considered an important indication of the professionalism of the librarian is reflected in a report for the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education and Hospitals submitted by Miss Swift in October 1951. The Medical Center was seeking accreditation and the library provided information in a report. One of the questions asked was, "What meetings of the Medical Library Association have been attended by members of your library staff within five years?" Miss Swift had attended meetings in Boston in 1950, Denver and Chicago in 1951. The report included statistics about the library holdings and the numbers and types of people served by the library. These figures, taken from the Registrars Office for the second semester, 1950-51, included 29 School of Nursing Education students, 99 Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing students, 20 enrolled in Medical Technology, six in Public Health, as well as 475 doctors and other affiliated personnel of the state. At that time the library personnel consisted of Miss Swift, a full time stenographer, a student assistant who worked 30 hours per week, four student assistants (part time), and medical students who kept the library open evening hours.

At the time the report for the American Medical Association was being prepared, Miss Swift wrote to the Secretary for the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals requesting specifications for the medical library in an approved Medical School. In reply she received this:

Our "Essentials of an Acceptable Medical School" include the following statement: A trained librarian should be employed to supervise the operation and development of the library, which should include the more modern texts and reference books with the Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus, the Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office and serviceable card index. The library should receive regularly the leading medical periodicals, the current numbers of which should be readily accessible. These periodicals should be bound without delay.(8)

The letter also contained the suggestion that the reading room should be large enough to accommodate one-quarter of the student body comfortably, that cubicles for individual work be available, that bibliographic services to the faculty be offered, that there be satisfactory methods of displaying new and reserved books, and that arrangements be made for the librarian to formally instruct the students in the use of the library. After a probation period, the School of Medicine was fully accredited by the Association of American Medical Colleges as a two year medical school.

In 1953, an addition to the Medical Science building was completed which included space for a reading room, library office and five floors of adjacent stacks. The library remained in this space until 1981-82 when extensive remodeling in the building made room for library expansion. The library in 1953 occupied 6942 square feet and today has almost doubled that size. While the

stack space remains the same as in 1953, the public use and services area have been expanded to provide a pleasant reading room with seating for research and study, and additional space for the periodical and reference collection. The total collection (1981/82) numbers 51,601 volumes. 1022 periodicals and serial titles are currently received and the audiovisual collection numbers 1041 programs.

Library expansion has evolved not only materially in space and collection at the Harley E. French Library, but in the development of a state-wide system of library services to provide support for the Medical School curriculum. In 1972 a federal grant provided \$2.65 million for a five-year period to establish Area Health Education Centers (AHECS) at four sites in North Dakota. It was hoped that students trained at these sites would be encouraged to locate and work in such communities after they receive their M.D. degree. In this way, the quality of health care in the area would be improved.

As part of the planning for the AHEC sites and the subsequent development of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine as a degree granting institution, the North Dakota Regional Medical Program supported a study to access information resources available to support a decentralized program of medical education. The Bruce Report(9) identified resources and made recommendations for library development. Subsequently an AHEC library was designated in each quadrant of the state. The Southwest AHEC library is located in Quain and Ramstad Clinic, Bismarck; the Northwest AHEC library in Minot is the Angus L. Cameron Medical Library located in Trinity Medical Center and the Veterans Administration Center Hospital in Fargo is the location of the Southeast AHEC library. These libraries, which already had strong collections, were identified to provide support for the decentralized educational programs, and to develop a network system for providing information services and materials to health professionals. The Harley E. French Library is the Northeast quadrant library as well as the resource library for the state.

In 1974, Charles Bandy became the first library director for the AHEC library system. He was responsible for planning and directing services for the Harley E. French Medical Library, as well as for organizing a statewide library system to support the AHEC concept. He was also responsible for the implementation of a system to provide support for curriculum using a variety of technologies, many of which were made possible by funding received from a Regional Medical Program grant to establish a Biomedical Communications Network. The funding provided for equipment for learning centers, library non-print resources, audiovisual carrel systems, and an Educational Telephone Network. Biomedical Communications later became a department separate from the library and developed extensive non-print production and services.

The 1976 AHEC contract included this statement in regard to libraries: "A Learning Resource Librarian at each AHEC site will be responsible for providing resource materials for medical students, residents and nursing and allied health students training within the AHEC." In addition all AHEC libraries offer reference service, which includes manual and computerized literature searching and interlibrary loans which provide access to books, journals and audiovisual materials not only within the state, but worldwide. AHEC librarians are available to help in planning and organizing libraries in their areas. They will plan or present workshops for library personnel and encourage library development through their support and work with professional organizations.

In keeping with the AHEC concept of decentralized medical education, the AHEC libraries have had as their objective the development of a system to provide more equal access to health science resources and services in the state. In its preliminary report on Academic Information in the Academic Health Science Center: Roles for the Library in Information Management, the Association of American Medical Colleges explains how a technologically sophisticated library system can play a new role in maintaining the pre-eminence of American medicine. It states that this technology would work best as a network system which integrates information management concepts into education and practice processes allowing individuals to draw upon institutional resources "unhampered by barriers of time or distance."⁽¹⁰⁾ The Alumni Review predicted in 1948, "A complete and modern medical library and research center will become available to our doctors, clinics, hospitals and state agencies." As the barriers of time and distance give way to the advances in technology, the medical library will continue, as it has in the past, to advance toward this ever challenging goal.

References

- (1)The University Bulletin, Vol. I, New Series. March 1909. Office of the Registrar, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota.
- (2)The University Bulletin. 1910-11. Office of the Registrar, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota.
- (3)The University Bulletin. 1915-16. Office of the Registrar, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota.
- (4)Medical School Records; Special Collection, Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota.
- (5)Ibid.
- (6)Grand Forks (North Dakota) Herald 4 September 1949.
- (7)Application for Library Membership, Medical Library Association, April 25, 1950. In, Annual Reports to June 30, 1966. Harley E. French Medical Library, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota.
- (8)Annual Reports to June 30, 1966, Harley E. French Medical Library, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota.
- (9)Elizabeth W. Bruce, "Health Science Libraries in North Dakota," Harley French Medical Library, Grand Forks, North Dakota. 1973.
- (10)Academic Information in the Academic Health Sciences Center: Roles for the Library in Information Management, cited by David Boilard, Harley E. French Medical Library Annual Report 1981-1982.

Library Directors 1949-1982:

Loretta Swift, B.L.S.;	1949-1968
Melba Younggren;	1968-1974
Charles Bandy, M.S.L.S., M. Div.;	1974-1978
Lila Pedersen, M.A.L.S., acting;	1978-1979
Edward D'Anna, M.S.L.S.;	1979-1981
Dwayne Ollerich, Ph.D., acting;	1981-1982
David Boilard, A.M.L.S.;	1982-

Librarians and staff with date of first listing in the Annual Reports of the Harley E. French Medical Library 1949/50 to 1981/82.

Librarians

Donna Pettit, M.S.;	1968
Leeila Bina, M.S.;	1970
Lorraine Ettl, M.S.;	1971
Leone Rodningen, M.S.;	1974
Lila Pedersen, M.A.L.S.;	1974
Frances Cockrum, M.L.S., Minot AHEC;	1975
Harriet Kling, M.S., Bismarck AHEC;	1975
Ruth Mahan, M.A.;	1975
Dave Hulkonen, M.A., Fargo AHEC;	1975
Nancy Utterback, M.S.L.S., Fargo AHEC;	1976
Jean Williams, M.A., Fargo AHEC;	1978
Colleen Kenefick, M.L.S.;	1978
James Robbins, M.A.L.S., M.A., Fargo AHEC;	1978
Nancy Austin, M.A.;	1981
Judith Gottshall, M.L.S., Fargo AHEC;	1981
Janise Paulson, B.A.;	1982
Anna J. Gieschen, M.A., Fargo AHEC	1982

Staff Positions

Ragna Perrin;	1949
Eileen Hoye;	1951
Melba Larson;	1952
Barbara Dewing;	1958
Marcella Offerdahl;	1961
Ardis Gillett;	1963
Gloria Johnson;	1964
Linda Beth Grant;	1964
Helen A. Willmeng;	1966
Patricia Stocker;	1967
Eileen Monley;	1967
Susan Monley;	1967
Gordon Anderson;	1967
Martha Brand;	1967
Kathryn Johnson;	1967
Nina Henderson;	1968

Ann Hanson;	1971
Sherry Anderson;	1973
Karen Swanson;	1974
Patricia Cuddihy, B.A.;	1974
Virginia Stohle;	1974
Linda Axdahl;	1975
Hilda Stokes;	1975
Judith Schumacher, B.S.;	1975
Henri Cuddihy, B.A.;	1975
Sue Pezalla, B.A.;	1976
Connie Strand, B.A.;	1976
John Ippoliti;	1976
Kathy Anderson, B.S.;	1977
Robertta Anderson;	1978
Lynne Pedersen, B.S.;	1979
Linda Stauss;	1979
Sandy Henn;	1979
Sally Lenski-Brown, M.Ed.;	1980
Diane Kehrwald, B.S.;	1980
Cindy McNee Poppke, B.S.;	1981
Linda Lengfellner, A.D.;	1982

It is regrettable that the names of the many students who have worked in the library were not available for inclusion in this history. Many physicians, as well as professionals in other fields, will remember working evenings and weekends in the medical library. Student assistance makes many hours of library access a possibility and the growth and development of the library a continuing reality.