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LIBRARY SCIENCE AT WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

by

Vera Grinstead and Imogene Simpson

The history of library science instruction began in (circa) 1917 with a single three-hour course, The Use of the Library, taught by Miss Florence Ragland, head librarian of Western Kentucky State Normal School.

Miss Margie Helm, M. A. (Chicago), succeeding Miss Ragland as librarian of Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College in 1923, taught The Use of the Library, in the April terms of 1926, 1927, and 1928.

In the summer of 1929, Miss Ella Warren, taught courses in library science. In the fall of 1929 fifteen hours were offered and Miss Edna Bothe joined Miss Helm as instructor. The courses offered were: General Library Science (L.S. 200), Cataloging and Classification (L.S. 201), School Library Management (L.S. 202), Reference and Bibliography (L.S. 203), Practice Work (L.S. 204), Book Selection (L.S. 205), Methods in Teaching the Use of the Library (L.S. 206).

These courses were offered due to the demand for trained high school librarians for approval of high schools by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and Kentucky State Department of Education.

During the 1930-31 school term the offerings were expanded to twenty-eight hours and Miss Charleen Yates was added to the faculty. The additional courses included a second course in Cataloging and Classification (L.S. 201b), a second course in Practice Work (L.S. 204b), a second course in Reference and Bibliography (L.S. 303b), Library Work with Children (L.S. 307), and History and Administration (L.S. 308).

In 1931-32^{the} faculty was listed as Miss Margie Helm, Miss Edna Bothe, Mrs. Mary T. Leiper, and Miss Louise Asher. With the exception of Miss Bothe, the persons listed were librarians teaching on a part-time basis. An additional course Children's Literature (Eng. or L.S. 205) was taught by the English Department and added to the thirty hours requirement for a major in library science.

In 1934 the number of hours was decreased because only eighteen hours were needed by the teacher-librarians for certification for Kentucky high schools. The eighteen hours included the following courses: Cataloging and Classification (L.S. 201), School Library Management (L.S. 202), Practice Work (L.S. 204), Adolescent Literature (L.S. 205), Reference and Bibliography (L.S. 303), Book Selection (L.S. 305), Methods of Teaching the Use of the Library (L.S. 306), and Children's Libraries and Literature (L.S. 307). These were all two-hour courses. Miss Helm and Miss Bothe were listed as instructors.

From 1932-1937 the same courses were taught with the addition of a one-hour course in 1935 which was called Use of the Library for College Students (L.S. 100).

From 1937-1939 Miss Geraldine Stephan, Training School Librarian, was added as a part-time member of the faculty. School Library Administration, a three-hour course, (L.S. 202) replaced School Library Management (L.S. 202) and Methods (L.S. 306).

From 1939 to 1943 Miss Martha Orendorf, successor to Miss Geraldine Stephan, became a part-time faculty member. The same courses were offered as previously with the Use of the Library, now required of all freshman, with 1/2 hour credit.

From 1943-45 the course offerings increased to twenty-five hours with Miss Helm and Mrs. Sarah Gilbert Garris as instructors. Mrs. Garris had replaced Miss Bothe, who had resigned, in 1942. A major of twenty-four hours was again offered. The increased number of hours was brought about mainly through an increase in the number of hours credit offered per course. The following two courses were changed: Book Selection (L.S. 203) became Book Selection for High School Libraries (L.S. 203) and Children's Libraries and Literature (L.S. 307) became Book Selection for Elementary Schools (L.S. 307).

In 1945-49 twenty-eight hours were offered. A new course was Library Records and Methods (L.S. 201).

Although the course offerings were increased in 1943, the major of twenty-four hours was not again authorized until the summer of 1948.

In 1949 the course Adolescent Literature (L.S. 305) was dropped: Book Selection for High Schools became two courses (L.S. 203a and 203b) with two-semester hours credit for each. Also Book Selection

for Elementary Schools (L.S. 207) was reduced to two hours. With these changes the library science course offerings totaled only twenty-two hours. A major in library science consisted of at least twenty-one semester hours with nine hours electives from related areas, such as speech arts, audio-visual education, creative arts, psychology, sociology, and economics.

Mrs. M. C. Ford, College High Librarian, became a part-time faculty member in 1947. Miss Sara Tyler joined the department as a part-time faculty member in the summer, 1948.

In 1952 the course in Children's Literature (Eng. or L.S. 103) taught by the English Department was listed under both Library Science and English and required of all Library Science majors. This was the last change made in the course offerings until 1959.

Mrs. Sarah Gilbert Garris retired as full-time faculty member in August of 1958. In the fall of 1958 Miss Vera Grinstead became the full-time faculty member. In the fall of 1959 Mrs. M. C. Ford retired, and Miss Molly Carr became a part-time faculty member.

In the summer of 1958 the following courses were accepted by the Graduate Committee for graduate credit on a Master of Arts Degree in Education: School Library Administration (L.S. 302), Classification and Cataloging (L.S. 306), Reference and Bibliography (L.S. 308).

In the spring of 1959 Investigations in Library Science (L.S. 409), a new course open only to graduate students, was added. Also in 1959 Audio-Visual Materials and Methods (Educ. or L.S. 322) taught by Mr. Fithian Faries was made a part of the Library Science Curriculum.

In the fall of 1962 after the retirement of Miss Emma Stith, long-time professor of Children's Literature (Eng. or L.S. 103), the teaching of the course was transferred from the English Department to Library Science. Miss Imogene Simpson became the second full-time faculty member.

As a result of the Institutional Self-Study for the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools in 1961-62, the following changes were made in the curriculum: Book Selection for Children (L.S. 207) was dropped; Records and Methods (L.S. 201) became Library Organization and Administration (L.S. 301); School Library Administration (L.S. 302) was replaced by Libraries and Librarianship; the course in Library Practice Work (L.S. 304) was replaced by Student Teaching (Educ. 350); Book Selection for High Schools (LS 203, 303) became Books and Related Materials for Young People I and II (L.S. 303a and 303b).

In 1965, Miss Margie Helm, Director of Library Services and Head of Library Science, retired, and Miss Sara Tyler, MA (Peabody) became Director of Library Services and Head of Library Science.

In 1965 the two courses Books and Related Materials I and II (L.S. 303a and 303b) were combined under the title Books and Related Materials (L.S. 303), and a new course Literature for Young Adults (L.S. 307) was added to the curriculum.

In the spring of 1967 three instructors aided in the teaching of Children's Literature. They were Mrs. Edith Curry and Mrs. Mary Strahl, English Department faculty members and Mrs. Joan Capps of Bowling Green.

In the summer of 1967, Earl Wassom, EdD (Oklahoma State University) joined the faculty as a part-time faculty member. Library Science had been a part of the University's library program until August, 1967, when the Board of Regents established a separate Department of Library Science with Earl Wassom as acting head.

During the summers the following persons have been employed as full-time summer faculty members, one at a time, in addition to the regular full-time faculty:

Miss Leora Miller	Miss Vida Lee
Miss Jasper Schlinker	Miss Evelyn Willey
Mrs. Elizabeth Ward	Miss Catherine Shutt
Mrs. Annice Conner	Mrs. Clare Blackburn
Miss Evelyn Thurman	Miss Freda Whitfield
Miss Elizabeth Stagner	

In 1931 the students of library science, the college librarians, and the faculty for library science formed the Ragland Library Club which has been actively engaged in promoting an understanding of all areas of library service through lectures, films, and field trips.

In 1965 the faculty for library science and the college librarians established the Margie Helm Award which is presented to the outstanding senior in the field of library science each year.

STATISTICS CONCERNING STUDENTS GRADUATING
IN THE FIELD OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Majors</u>	<u>Minors</u>	<u>Graduate Students</u>
1930	2	4	0
1931	7	5	0
1932	16	3	0
1933	25	1	0
1934	10	5	0
1935	0	10	0
1936	0	5	0
1937	0	6	0
1938	0	7	0
1939	0	10	0
1940	0	6	0
1941	0	10	0
1942	0	9	0
1943	0	10	0
1944	No Figures Available		
1945	0	18	0
1946	0	12	0
1947	0	20	0
1948	5	3	0
1949	9	4	0
1950	10	11	0
1951	13	3	0
1952	14	4	0
1953	7	1	0
1954	14	3	0
1955	3	0	0
1956	7	0	0
1957	12	5	0
1958	5	3	0
1959	6	3	6
1960	5	6	2
1961	8	3	2
1962	6	10	6
1963	6	9	7
1964	17	12	5
1965	17	15	6
1966	20	14	7
1967	10	15	8

These statistics were compiled from records
in the Library Science offices and from the Talisman.