

THE USE OF THE LIBRARY

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As a freshman forty-four years ago, Mr. Osborn began work in the Rutgers Library. From the beginning of his senior year to 1906 he was librarian in charge. In the latter year he was made Acting Librarian and in 1907 Librarian. Under his direction the Library has multiplied about ten times, while its services have spread from those of a small college, serving some two hundred students, to encompass the needs of a large university.

COLLEGE and university libraries are primary aids to members of the teaching staffs and to graduate and undergraduate students inasmuch as they provide material for classroom use and for research. The Rutgers University Library is no exception to this rule, and our endeavor has been to supply library material in the following order: (1) for undergraduate study, (2) for the private study of each member of the faculty, (3) for graduate work, (4) for general development of the Library. As a result of this policy, there has been built up at Rutgers a large and well grounded collection of material, not only useful to students and faculty of the University but to many other persons. As the Library has no resident restrictions regarding the use of its material, it is used by many not connected with the University, not only from the State of New Jersey but from other states. Since the Rutgers Library does not lend fiction to persons who are not members of the University, the use of the Library by persons not connected with the University is always for a more or less serious purpose. This policy of permitting persons properly introduced but not closely affiliated with the University to use the resources of the Library has resulted in the creation of a large group of friends, who for years have contributed many items of great value to the Library's collections.

The Library is exceedingly active. The number of registered borrowers is approximately 5,000 persons, and the attendance on full days (15 hours) is more than 1,100. The Library serves the following groups: (1) the faculty of the

University, (2) the undergraduates, both men and women, (3) the graduate students, (4) the officers and staff of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Stations, (5) the Summer Session, (6) the Educational Extension, (7) New Jersey State Officers, (8) New Jersey Public Libraries, through the New Jersey Public Library Commission, (9) New Jersey educators, (10) New Jersey industries, (11) libraries of other colleges and universities, (12) students and faculty of the large extension divisions of the University, (13) scientists and other research workers not affiliated with the University, (14) various groups of the Works Progress Administration, such as the Writers' Project and the Research Project.

On account of the rapid growth of the Library and the extraordinary growth of the University as a whole, the Library has great needs. The Ralph Voorhees Library Building, which has given splendid service since 1904, is now entirely outgrown, and the Library has overflowed into two other university buildings. There must be provided as quickly as possible a modern university library building capable of large expansion and of providing full facilities for study and research. The Library staff must be enlarged in order that it may meet the demands made upon it and that it may give more efficient service. The book funds should be very largely increased in order that the Library may provide full and adequate material for students and faculty.

The alumni and friends of the University, and particularly the members of the Associated Friends, can aid the Library greatly by gifts from their own libraries and by encouraging other persons to give library material. The term "library material" includes, in addition to books, all forms of printed and manuscript matter—pamphlets, maps, newspapers, letters, early account books, prints, and so forth. Almost every home has material of permanent value that should be preserved. If our alumni and friends will send such items to the Library, they will add much of value to its collections and will enable it to increase its usefulness to all those who turn to it for services.