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WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE LIBRARY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

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Western Kentucky State College, Bowling Green, Kentucky, was established as a State Normal School in 1906, by an act of the state legislature. It is familiarly known in Kentucky as "Western," and shall be referred to sometimes in this way. The site chosen for the college was a 162-acre tract on a hill with historic significance as a Confederate fort.

Although the training of teachers has always been the College's main purpose, the curricula has been expanded and revised to include a broad liberal arts program and pre-professional training for medicine, dentistry, ministry, law, and engineering. The expansion of the purposes of the institution is evidenced by the change in name from Western Kentucky State Normal School to Western Kentucky State Teachers College in 1922, and to Western Kentucky State College in 1948.

Further expansion has been accomplished by mergers with other colleges. In January, 1928, the property of Ogden College, a school for boys founded in 1877, and adjacent to Western, was leased to the Board of Regents of Western. The traditions of Ogden are preserved, the income from its fund is used to grant one hundred or more scholarships to local students to attend Western, and in 1961 a \$1,300,000.00 Science Building was constructed on the Ogden Campus after a 99-year lease was agreed upon.

Effective June 1, 1963, the Bowling Green College of Commerce, a privately operated school, whose history parallels that of Western (time will not be taken to elaborate on this), was merged with Western. Of such recent date as to preclude all details being worked out, it does mean, however, an expansion of the College's program of business and commercial education.

During the 57 years that Western has served the state and region, the following are significant developments that have affected the library and its growth.

1. Authorization, 1931-1936, to offer master's degree in subject fields. Authorization, 1941 to date, to offer master's degree in education only. Recent approval (1963) by the Council of Public Higher Education to offer master's degree in arts and humanities.
2. Carnegie Grant, 1938, of \$9,000.00 for purchase of library materials.
3. Inauguration and organization in 1961 of the Community College Division offering evening courses in various departments and also special community service courses. (Saturday, late afternoon, and evening classes on a graduate level have been offered for a number of years.)
4. An increase of 33 1/3% in enrollment in September, 1961.
Fall, 1962: Undergraduate: 4,062 ; Graduate: 29 . (Equated full-time).
5. An increase in state support as shown by these budget figures:
1959-1960: \$1,614,139.00; 1962-1963: \$3,199,772.00.
6. Recent appointments of deans for graduate instruction, undergraduate instruction, and admissions.
7. Establishment of new committees: Faculty Research, Testing Services, Library, and Audio-Visual Services.
8. Expansion in course offerings in Philosophy, Russian, Psychology, Geology, and also new academic majors in German, Spanish, Psychology, Business Management, and Government.
9. Additional faculty appointments: September, 1961, 37 new positions; September, 1962, 42; September, 1963, 27. As of September, 1963, a total of 234 full-time faculty members.

The new library building will be the fourth in the history of the College. First one, a large room in classroom building; second, a club house renovated in 1923 for temporary use as library; third, a new three story building in 1929 of limestone in modified Renaissance architecture, with four tiers of stacks. This latter building now thirty-four years old, is inadequate in every respect to serve a growing college community.

For the past four or more years the College Administration and the librarians have studied and surveyed all possibilities for expansion of library facilities. The hilltop site of the College has become crowded; the location of present structure does not permit wings or additions sufficiently adequate to justify expense; while any periphery location involves delay in acquisition of land, or such distant removal from center of campus as to pose problems of great degree.

here
✓ *IT* ~~The new building~~ will be the central library on the campus. There are at present three departmental libraries, which will be continued as such.

1. The Kentucky Library of nearly 20,000 volumes of rare Kentuckiana in a separate building with a Kentucky Museum.

2. The Science Library of approximately 10,000 books and journals in the new Thompson Science Building, serving departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

3. The library of approximately 15,000 volumes of the Commercial School recently absorbed by the college which will continue to be housed, at least temporarily, in their classroom building and be used there.

A seminar library in the Music Building may be transferred to the new building.

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We are aware that librarians will have as their first comment: "Don't remodel or convert." We are willing to concede this point. However, our purpose in submitting our plans to this institute is to seek constructive suggestions for conversion of the physical education building into the best library possible, working, of course, within certain limitations obviously present. These would be: load-bearing walls that cannot be changed, existing stairways, existing plumbing; the necessity of sharing, at least temporarily, 4,038 square feet on ground level floor with the Industrial Arts Department with a separate entrance.

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The site of the building is just off the hilltop, centrally located for classroom buildings, dormitories, student center, and administrative offices.

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The arrangement will be modified divisional. All periodicals except rare and others consigned to storage will be in the Periodical Room. The Reserve Room will house a portion of social sciences, especially history and education. Consideration is being given to a small humanities section at one end of the Reference Room.

Insert:

→ Possibilities for expansion include (1) the area now reserved for *(approximately 4500 sq ft)* and
X Industrial Arts Department, (2) an area 80' x 170' to the right of the building. *(80' x 140' swimming pool I and 30' from bldg.)*
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