Ray Goerler: What follows is an interview between Jay Ladd and Ilse Wilhelmi, who was a librarian for more than 30 years at the Ohio State University. This interview is intended to shed light on much of the history of the university libraries between the period of the 1930s and the 1960s.

Q. Could you give us a little background to your library career, where you got your degree and why you decided to become a librarian?
A. I got my undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas.

Q. What did you major in?
A. Journalism was my major and French my minor.

Q. When you were getting your B.A. degree, did you have any idea of becoming a librarian at that time?
A. No. I had no idea that I was going to work at all. My father was still living and the business was prosperous; so it just never occurred to me that I would have to go to work.

Q. Why did you choose to become a librarian?
A. Well, when my father died in 1918, there wasn’t enough money for a while. My brother came one day and said to me, “You’re going to have to go to work.” But I didn’t like teaching. I wasn’t a secretary. So I said to him confidentially, “I’ll go to the library and find a job.” Well at that time, Miss Kay Watson was the librarian and she had been the librarian all through my college career.

Q. Was that at the University of Kansas?
A. Yes, the University of Kansas. So I went up to her and applied for a job. She said, “I don’t have anything now. If we don’t call you by the 1st of September, you know you won’t have a job.” So I went down to be with my twin sister in Oklahoma. Then one day the telephone rang and my mother said, “The library wants you.” So I went up there. When I entered the office, it was not Kay Watson, it was Mr. (Earl) Manchester. In the meantime, the librarians had been changed. So I started in the accession department. I had to learn for two years. I learned the library handwriting because we recorded in a book, the accession book, which had each line numbered: the author, title, publisher, place of publication, the date of entry, the first name on the title and the date that it was entered and the price.

Q. Now you were doing this as a library assistant but not as a professional librarian?

A. No. When I came I had no library experience at all. I worked for a professor who was doing research and recorded his findings, but that’s all the work I’d ever done.

Q. How long did you work at the University of Kansas library before you decided to get your library degree?

A. Until 1928. When Mr. Manchester left, he said to me, “If you’re going on with a library career, you’ll have to go and get another degree. Don’t go to a western library, go to an eastern school.” So that’s why I went to Columbia University.

Q. You got your master’s degree at Columbia?

A. 1928 and 1929. Then in 1929 I went back to the library. To Kansas. I worked under Mr. Charles Baker.
Q. And Mr. Manchester in 1928 and 1929, was he still the librarian at Kansas?
A. He left Kansas.

Q. He left in 1928 to go to Ohio State University. What circumstances brought you to Ohio State University in 1931?
A. Mr. Manchester wrote to me and asked if I was interested in the job which had just opened, which was the supervisor of department libraries. I wrote back and said yes, I would be interested because it was $1,000 more per year than I was getting. That was really the only reason.

Q. That's a big reason. In those days $1,000 was worth a lot of money.
A. So I waited and waited, and Mr. Baker kept asking me whether I had heard, and I said, “No.” Well he finally said with relief, “Well I guess they don’t want you.” I got a letter from Mr. Manchester saying, “We are waiting for your reply.” He had never gotten my letter. I wired it and I went there to be interviewed, and to look around. Well, I decided that was the only thing to do. So I said to him, “Well I’ll try it for a year,” and he said, “Not a year. Either you stay or you don’t come.”

Q. Well, you then accepted and you stayed for 34 years. In retrospect, what do you think were the most important factors in your deciding to remain with OSU libraries for 34 years?
A. Well, at one time I asked Mr. Manchester if I shouldn’t go on and get another degree and get a different job. He discouraged it. At that time women weren’t getting too many of the top jobs. So I stayed on. I think it was my relationship with the department libraries. I really enjoyed them and their friendship and the fact that I was not tied to one desk. I could move around, go out on the campus.
And they seemed to like me because my predecessor had been very strict and I wasn’t that way.

Q. At one time I noticed that binding activities were under your supervision. Why was this?

A. Well I inherited it from my supervisor, my predecessor. She also had had the circulation stacks under her supervision, but that was fortunately taken over. I enjoyed the bindery, too. Mr. English was very nice.

Q. Mr. English was head of the bindery?

A. He was head of the bindery. He was a journeyman binder. He had Mr. Smith, who was learning to be a journeyman binder. I think it took five or six years as a sewer. I didn’t know anything about binding, but he was very cooperative and showed me all the ins and outs of binding. I never saw anybody that could bind and do such beautiful corners as quickly as that man.

Q. The binding activities only took up a small portion of your duties, though.

A. I’d only go down there every once in a while

Q. As you knew Mr. Manchester in Kansas, and then as the head of the Ohio State University libraries, can you describe him for us? What did he look like physically?

A. Well, I was 5 foot 7 inches tall at that time and he might have been just a little taller. He was on the heavy side. He had a big shock of hair. His hair was just beautiful. I envied it because I had so little. He was one of the nicest men. He was always pleasant. He was always a gentleman. He went around the library and always greeted anybody who was in his department.
Q. Did he go out and visit your department libraries?
A. No. That was my job, like it was in Kansas. I was told to go over and take care of the Medical Library. It was such a mess. I asked him if I could do certain changes and he said, “It’s your job. Do as you please.” That was his attitude. It’s your job, take care of it. He was such a scholar.

A. Yes. He was a book man. He was a librarian’s librarian.

Q. He spent a lot of his time developing the collection at Ohio State.
A. Yes. The rare book collection.

Q. And the fine arts collection.
A. Well I didn’t work with him on the arts collection.

Q. Was he the kind of librarian that involved other librarians in decision-making?
A. We had the Administrative Staff Council, just the heads of departments at that time. Of course, he had the last authority, but we’d discuss the problem. Mr. (Rolland) Stevens and I were always on opposite sides. There was just once that we agreed, and Rolland Stevens was so surprised.

Q. Rolland Stevens was the Assistant Director for Technical Services?
A. Yes.

Q. What do you think were Mr. Manchester’s contributions to OSU libraries, besides building and emphasizing the rare book collection?
A. He had that open-door policy, which the faculty liked, and it seemed that he was so well-liked by all of the faculty.

Q. This is the teaching faculty you’re referring to?
A. The teaching faculty, yes. Of course when I came it was the depression years and you just didn’t expect to have any money. But I felt after things were better that President Bevis and President Fawcett were not as much interested in the libraries as they should be.

Q. Who was president when Mr. Manchester was there?

A. Bevis. He was president when I came.

Q. I understand that you met, but you didn’t know personally, Miss Olive Branch Jones.

A. I met her in an elevator going up from the basement to the second floor to my office. There was this pleasant woman, and we chatted in the elevator. She said her name was Miss Jones and I told her who I was. I had no idea who she was.

Q. When you came she had already been retired of course, but what were the thoughts about her? Was she a good librarian?

A. I don’t know that. All of the faculty staff didn’t like her because she had this “closed-door” policy. The faculty, even the president (now this is hearsay) had to make an appointment to see her. Nobody went in to her office without an appointment.

Q. Mr. Manchester was just the complete opposite then.

A. He had an open-door policy. He greeted everybody who came in. The faculty would come in any time of the day. What always amazed me was that if a faculty member asked for a book, especially a rare book, he knew where it could be obtained and how much it cost.

Q. Did he have a book collection of his own, a private book collection?
A. I don’t believe very much. I can’t remember him bringing any books home.

Q. I understand that the desk I am using right now, which I inherited from you, you inherited from Olive Branch Jones. Is that true?

A. That’s true. Mr. Manchester at one time asked me if I didn’t want a more modern desk, and I said, “No.” It was very large. The top was very large. The drawers were hard to open, but it was one of the best desks for my purpose.

Q. I heartily agree with you. I wouldn’t give up that desk for any amount of money. Let’s go back to the ’30s, the Depression years when you first arrived, and you lived through all of them. What stood out as the most difficult obstacles during those years? What gave you the hardest time?

A. Well, I think it was the fact that when our assistants to librarians left, they could not be replaced. There was no money for staff, but there was some money for student help, because we had gone on a 44-hour work week. Saturday morning, students could be used to take care of the libraries. For some of the libraries there had to be two students or somebody willing to work half-time. Two people from the main library. This made a lot more supervision. Sometimes it had to be a graduate student. In Chemistry, the graduate student took charge if Mrs. Millett was ill. At some of the smaller libraries, a graduate student or a half-time student or the wife of a professor. That’s how Mrs. Lord started. She was Professor Lord’s wife.

Q. And you had to train all student assistants in the department libraries then?

A. Yes, I had to do it.
Q. I understand during the Depression years you had to take a couple of salary cuts. Did you lose your $1,000 increase?
A. Yes. My salary was exactly what I had in Kansas.

Q. Then what got us out of the depression of course was World War II, and you had a new set of problems. What were some of those?
A. Well, most of them were that so many of the staff left to go to companies that gave more money. And of course, they felt that they were doing their bit for the war effort. That caused still more problems as to staffing the libraries.

Q. Because all the men were off to war, or most of them.
A. All the men were off to war. You see, during the war, the girls had to do the work that the men did. They had to shelve the books and to take care of circulation.

Q. And enrollments must have been down during the war.
A. Well, it was lower at that time, because most of the fellows were gone.

Q. Did that also make for continued financial difficulties with enrollments being down?
A. Well, of course, there was no money. Very, very little. But if we felt that we had to close down the library at night, often the departments found the money to keep them open, and that’s the way we moved along.

Q. Now was this during the Depression and during World War II times?
A. Yes. They were helping out as best they could, because they did not want the libraries closed, so they found the money.

Q. Can you name a couple of departments that found the money? Do you recall which ones?
A. Commerce, Education. Now the deans of some of them were very cooperative.

Q. The period after World War II also presented another set of problems because of the rapid growth of the university.

A. That was terrible. All of a sudden we had this influx, and the university was not prepared for it. Of course, there was no building going on during the depression and during the war years, so that when all these students came, the university was much too small. At that time, the university student body got up to 10,000, which we thought was just tremendous. I felt sorry for the students. They had to use windowsills, stairways, anything that would fit them. There wasn’t enough money for duplication. There wasn’t any money left. It would take time for the books to be ordered and received. It is difficult for the students.

Q. Now, you went through the Depression years, World War II with the shortage, and then the post-war period with the influx of so many students causing problems. Of the three, what was the worst time?

A. Well, I think it would have to be the post-war. We could make it along during the Depression and the post-war because everybody realized what the situation was, but when all these students came, we were supposed to take care of it without the facilities.

Q. Were they beginning to increase staffing?

A. As soon as money was available, yes. The full-time staff was replaced and salaries were restored. Of course, there was salary restorment but no money yet for raises.
Q. The libraries have a general policy of always being open, no matter what the weather is. Did the libraries ever have to close because of bad weather?

A. Yes. During a snow period, I was trying to drive back from New York. It took me five days. During that interim, Mr. Manchester said that most of the department libraries were closed. He himself had told the staff that if it was a hardship for them to come, not to come to work. He kept the libraries open. That’s what he told me. I asked what the situation was when I came in and he said, “Well I came up every day and kept the library open for any student who wanted to come in.” There were also a few times when the temperature dropped so fast that it was almost a sheet of ice on the streets, and he came down two or three times to my office and said, “Tell the libraries to close their libraries at 5:00,” which I did. Now some of the smaller libraries, and some that didn’t have very much student help closed. But Chemistry, Education and Commerce, I think, were the ones that preferred to stay open because of their students. In some instances they couldn’t get hold of the students, so they just let them work. In other instances they wanted the library open.

Q. In your history on the development of the department libraries, you mentioned that the Asia flu epidemic, about 10 days in November of 1957, caused several libraries to close. Do you recall this situation in any similar time?

A. Many of the department libraries had to close. The only library that was large enough besides Main Library to be turned into a hospital was Social Administration. The tables were pushed back and cots were set into the library. The librarian was there, but she had to wear a mask and it was turned into a
hospital. Now Mr. Branscomb said to me, “You don’t know from day to day whether the main library will be turned into a hospital.” Fortunately, they didn’t. It wasn’t. But you never knew when you came to work whether it would be a hospital.

Q. How long did the epidemic last?
A. Well, I’d say it lasted about a year.
Q. A year?
A. No, it didn’t last a year. I don’t remember how long that was. Months, a couple of months, something like that.
Q. One of the things that was always a constant problem and still is is space for shelving library materials. The Office of Campus Planning was established but…

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Q. Your career at OSU began before the stack tower was built. Can you describe the layout of the Main Library as the patron would see it when they first came into the Library?
A. When you first came into the Library, to the right was a corridor and my office, the office of Miss Cattell who was closed-reserve, and opposite her room were the stacks for the reserved books. They were administered from the corridor. Now, the grand staircase was (I think) the first thing you saw when you came into the Library. That was the end of the lobby. Now, to the left was the reference desk and these books for reference were administered from the stacks. The first row of stacks had reserved books. Right behind the reference desk were the stacks for the whole library. Then there was the documents room. That was the documents,
and then the telephone exchange. Just before you got to the staircase was a corridor to the north door. Then there was a corridor on the left to the south door.

Q. Those two doors are now entrances and exits to the Library.

A. Are they now? They’re open again? Then there was a stairway upstairs, and down the stairway was the acquisition room and the elevator and the elevator was the end of the building. The acquisition room was a small room. Now upstairs was the large room to the front, and opposite it was the circulation desk.

Q. On the second floor?

A. Yes. And some few tables and chairs for them to read the circulation books.

Q. Was the circulation desk on the second floor?

A. No, after you came up you passed my desk, which was a little cubbyhole, and the entrance to the stacks was opposite my desk. Then it was a door and it went into this area which was circulation, and way beyond that were the offices.

Q. Is that where Mr. Manchester’s office was, on the second floor?

A. That’s right.

Q. And then what was on the third floor of the Library? Wasn’t cataloging at one time on the third floor?

A. Not at that time. They were on the third floor later, before the tower was built. But when I first came they were on the first floor off of the corridor to the left doors. A small room. It was just beyond the stairway. Now that’s the catalog department. It did move up to the third floor. I was asked if I wouldn’t want to go up to the third floor because Miss Erlandson wanted my office. Mr. Berlitson
asked me that and I said, “No,” for this reason: I never knew when I would be
called to go over to cataloguing.

Q. Miss Wilhelmi is referring to her office as the ASC conference room today.
That’s the area that was your office most of your career?

A. Yes.

Q. What was on the ground level of the original building? The bindery was down
there?

A. The bindery, the binding preparation and then more stacks under the pipes for the
government documents. There were stacks down there.

Q. But that was basically all that was down on the ground level. When they planned
the addition to the Main Library, which included the important stack tower, were
many librarians involved in this planning?

A. Not as far as I know. I suppose the circulation desk librarian was, but none of us
were.

Q. I understand that Dr. Branscomb was brought in as the assistant director and his
first responsibility was to plan this addition. Is that correct or can you remember?

A. No, I was not involved in that because I wasn’t interested in anything in the Main
Library. I was outside.

Q. Prior to the expansion of the Main Library and the stack tower, is it true that the
library had trouble keeping track of where its sections were housed because we’d
run out of space?

A. Well, before the annex, and during the annex, the department libraries were
assigned various rooms. The department libraries either charged their books to
the storage room or changed their shelf list. The Main Library had no information as to where those books were. They were in the department library and that was it. So the students (as I think back) must have been very frustrated. They were sent to the department libraries for a book. If it was in storage, it usually took a day to get it. Unless the book was something that had to be put on reserve because many of the department librarians were alone and they couldn’t go down to a room that was in the basement, or a level below, or upstairs. They couldn’t leave the Library.

Q. So the severe shortage of space made it necessary to develop the Library Annex. Can you remember the plan for building it and describe it?

A. I don’t know about building it, but it had three floors of stacks a desk. Mrs. Mott was taken from the Main Library and put there full-time. There was nothing but stacks and her desk and a telephone. Whoever needed a book would telephone her and she would pick it up and get it and sometimes Main Library or some library would send a student over for a book. But if there was nobody to be sent over, then it was packed and service picked it up and took it to wherever it was supposed to go.

Q. Could patrons come over and get a book from the Annex?

A. They could not.

Q. Were you allowed to send different books from the department libraries over to the annex?

A. Yes. You see, before that, the Medical Library had a storage place down in the basement. To our horror we discovered that mold had grown on most of the
books because it was airless and damp. So all of those books had to go over to the annex and if the public library was a little crowded, imagine to send a book over. That library made a record as to where the book was, but the Main Library did not have a record of that.

Q. Did that Annex last until we got the stack tower?
A. Oh yes.

Q. And then did most of the books from the annex end up in the stack tower of the Main Library?
A. I suppose so. That was circulation.

Q. Let’s go back to the 1930s. During the Depression of the ’30s and later, do you remember when they would talk of eliminating some of the libraries in order to have a consolidated area library?
A. Mr. Manchester, when I first came, that was his plan to consolidate the libraries and office collections. But during the Depression, nothing like that was talked of. You just took care of what you had.

Q. And then if I remember correctly, when Dr. Branscomb came he drew up plans for area libraries, but nothing ever happened then, either.
A. Well, I know that he and Mr. Manchester were together for several years, so maybe they had the same plans. I don’t know.

Q. Could you compare Mr. Manchester and Mr. Branscomb in terms of their personality and styles of administration?
A. Well that’s pretty difficult. The thing is, Mr. Manchester was so outgoing that all the faculty liked him. I would say that all the staff did too. Not only did the state
librarians like him, but all of Ohio libraries liked him very much. Now Mr. Branscomb was not as outgoing. He (I think) administered from the office and with his assistant directors. Mr. Manchester didn’t have any assistant directors, and he would go around to see what the various departments did and meet the people.

Q. You mentioned earlier that Mr. Manchester had excellent relations with the teaching faculty. How would you describe Dr. Branscomb’s?

A. I think he had a pleasant relationship with some of the teaching faculty. I don’t think it was quite as well-spread as Mr. Manchester’s.

Q. How about taking it one step up. How would you compare Mr. Manchester’s relationship with the university’s administration and Dr. Branscomb’s?

A. Both of them had difficulty with the president, as I remember. Both Dr. Bevis and Dr. Fawcett did not understand the importance of the Library. The first place there were cuts was the library if the university had to save money. I think their relationship was all right. I don’t know. But that was the thorn. It wasn’t until President Jennings came that there was a president that really appreciated the library.

Q. Following with this same kind of thought, what would you view as some of the successes, and at the same time perhaps failure of the administration of Dr. Branscomb?

A. Successes and failures. Well I think one of his great assets was that he was able to obtain large collections as gifts as a favor—what was that journalism collection?
Q. The Caniff collection?
A. The Caniff collection. That was his field. He recognized and persisted until the collection was given to the library.

Q. Do you recall any individual teaching faculty who were particularly supportive of the university libraries? You mentioned that the presidents weren’t but how about…
A. Well, Dr. Utley was one, because at administrative staff meetings he often looked over and discussed the orders. Dr. Utley was the one professor who not only asked for material for his department, but for all the campus. He was wonderful.

Q. He was in English. Anybody else?
A. He ordered books for the whole campus. Now there was another man in Physics, but I can’t think of his name, who also ordered. He was in astronomy but he knew all of the needs of the Physics Department and the Physics Library. He didn’t order them, but I know that when I was taking care of the Physics Library for a while, the departments didn’t return their orders and I asked him to check it. He came down so I asked him about the orders. He was the one that told me which ones should be ordered for the libraries and what shouldn’t.

Q. Another area that we are putting a lot of emphasis on today, and that’s the use of education and library development and teaching library methods. Can you recall instances of this instruction during your career, or is this something we’ve just done in the last 10 years?
A. Oh no. Miss Jones, I understand, had a class, and when I came down to the office there were strings across. She had placed the samples of things in Commerce,
Education, Chemistry. Those three I know were asked to teach a class. Now when I took care of Commerce Library, a professor came up to me and said, “You’re going to teach my class tomorrow.” It was to tell the students we knew the use of the reference material and how to use the books in the library. Now I think Miss Edmundson, who was head of the education library, taught quite a few of those and I think Mrs. Schreck did too. I think at least she taught the botany people, because she herself had taught botany.

Q. So that was a responsibility of all librarians?

A. Well, they were requested, yes.

Q. Now all professional librarians got faculty rank in 1963. Did you have faculty rank before 1963?

A. Oh yes. The heads of departments got faculty ranking but I can’t remember when it was.

Q. Did you get it under Manchester or under Branscomb?

A. I think it was under Branscomb. Mr. Manchester was not interested in whether he had faculty ranking or not, or whether we had faculty ranking. That didn’t interest him at all. He was a book man. Now that was one of the contributions I think that Branscomb made. He worked until we got faculty rank. Now the department said first the library, then the heads of departments and then the department librarians who had either the professional rank or had administered the department library for many, many years. Of course, the Main Library too. Some of them already had faculty rank. Of course, so did we.
Q. As you mentioned, a lot of them had it before the entire library staff got it in 1963, probably under Dr. Branscomb. Today, the libraries are very concerned about students who damage library books. Are these from theft, mutilation or the consumption of food or drink? Have students changed through your career?

A. As far as food and drink I don’t know because we never had food and drink in the department library. There’s a lot of mutilation. I must say that some of the chairmen were very cooperative with that. Now I must say that at the Medical Library the attendant at the desk leafed through every magazine that came out and discovered two pages missing. So she went to the dean. He called in all of the books that they had on the cart, yanked one of them and where the two pages were. She showed it to dean. He would not let that student graduate that quarter although he had finished. He had to stay another quarter before he could get his degree. Now that was the kind of cooperation that some of the department libraries got.

Q. I don’t know that we’d get that strong of cooperation today. In the ’30s, ’40s and ’50s we didn’t have photocopy machines.

A. I think one of the reasons was because, especially after the student influx, we didn’t have enough books to go around. So someone took the pages out.

Q. Was the relationship between the librarians and the library users good, bad, how would you describe that?

A. The department libraries were very much interested in the students that came. It was more of a person-to-person instruction, except when the chairman or the professor wanted to teach this class. But even then it was person to person. All
of the department libraries were very much interested in teaching the students
how to use the library and how to use the books.

Q. Being smaller student bodies, they got to know their students better. Who in your
opinion were the outstanding librarians at OSU during your career?

A. That is one of the most difficult questions to answer. Just the department
libraries?

Q. You can start with the department libraries, but I don’t want you to limit yourself
to just department libraries.

A. The outstanding ones. I think you’d have to say that Mrs. Schreck was one of
them. She was head of Biological Sciences. Now there was another one. Mrs.
Millett in Chemistry was a chemist. In Education Mrs. Edmundson had been a
librarian at West Virginia and she was outstanding. And these were all librarians
who stayed many years. Mrs. Watson in Commerce was another one who stayed
a long time. Miss Hendee was outstanding too. She was in geology and
geography. She had worked in a public library. Most of them who were
outstanding had worked someplace else. Mrs. Schreck had taught. Let’s see who
else. Mrs. Garrett in Veterinary Medicine was one of them.

Q. Now let’s go to the Main Library. Were some of the librarians good
administrators?

A. Well of course the first one that comes into my mind beside Mr. Branscomb and
Mr. Manchester was Miss Oldfather. She had worked many years here under
Miss Snyder and then she worked at Illinois and then she came back as head of
our department and she was excellent. Miss Erlandson hated administration. She
was an excellent librarian, but she was an expert in her assistance to the graduate students. I don’t know about Miss Snyder and Miss Jeffrey in Reference Library. I guess she must have been a good librarian because that library department was run so efficiently.

Q. In retrospection, what were the best three events that happened to the libraries in your long career of 34 years?

A. Well now what do you mean? Restoration of the salaries or what?

Q. Yes. And that happened after the World War right?

A. And the enlargement of some of the libraries.

Q. Would you include the addition to the Main Library?

A. Yes. I would say so. And let’s see what else.

Q. The increase of staff would you say?

A. Oh yes. That was one of the most important ones. The increase in staff and the replacement of half-time people with full-time people.

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A. I think the fire in Lord Hall. I used to have to wear a hard hat to get into the building.

Q. When was that? The ’40s or ’50s?

A. It was before Mr. Manchester left, before 1952. It was around ’52 because I had broken my hip and it wasn’t healed. I wanted to go into the building as soon as he told me about it.

Q. Was the fire in the building in the library?
A. No. The fire door was fortunately closed, but the water damage was so terrific and the water was all over the grounds that you had to walk on boards to get into the building. And then of course there was water all over the building.

Q. Did we lose most of the book collection in the Lord Hall library at that time then?

A. Well, the book collection was badly water damaged and damaged by the ceiling falling down. We sent the three cleaning women over to clean the books and a lot of them had to be taken over to Main Library and hung up on the top layer of the stacks. The second, well I suppose what you’d call a disaster, was the Social Administration building and the library. The building was built by WPA. There was no elevator. There was an elevator shaft but no elevator. Mr. Manchester had asked if a library was needed in the building and he was told no. Then after the third floor was built and before the roof was put on, he was contacted and told that Social Administration needs a library. Well, all of the space had been assigned, so the only thing he could think of was to raise and put on a fourth floor, which was done. But the air conditioning had already been put into the building for three floors and not for four.

Q. And they had no elevator.

A. And no elevator. And the librarian was told not to open her windows because it would throw off the air conditioning. When I got up there it was just like a steam bath, and I told her she had to open up her windows and she said she wasn’t supposed to. So I told her to open the windows and I’d go down and talk to the chairman of the department. I said to him, “Either the library has to have the windows open, or we’ll have to close it because the librarian can’t work under
those circumstances.” The top three floors opened their windows. The only place it was air-conditioned was the first floor. Now you say that Social Work has added an elevator. That was another thing. Service fellows would not go up the stacks up to the fourth floor and carry those heavy trays. So the librarian had to go down those four flights of stairs and get her mail and her books and carry them up. She did it when she came back from lunch, she went down a couple of times during the day, so it was really quite a hardship.

Q. I know those stairs very well. I never really got used to those four flights of stairs.

A. Oh you had them too.

Q. Yes. They didn’t get the elevator until the ’70s but they have one now. Where were the books for Social Work before you created that library then? Where were they housed?

A. In Main Library.

Q. My last question. Can you discuss what you think were your biggest accomplishments and your worst regrets at OSU? We’ll start with what you feel were your biggest accomplishments in 34 years? Don’t be modest. Brag about yourself.

A. Well, I think one thing was the relationship with the department librarians. They seemed to like me very much. I was very fond of all of them. There was a personal relationship. Maybe it was because Mr. Manchester had that personal relationship with the department libraries.
Q. I can testify that that was very true. There were many, many wonderful feelings about him.

A. The department librarians, many of them are very, very nice.

Q. What were some of the frustrations that you were never able to get off of your back?

A. The lack of space. The Health and Medical Library was a disaster when I first came. It was so crowded the stacks were so close together, that the librarian couldn’t get the books from the bottom shelf. The student had to get it. It was small, not enough chairs for students. That was true in quite a few of the libraries. The Education Library. They used the corridors for seating space and put shelves in the space in the corridor and had a grill over it. There wasn’t enough space for some of our books. I think it was the lack of space. It was very difficult.

Q. That’s still part of my biggest frustration. The lack of good library space.

A. There’s one thing I wanted to say. There were some very wonderful deans and chairmen who were very interested in the libraries. Now, Dean Krill in the Veterinary Library, would not let the architect take one inch off of the plans. He was exceedingly interested and very proud of his library. Now, Dean Arps in Education was another one that was very cooperative. Dr. Evans would not let anyone have a key to the library. This is in Chemistry. He didn’t even have a key. When he retired and Dr., I can’t remember his name, came, he gave keys to every graduate student and every faculty member and consequently things disappeared. Now those are three chairmen that were exceedingly interested in the libraries.
Q. Any last thoughts you’d like to put on tape here?

A. Well of course one of the nicest libraries was the Veterinary Medicine or the Dental. That was another trouble. The departments planned libraries without consulting the Main Library. Now, in the instance of Agriculture, that library was planned by the department. Of course, the department may not have realized that there would be a dairy science collection too, and not just animal husbandry. When we moved in, it was so small that all of the herd books had to be taken to the main library. That was sheep, swine and horses.

Q. Do you remember where the herd books went?

A. I had to help the students rearrange them when I came back from Europe. My sister and I were there for five months. They were, I think, on the top stacks, stack H in the old stacks. They had to make space for five years because the library tried to keep two or three years as a book was replaced by a current one.

Q. You’d never have that problem today. The library planned a new addition.

A. Well that was great. Now, the Education dean realized that Education had a problem and he turned over the whole basement floor to the library. Now that was a time when the dean realized the problems of the library. Now, in Commerce Library, when the back wall was pushed out of the library, and the library had twice as much space for readers and for shelving.

Q. That was when the library was in Hagerty Hall.

A. Then, after that was done and the library was set up for several years, it was moved to the building next door, to Page Hall. There wasn’t that much space. And that was the place where the dean was not so much interested in the library.
Q. That incident put all the library books on the university rules and regulations that no library could be moved without the approval of the university administration.

A. Good.

Q. Well, you did very well and we thank you very, very much.